**judged her** (a warrant for the severity  
of the judgment which shall befall her).

**9-20** ] *The mourning over her*: and  
first, **9, 10**, *by the kings of the earth*.  
{9} **And there shall weep and mourn over her  
the kings of the earth, who committed  
fornication and luxuriated** (see above,  
ver. 7) **with her, when they see the  
smoke of her burning** (see ch. i. 15),  
{10} **standing afar off on account of their  
fear of her torment** (this feature in the  
prophecy is an objection to the literal  
understanding of its details.  
hardly be imagined that the kings should  
bodily stand and look as described, seeing  
that no combination of events contemplated in the prophecy has brought them  
together as yet), **saying, Woe, woe, the  
great city, Babylon the strong city, because in one hour has come thy judgment**,

11—16.] *Lamentation of the*   
*merchants*, {11} **And the merchants of tho  
earth weep and lament** (the construction  
passes into the graphic present, but resumes the future again below, ver. 15, in  
speaking of the same thing) **over her,  
Because ne one any longer buys their  
cargo** (the description which follows is  
perhaps drawn, in its poetic and descriptive features, from the relation of Rome  
to the world which then was, rather than  
from its relation at the future time depicted in the prophecy. But it must not  
for a moment be denied, that the character  
of this lamentation throws a shade of obscurity over the interpretation, otherwise  
so plain from the explanation given in ch.  
xvii. 18. The difficulty is however not  
confined to the application of the prophecy  
to Rome papal, but extends over the application of it to Rome *at all*, which last is  
determined for us by the solution given  
ch. xvi. 18. For Rome never has been,  
and from its very position never could be,  
a great commercial city. I leave this difficulty unsolved, merely requesting the stu-  
dent to bear in mind its true limits and  
not to charge it exclusively on that interpretation which only shares it with any  
other possible one. The main features of  
the description are taken from that of the  
destruction of and lamentation over Tyre  
in Ezek. xxvii., to which city they were strictly applicable. And possibly it may be said that they are also applicable church which has wedded herself to the  
pride of the earth and its luxuries. But  
certainly, as has been observed, the details  
of this mercantile lamentation far more  
nearly suit London, than Rome at any  
assignable period of her history), {12} **a cargo  
of gold, and of silver, and of precious  
Stone, and of pearls, and of fine linen  
manufacture, and of purple, and of silken**