such a pause as might have been enforced on a tiger, if  
it found itself in a forest on fire. A momentary panic  
might seize and loosen its limbs, and yet the next day  
find it quaffing the blood of its prey. Thus men, after  
assuming that it was “a chance that happened” to  
them, vent the shame felt at their fancied credulity  
on the people of God. Persecution manifests the recoil  
of the heart from its momentary softening.  
 As men return to their sins, so does God to His  
judgments.  
  
 2. “And I saw the seven angels, who stand before God! and to  
them were given seven trumpets.”  
  
 *Silently* and unknown to the inhabitants of earth,  
the instruments of war are put into the hands of the  
servants of the throne. Judgment, it is manifest,  
must take its course.  
 The trumpeters are pointed out to us as servants of  
especial rank. They stand before God, as in perpetual  
attendance in the presence-chamber of the sovereign of  
heaven. Their glory is denoted by the article, “*the*  
seven angels.” Of these Gabriel is one, as he himself  
testifies. Luke i. 19.  
 Gradations of rank and power, both in heaven and  
on earth, are part of God’s plan. They will take effect,  
not only in time, but through eternity. Let us gladly  
acquiesce in this arrangement of God!  
 To them seven trumpets are given. These spring  
out of the last seal, and are its real action. Therefore  
mystery does not cease till they are ended. At the  
last of them, “the mystery of God is finished”; but  
not before. The seven thunders’ voices are concealed.  
 A change of action has set in. A great step of  
manifestation on God’s part is now taken. *The seals  
were secret judgments. The trumpets are war proclaimed against earth*. His bombardment of earth