As Jesus prophesied His death and resurrection, so it  
is very probable that they will foretell theirs. That  
will account for a part of their treatment afterwards.  
 They are slain by the Wild Beast, when their testimony is ended. Now their witnessing lasts for three  
years and a half, and the Wild Beast’s reign lasts for  
three years and a half also. Are they then cotemporaneous? running parallel from the commencement to  
the close? I believe not. It would rather appear that  
the time of his undisputed authority begins only with  
the day of their slaying. It is their being put to  
death by him which procures him the wonder of the  
world. It is that, I suppose, which draws forth from  
men the admiring cry—“Who is like unto the Wild  
Beast? *Who is able to make war with him?*” (xiii. 4).  
“He has conquered those against whom human power  
availed not. He has rid us of those that vexed and  
smote us. His is supernatural power indeed!”  
 But if the end of their testimony and their resurrection occur before the close of the sixth trumpet, then  
they must begin to testify before the fifth. For the  
duration of the fifth and sixth trumpets is but a year,  
six months, a day, and hour. Hence they are on  
earth two years previously. The Wild Beast ascends,  
as we have seen, at the fifth trump. But he does not  
take the undisputed power of earth till some time  
after his ascent; and, as I gather, not till he has  
removed out of the way the obstacle to his full reception, interposed by the presence and power of these two  
martyr-prophets.  
 Hence the Witnesses’ testimony is out of place as  
regards its beginning, while it is correctly placed in  
regard of its ending. From this, it is probable that the  
difference of tenses used in the angel’s narrative of  
their history takes its rise. At verse 3 of this chapter  
we have the future; in verses 4, 5, 6, the present; in