Israel, Behold, I will *feed them, even this people, with*  
WORMWOOD, and *give them* WATER OF GALL *to drink*”  
(Jer. ix. 13-15; Jer. xxiii. 15; Lam. iii. 15).  
 But it is not only the nauseousness of the taste of  
that which is ordinarily tasteless, that constitutes this  
judgment: it produces disease and death. “Many of  
mankind died of the waters, because they were made  
bitter.” Now, first, the death of men is openly spoken of.  
Before, his ships were broken: but here man himself is  
destroyed. The waters of the *sea* would not have  
injured man, though made more bitter than they are.  
They, therefore, are turned into *blood*. But the *fresh*  
waters, made *bitter*, become his bane.  
 A *star* falling on the waters turns the *sweet* to *bitter;*  
a *tree cast* into them, in the Exodus, makes the *bitter  
sweet*. Israel loathed to drink of the bitter beverage,  
and are indulged with healed waters. But these foes  
of God must drink of them, such as they are; and they  
are slain thereby. From Jehovah’s calling Himself on  
the occasion of old, “Jehovah the Healer,” it would  
seem as if the water of Marah had been drunk by  
some, and had begun to produce disease. Exod. xv. 26.  
“They could not drink of the waters of Marah [bitter],  
for they were bitter; *therefore, the name of it was  
called Marah*.” How closely this corresponds with  
the plague before us! “*The name of the star is called  
Wormwood:* and the third of the waters *became wormwood*.”  
 The great star is a vast aerolite, which traverses  
in its aerial flight a great portion of the globe. As  
it travels, it gives off by explosion immense numbers  
of fragments, which fall on the rivers and into the  
founts of water, and turn them bitter.