**the waters: and they became blood** (that  
the fact was so, is testified by what follows, in which it is assumed that the  
sources of ordinary drink have become  
blood). {5} **And I heard the angel of the  
waters** (i. e. the angel who was set over the  
waters ; see ch. vii. 1, xiv. 18) **saying, Thou  
art righteous who art and wast** (as in ch.  
xi. 2, the “*and art to come*” is omitted)  
**holy, because Thou didst judge thus** (lit.,  
“these things:” viz. the issue mentioned  
in ver. 4; the turning the drinking-water  
into blood: “Thou didst inflict this judgment”): {6} **because they shed the blood of  
saints and prophets, and Thou hast given  
them blood to drink: they are worthy**(these words are made stronger by the absence of any particle to introduce them).  
{7} **And I heard the altar saying** (certainly the  
simplest understanding of these words is,  
that they involve personification of the  
altar. On the altar are the prayers of the  
saints, offered before God: beneath the  
altar are the souls of the martyrs crying  
for vengeance: when therefore the altar speaks, it is the concentrated testimony  
of these which speaks by it), **Even so,  
Lord God Almighty, true and just are  
Thy judgments.**

**8,9**.] {8} **And the fourth poured out his  
vial upon** (no longer *into*) **the sun: and  
it was given to it** (the sun: not “*to  
him*,” the angel, as, strangely enough,  
Bengel and Hengstenberg, and Elliott.  
The angels throughout this vision are  
simply the pourers out of the vials, not  
the executors of the plagues. Besides  
which, the verb **to scorch**, in a sentence  
where the sun is mentioned can have but  
one reference) **to scorch men with fire**  
(not, as Hengstenherg, understanding him  
of the angel, some fire other than the sun:  
but the glowing increased heat of the sun  
itself), {9} **and men were scorched with great  
heat, and blasphemed the name of God,  
who hath power over these plagues, and  
did not repent to give Him glory.**

**10, 11.]** {10} **And the fifth poured out his  
vial upon the throne of the beast** (given  
to it by the dragon, ch. xiii. 2, That is,