earth.” This word is one of the key-notes of the  
Apocalypse. The saint must keep his eye upon the  
throne as the originator of the various movements on  
the earth. War rages fiercely on the globe, just before  
millennial peace broods over the nations. War  
was the threat of the law against sin. “I will *bring a  
sword upon you* that shall avenge the quarrel of the  
covenant” (Lev. xxvi. 25-33; Judges vii. 18).  
 “And that they should slay one another.” Human  
passions rage to bloodshed. This horseman goes to  
produce war, and especially the worst form of it—civil  
war—as the words, “that they should kill one another,”  
seem to imply.  
 The peace of the earth is removed, not simply from  
different nations in their relation to one another, but  
one portion of the citizens is set against another. Thus  
when God smote Midian, He “set *every man’s sword  
against his fellow*, even throughout all the host” (Judges  
vii. 22). “I set all men *everyone against his neighbour*”  
(Zech. viii. 10). This is the first of the signs which our  
Lord gives to Israel of the end of the age. Matt. xxiv. 7.  
 This agent touches the earth. His is closer warfare  
than that of the bow.  
 How all things are preparing for a day of utter discord and bloody feud, it is not difficult to see. But  
until the seal is opened, the flood, though gathering,  
does not break forth.

THIRD SEAL.

5. “And when he opened the third seal, I heard the third living  
creature saying, Go! And I saw, and behold a black horse, and  
he that sat upon him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I  
heard as it were a voice in the midst of the four living creatures  
saying, A choenix of wheat for a denarius, and three choenices of  
barley for a denarius, and hurt not the oil and the wine.”  
  
 The agent which succeeds is an angelic messenger  
producing FAMINE.