§v.J SYSTEMS OF INTERPRETATION. [iyrropucrioy,   
   
   
 and the half-hour's silenee—the “beginning,” as Victorinus sublimely   
 ys, “of cternal rest.” .   
 47. Thus far the vision of the seals necessarily reached onward for its   
 completion. But there is much more to be revealed. God's judgments   
 on the earth and its inhabitants are the subject of the next series ot   
 visions. The prayers of the martyred saints had invoked them: with   
 the symbolizing therefore of the answer to these prayers the next section   
 opens. Then follow the trumpet-blowing angels, hurting the earth,   
 the trees, the gea, the rivers, the lights of heaven. And here again, as   
 before, the first four trumpets complete these world-wide judgments,   
 and with the fifth the three woes on mankind begin. The previons   
 plagues have affected only the accessories of life: the following affect   
 life itself.   
 48. In these latter we have the strictest correspondence with the fore-   
 going vision of the seals. Two of them are veritably plagues, the one of   
 the locusts, the other of the horsemen, After this sixth trumpet are   
 inserted two episodical passages, the one a vision, the other a prophecy   
 (see below): then, when the seventh is about to sound, the consumma-   
 tion of God's judgments passes unrecorded, as it did under the seals; and   
 at the seventh trumpet, we have the song of thanksgiving and triumph   
 in heaven, Such remarkable and intimate correspondence carries its own   
 explanation: the two visions of the trumpets and seals run on to one and   
 the same glorious termination: the former, in tracing the course of the   
 world as regards the Church, the latter, in tracing God’s judgments of   
 vengeance on the ungodly dwellers on earth: for it is for this that the   
 heavenly song at its conclusion gives thanks.   
 49. If now we turn to the two episodes between the sixth and seventh   
 trumpets, we find them distinctly introductory to that section which is   
 next to follow. A little book is given to the Seer, sweet to his mouth,   
 but bitter in digestion, with an announcement that he is yet again to   
 prophesy to many nations—that a fresh series of prophetic visions, glo-   
 rious indeed but woeful, was now to be delivered by him.   
 50. These begin by the measurement of the temple of God—seeing   
 that it is the Church herself, in her innermost hold, which is now to   
 become the subject of the prophecy. ‘The course of the two witnesses,   
 recalling to us by their spirit and power Moses and Elias, is predicted :   
 and during the prediction, one principal figure of the subsequent visions   
 is by anticipation introduced: the wild-beast that cometh up out of the   
 abyss. That this is so, is at once fatal in my estimation to the con-   
 tinuous historical interpretation.   
 51. The student will find that there is no explanation of the two   
 witnesses in the ensuing Commentary. I have studied the various   
 solutions, and I own that I cannot find any which I can endorse as being   
 that which I can feel to be satisfactory. I have none of my own. I   
 Vor. If. Parr IL.—359 2a