them there were no such locusts as they, *neither after  
them shall be such*” (Exod. x. 14). (4) Yet they are  
literal creatures, resembling the literal animals named:  
the *lion*, the horse, the scorpion, the *man*.  
 Their forms only are described: not any moral character. The grass, herbs, trees, which they are not to  
injure are literal: so then are they. They are not bad  
men: for they trouble only the wicked.  
 The sun is first spoken of as subject to the darkness,  
for the eruption commences in the day. But the darkening of “air” shuts out all light from the heavenly  
bodies. If the sun’s light be withdrawn by eclipse,  
the stars shine out, and supply his place. But, on this  
occasion, as smoke fills the air, neither sun, moon, nor  
stars can contribute any light.  
 These locusts usually dwell in the abyss, and amidst  
its fire and smoke. They are no inhabitants of earth.  
Creatures in general are stifled by smoke, and certainly  
consumed by fire.  
 *Earth* has its poisonous and noxious creatures, but  
these have already been used in wrath, and in vain.  
“The wild *beasts of the earth*” were commissioned  
under the fourth seal. vi. 8. But though they injured  
and slew, they availed not to stay the progress of sin.  
Now the creatures of the infernal regions are let loose.  
Will men own the hand of God, and repent? Never has  
such a plague followed on any previous eruption of  
a volcano and its smoke. Will men confess this the design of God in visitation for sin? Or will they regard  
it as a natural event?  
 Here is the proof of the literality of these creatures.  
(1) Whatever can be taken literally without absurdity,  
is literal. (2) *Whenever an instrument has actually been  
used before of God, whether it be the very same, or one  
resembling it in principle, it cannot be absurd to account  
it literal when predicted in the future*. But God in former