day itself in ver. 20, also hereafter [ch.  
xx. 11-15] to be resumed at more length.  
4) As we might expect in the *final* plagues,  
we have no longer, as in the trumpets, a  
portion of each element affected, but the  
whole, 5) While in the first four vials the  
main features of the first four trumpets  
are reproduced, there is one notable distinction in the ease of the *fourth*. While  
by the plague of the fourth trumpet, the  
sun, moon, and stars are partially darkened,  
by that of the fourth vial the power of the  
sun is *increased*, and the darkening of the  
Kingdom of the beast is reserved for the  
*fifth*.  
‘The minor special features will be noticed as we proceed, On the whole, the  
series of the vials seems to bear a less  
general character than the other two. It  
takes up a particular point in the prophecy, and deals with symbols and persons  
previously described. It belongs, by its  
very conditions, exclusively to the time  
of, or to days approaching very near to  
the time of, the end: including in itself  
the subsequent details as far as the end of  
ch. xx.: without however noticing most  
important features and considerable prophetic periods,

**1.**] *Introductory*. **And I heard a great  
voice out of the temple**(from the fact,  
ch. xv. 8, that the divine Presence is filling the temple, and that none might enter  
into it, this voice can be no other than the diving voice)  
**saying to the seven angels, Go and pour out the seven vials of the  
wrath of God into the earth** (so, previous  
to the series of trumpets, the angel casts  
the fire from the altar into the earth, ch.  
viii. 5).

**2.**] **And the first departed** (each angel,  
as his turn comes, leaves the heavenly  
scene, and from the space between heaven  
and earth, empties his vial on the ap-  
pointed object) **and poured out his vial  
into the earth** (the **earth**, which before in  
ver. 1 was general, is now particular, and  
correlative with the objects of the other  
vials, compare vv. 2, 3, “*into the sea,*”  
“*into the waters*”): **and there came** (took  
place: *fell*, as A.V.) **an evil** (in itself)  
**and painful** (to the sufferers) **sore upon  
the men that had the mark of the beast  
and that worshipped his image** (see above,  
ch. xiii, 15—17, xiv. 9,10. The allegorical  
and historical interpretations have been  
very various: see them in Elliott, vol. iv.  
Notice the parallel with the sixth Egyptian  
plague, Exod. ix. 8 ff. Compare Deut.  
xxviii, 27, 35).

**3**.] **And the second poured out his vial  
into the sea: and it** (the sea, compare ch.  
viii. 8, 11) **became blood as of a dead man**  
(blood as when a dead corpse lies in its  
Blood: loathsome and corrupting) **and  
every soul of life** (so literally: **soul** being  
used in its physical sense of animal soul)  
**died**, [all) **the things in the sea.**

**4—7**.] {4} **And the third poured out his  
vial into the rivers and the fountains of**