But the worship is first rendered to Satan himself, as  
the giver of authority to the Wild Beast. As he who  
honours the Son honours the Father who sent Him; so  
he who honours the wearer of the devil’s power, honours  
also the giver of it. Satan is evidently regarded as the  
author of the healing.  
 Evil progresses. Rome, holding the shadow of  
Christianity, worships the *Woman*. The next fearful  
step is worship of the *Serpent*. The true worship is  
that of the *Woman’s Seed*.  
 In Eden the serpent was believed, but not worshipped.  
Now, the cursed Wild Beast of the field receives the  
homage due to God. Then God’s word was disbelieved.  
Now He is openly blasphemed by men. Faith in God  
leads to worship. So does faith in Satan lead to adore  
the Deceiver. Satan covets worship, as we see in his  
temptation of our Lord.  
 Mr. Ives, in his travels through Persia, gives the following curious account of devil-worship. “These people  
[the Sanjacks, a nation inhabiting the country about  
Mosul—the ancient Nineveh] once professed Christianity,  
then Mohammedanism, and last of all *devilism*.” They  
expect that Satan will be restored to God’s favour.  
“The person of the *devil* they look on as sacred, and  
when they affirm anything solemnly, *they do it by his  
name*. All disrespectful expressions of him they would  
punish with death, did not the Turkish power prevent  
them. Whenever they speak of him, it is with the utmost  
respect: and they always put before his name a certain  
title corresponding to that of *Highness, or Lord*” (*Burder’s Oriental Customs*, i. 395).  
 The Law ended in idolatry and Baal-worship. The  
Gospel ends in worship of the devil. Demons were  
worshipped at an earlier stage (ix. 20); now, Beelzebub,  
their chief, is adored. Dan. xi. 36-38.  
 “And they worshipped the Wild Beast.”