should believe the lie, that *all* may be damned who  
believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness”  
(2 Thess. ii. 11, 12; Matt. xxiv. 24).  
 This awful scheme is so successful, humanly speaking,  
because it meets craftily the leanings of fallen man. It  
offers to superstition, idolatry and miracle; to the  
infidel, a religion whose proofs are open to the senses;  
to the lawless, permission to live as they list, and to  
curse the God they have so long feared, if they will but  
adore this deceiver. To the philanthropist and the  
politician is held out the prospect of a union of all  
mankind in one faith, and beneath one dominion. The  
man of imagination will be captivated by all its aspects  
 This religion in its main features is heathenism. It  
resembles Judaism in its miracles, in its King and High  
Priest, and in its religious mark. It borrows from  
Christianity its resurrection, and its Trinity in Unity.  
Not that the Infernal Trinity is put forth as a doctrine:  
but it is felt as a power, a threefold cord not soon  
broken.  
 All worship “Whose name was not written from the  
foundation of the world, in the book of life of the  
Lamb that was slain.”  
 Herein behold individual election. Such fearful  
combination of power will entrap all but those chosen  
of God from the foundation of the earth.1 Only those  
so upheld by supernatural might will stand this hour  
of temptation. But God’s foreknowledge is complete,  
His power almighty, His purpose unchangeable. Against  
circumstances the most fearful He will maintain His  
own, as Jesus also assures us in His sketch of those  
days of darkness. Matt. xxiv. 24. But three out of  
many nations, peoples, and tongues, stood the similar  
but far inferior trial in the plains of Dura. Dan. iii.  
  
1 This is the true connection of the words, and not that given  
by our translators. Conf. xvii. 8.