ii. 12, 16. In the last, it is employed by Jesus as *King*,  
when, His priestly duties being ended, He comes forth  
to war and slay. xix. 15, 21; Luke xix. 27.  
 But Jesus’ direct and most grateful work is upholding the ministers of the churches: the use of the  
sword is His strange act. The stars are “in His *right  
hand*”: the sword is only “out of His *mouth*.” They  
are in the place of honour, “His right hand.”

17. “And when I saw him I fell at his feet as dead. And he  
laid his right hand upon me, saying, Fear not, **I** am the First and  
the Last.”

John’s fall was partly *in*voluntary, as we may believe.  
So great was the glory, that mortal eye and mortal  
frame could not endure it. If now the mere beholding  
this Majestic One were so mighty in its effects, on one  
who had no cause to fear Him, what shall be the result  
of beholding Him, in the case of those to whom He comes  
as Avenger?  
 His word of compassion—“Fear not!”  
 ’Tis one of vast moment, in consideration of the  
awful subjects of which this book treats. It is full of  
“the great and *terrible* day of the Lord”: that day  
which is to render to each according to his works:  
which is “to destroy sinners out of the earth.” Yet  
there are some among men, who need not fear any disclosures concerning that day. Who may thus be at rest  
in soul, according to our Lord’s own words of comfort?  
Those who occupy the spiritual position of John.  
Those who know Jesus as One who loves them, who  
washed them, and made them priests and kings. Those  
who now, professing Christ in His Church, are brethren  
and companions in the tribulation, and kingdom, and  
patience *in Jesus*.  
  
 18. And “I am he that liveth, and I became dead, and  
behold I am living for ever and ever, and I have the keys of  
Death and of Hades.”