The generation is the same throughout, perverse,  
malicious: seed of the serpent, slaying the seed of the  
woman. The Saviour refers to this time in Matt.  
xxiii. 34, 35; Luke xi. 47-51.  
 Times of open persecution of God’s saints unto death  
will come, to prove man unchanged, and to fulfil God’s  
threatenings. The spirit of prophecy will be restored  
again, and will be peculiarly obnoxious to men’s feelings  
and plans. Elijah must “restore all things,” and  
therefore he will bring back prophecy.  
 It is remarkable that it is not said, “They *thirsted*  
for the blood of prophets,” because that thirst would be  
figurative. But it is “they *shed* the blood,” and that  
is literal. Blood, then, must they drink: they shall  
not find water. An instance of the drinking of blood  
occurred in the French Revolution. In the massacres  
of September, in Paris, it was proposed to a young  
French lady to drink a cup of blood, that her parent  
might escape assassination. With filial devotion she  
drank it, and her father’s life was spared.  
 “They are worthy.” The throne of justice is now  
rendering to each according to his works. Past acts of  
trespass of ages long gone by, and seemingly forgotten  
of God, are now remembered and avenged. The cry  
of the souls under the altar is remembered, and close is  
the requital.  
  
 8. “And the fourth poured out his bowl on the sun; and it was  
given to it to scorch men with fire. 9. And men were scorched  
with great burning, and blasphemed the name of the God that  
hath the power over these plagues: and repented not to give him  
glory.”

The fourth trump also affected the heavenly bodies:  
but then it diminished the light of sun, moon, and  
stars. This is an increase of the sun’s heat, which is  
far worse. It is probably summer-time: many are  
cut off by sunstrokes. And those whose lives are