SECOND SEAL.

3. “And when he opened the second seal, I heard the second  
living creature saying, Go! And there went out another, a red  
horse, and to him that sat on him it was given to take peace out of  
the earth, and that they should slay one another: and a great  
sword was given to him.”  
  
 That word “another,” preceding “horse,” seems  
designed to sever between the first rider and the three  
following ones: for the expression is only used on this  
occasion.  
 His horse is red. Here also the colour is significant.  
It is the hue of blood.  
 To him it is committed to take peace away from the  
earth. It seems to be implied, then, that previously  
“the earth sitteth still and is at rest” (Zech. i. 11).  
“The earth” is now first mentioned as the object  
against which these warlike preparations are aimed.  
It is taken, I judge, in its wide sense, as it was before  
in the proclamation made to heaven and earth.  
 The object of this horseman is different from that of  
the first. The war of the first is with the design and  
certain result of conquest. The object of this rider is  
to produce internal wars, having no issue but depopulation.  
 Peace was one of the blessings promised under the  
law. 2 Sam. xxiv. 13; xii. 10.  
 This removal of peace would be traceable to God,  
only by the eye of faith. The heavenly warrior is  
invisible as yet, the heaven is not opened at present.  
War seems to most the result of the devices of men, and  
dependent on their will. But the Scriptures teach us,  
that it arises primarily from the good pleasure of the  
Most High, and is used by Him as a scourge of the  
nations: Jer. xxv. 15-29. “I will *call* for a *sword*  
upon all the inhabitants of the earth, saith the Lord of  
Hosts.” “It was *given Him* to take peace from the