But the current sweeps far more strongly now. So  
great is the enthusiasm on behalf of this false god, that  
he who slays the servants of Christ is counted as “doing  
God service.”  
 Antichrist, therefore, has never yet appeared. For  
no form of worship has ever caught all but the elect in  
its meshes.  
 But even when licence so terrible is given to evil, the  
Most High has His servants; just as the 7,000 in Ahab’s  
day stood firm.  
 Even during the time of the Wild Beast’s fullest  
authority his power is limited by the Lamb of God.  
Whom he may devour, and whom he may not, are  
questions settled by “the Lamb.”  
 Next follows a word of admonition, calling attention  
to the importance of the truths announced. It is a  
solemn call, much needed because of the powerful  
adverse stream. Men’s salvation depends on it. The  
prophecy is *practical;* let men despise it as they will!  
 The adherents of the Lamb slain are saved: the  
worshippers of the slain Wild Beast are all lost.  
 The difference between this call and the like previous  
calls is worthy of notice. Before, it was said again  
and again—“He that *hath* an ear, let him hear what  
*the Spirit* saith unto the *churches*.” The believer in  
Jesus has an ear, and is to use it. The churches  
existed then; but at this period they have ceased.  
Now the Spirit says, “*If any* have an ear.” Few, few  
indeed will they be. The warning will fall almost  
unheeded (18).

10. “If any gathereth [into] captivity,1 he goeth into captivity.  
If any slayeth with the sword, he must with the sword be slain.  
Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.”  
  
1 Here I differ from Tregelles: and read, as in the received text  
with the Vulgate, Griesbach, and Scholtz. The next clause proves  
that we should so read.