while the unbelieving will be caught in their wicked  
enmity.  
 A beautiful confirmation of the moral meaning of  
“the dwellers on the earth” occurs in the Saviour’s  
address to the Philadelphian Church. “Because thou  
keptest the word of my patience, I also will keep thee  
out of the hour of the temptation that is about to come  
on the whole habitable earth, to *try the dwellers on the  
earth*.” Here they stand in contrast with believers in  
Jesus who expect His return, and in consequence keep  
themselves in the position of strangers on it.  
 The False Prophet’s secondary and subordinate position is ever kept before us. He does the miracles “in  
the Wild Beast’s presence,” and to his glory; with design  
to make his worship universal. So completely subordinate is he, that although he is at first represented as a  
Wild Beast, yet the other is called “*the* Wild Beast.”  
 He bids the dwellers on earth make an “IMAGE.”  
What is meant by that?  
 The Greek word means a “likeness.” It supposes a  
prototype, or a something which it is made to resemble.  
It agrees well with the supposition that it is a material  
likeness, or a statue. It accords with the belief that the  
Wild Beast is a man; not an empire, nor any creature of  
the mind.  
 The spirit of this false worship was in the world long  
before. God’s previous plagues availed not to prevent  
men from the “worship of devils, and *idols* of gold,  
and silver, and copper, and stone, and wood, which  
neither can see, nor hear, nor walk” (x. 20). It is  
remarkable that the writer does not say, “which  
cannot *speak*.” Those are called “idols,” because  
their figures were given by fancy. But this is an “image,”  
because it is the likeness of a man, living and acting  
before them.  
 John, who in his first Epistle warns us of the