beneath its sulphurous pall the godless are tormented,  
even as the damned themselves.  
 The duration of this plague is fixed. It is the first  
instance of a date given to a plague. “Five months.”  
How dread a lot, insufferable anguish of body five  
months!  
 The pain suffered is like that of a scorpion. The scorpion’s sting is perhaps the intensest bodily pain that any  
animal can inflict. “The scorpion is one of the most  
loathsome objects in nature. It resembles a small  
lobster; its head appears to be joined and continued to  
the breast; it has two eyes in the middle of its head,  
and two towards the extremity, between which come as  
it were two arms, which are divided into two parts, like  
the claws of a lobster. It has eight legs proceeding from  
its breast, every one of which is divided into six parts,  
covered with hair, and armed with talons or claws. The  
belly is divided into *seven rings*, from the last of which the  
tail proceeds, which is divided into *seven little heads* of  
which the last is furnished with a sting. In some are  
observed six eyes, and in others eight may be perceived.  
The tail is long, and formed after the manner of a string  
of beads, tied end to end, one to another; the last bigger  
than the others, and somewhat longer; to the end of  
which are sometimes two strings, which are hollow, and  
filled with a cold poison, which it injects into the wound  
it inflicts. It is of a blackish colour, and moves sideways  
like a crab. Darting with great force at the object of  
its fury, it fixes violently with its snout, and by its feet,  
on the persons which it seizes, and cannot be disengaged  
without difficulty.  
 “No animal in the creation seems endued with a nature  
so irascible. When taken, they exert their utmost rage  
against the glass which contains them; will attempt to  
sting a stick when put near them; will sting animals confined with them, without provocation; are the cruellest