CHAPTER VII

THE SEALING OF THE EARTHLY ELECT

1. “After this I saw four angels standing at the four quarters of  
the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that wind should  
not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.”  
  
THE sixth seal having displayed the heart of mankind,  
and shown how unready and unwilling they are to  
entertain the reign of Christ, the people of God of two  
standings, and two destinies, are next set before us.  
 The four angels spoken of are not those to whom the  
winds are ordinarily given in charge, as appears by the  
omission of the article. It is “four angels holding *the*  
four winds.” They are good angels: for the sealing  
angel addresses them as his fellow-servants. “Hurt  
not—till *we* have sealed the servants of *our* God.”  
John is so high above the earth that he sees it at once  
as a ball, and the angels occupying the stations of east,  
west, north, and south.  
 The elements of nature keep their quiet course only  
during the pleasure of the Divine Throne. When let  
loose, the winds are destructive to the labours and  
habitations of men on land, and to the ships at sea.  
Job i.19; Jonah i.4, 12. Now no breath of air is to  
blow—the very leaves of the trees are not to rustle.  
  
 2. “And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the  
sun, having the seal of the living God : and he cried with a great  
voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth  
and the sea, saying, 3. ‘Hurt not the earth, nor the sea, nor the  
trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God upon their  
foreheads.’ ”