see a proof that she is not the Church. That is not  
called to flee from Satan to any spot of our globe. It is  
in heaven that she is called to conflict with him, and  
she has no “place” on earth: she is but a stranger and  
pilgrim passing through it to the “place” which Jesus  
has gone to prepare for her on high. Moreover, the  
earth does not help, but hinders her.  
 But though the wilderness be the place of security,  
where Israelites obtain escape from their foes, yet it is  
the place of safety only because of its desolation, its  
destitution of the bread and water necessary for human  
support. The eagle loves the loftiest and most solitary  
mountain, and to the Mount of God these eagle wings  
bear her. Here, therefore, it is necessary that supernatural support should be supplied. Accordingly it is  
bestowed.  
 “She is fed.” This denotes her passiveness. She  
cannot sustain herself by her own efforts.  
  
 15. “And the serpent cast out of his mouth after the woman,  
water like a river, that he might cause her to be carried away by  
the river.” 1  
  
 “Water like a river.” It did not expand itself gently  
on all sides, forming a quiet lake; but rushed onward impetuously in the direction of the woman’s  
flight, that it might overthrow her steps and bring her  
to the ground. To this answers the hot pursuit of an  
army, not intending to do battle with warriors, but to  
overtake and destroy fugitives by superior speed. In  
the following texts armies are compared to rivers:—  
  
 Jer. xlvi. 7, 8. Jer. xlvii. 2, 3.  
  
 We can see why Satan is so bent on destroying the  
faithful of Jerusalem. If he can cut off God’s earthly  
  
1 Literally, “that he might make her river-borne.”