will prevent it. How terrible the pain, which  
will make the desire of death universal! How dread  
the disappointment, that even this disastrous remedy  
shall not be permitted!  
 Men are herein still more like lost souls. There is  
no refuge, no protection from these winged invaders;  
nor is death itself permitted them.  
 To impress this dread state of mankind yet more  
fully on our mind, the statement is repeated under  
another form. “Death flees from them.” Ordinarily  
he comes undesired, uncalled; every means that skill  
can suggest is used to keep him at bay. But he breaks  
through all. Here the earnest wooing of him avails not.  
Men must live against their wills, and live in anguish.  
Ordinarily, the attempt at suicide is restrained, wherever  
expected, by the vigilant eyes of friends, and the police.  
Here, police and all are alike infected with the desire.  
But neither singly, nor by joint action, can they effect  
their purpose. The desire to die occurs only in this case.  
Under the other plagues, it is no more mentioned.  
  
 7. “And the likenesses of the locusts were like unto horses  
prepared for war; and on their heads were as it were crowns like  
gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.”  
  
 The apostle addresses himself now to depict the appearance of these creatures. So important is this point,  
that four verses are devoted to the purpose. One  
reason of this, doubtless, is to manifest that these are not  
ordinary locusts. Common locusts were creatures weil  
known to John and the Asiatics. But who, save one  
inspired and enlightened of God, could describe to us the  
shapes of beings of the infernal pit? There is in  
humanity an awe and terror arising from the first encounter with new and noxious creatures of strange forms.  
This is further heightened in the present case, by their  
coming from beneath amidst gross darkness. What