CHAPTER IX

1. “And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star out of the  
heaven fallen unto the earth; and to him was given the key of the  
well of the bottomless pit.”  
  
WITH the woe-trumpets the time of GREAT TRIBULATION on earth begins. Matt. xxiv. 21, 22. It is the  
time of Satan’s ejection out of heaven by the power of  
Jesus. Rev. xii. 7-12. Of that time it is written,  
“*Woe* to the earth, and to the sea! for the devil is  
come down to you having great wrath, knowing that he  
hath but a short season.”  
 With this fifth trumpet new personages appear upon  
the scene, and a new mode of procedure is adopted.  
The fifth and sixth plagues come, not from heaven, but  
from the earth, or from beneath it.  
 What is the star before us? Not a literal star, but  
an intelligent being. “But how do you sever between  
the literality of the stars of the former trumpet, and of  
this?” *Because the actions ascribed to this star are  
impossible to unintelligent matter. A star could neither  
take a key nor unlock a door*. Judges iii. 25. And  
this star begins to act after the force of its fall is already spent. But whatever is related of the stars of  
the former plague is perfectly consistent with the  
idea of their being literal stars. There the stars  
are simply smitten; and the consequence is a natural  
one, the obscuration of their light.  
 Who, then, is this star? Satan. He is come down to  
deceive the nations, transformed as “an angel of light”