left a gap not to be filled up. It has been cut off so  
suddenly, that the wheels of commerce through all the  
world stand still. It seemed so steadfast, so rich.  
What is secure, after Babylon has fallen?  
 The kings of the earth do not repent of having set  
her on fire, or their words would have let us know it.  
Had they repented, they would have attempted to save  
what remained. So vast a city they could not in “one  
hour” utterly consume. Nor do the merchants or  
sailors blame any human hand; as they would have  
done, had a greatness so necessary to their gains been  
wrested from them by mortal power.  
 Thrice is the suddenness of its overthrow bewailed.  
This is the especial truth which so amazes and saddens  
the minds of beholders. No human hand did the  
work. ’Twas instant destruction. It was the effect of  
the great earthquake of the last bowl. It is from that  
point (the close of chapter xvi.) that the two views of  
Babylon take their rise. Of the sudden swallowing up  
of a city by an earthquake, an example is furnished in  
the case of Callao in South America.  
  
 11. “And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over  
her; for their lading none buyeth any more: 12. The lading of  
gold, and of silver, and of precious stones, and of pearl, and of fine  
linen, and of purple, and of silk, and of scarlet: and all citron-wood, and all vessels of ivory, and all vessels (formed) out of most  
precious wood, and copper, and iron, and marble. 13. And cinnamon, and amomum, and odours, and ointments, and incense,  
and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and cattle, and sheep,  
and of horses, and of chariots, and of bodies and souls of men.”  
  
 The opposition to the spirit of commerce which this  
book of God incidentally shows, is very remarkable;  
especially as running in direct contrast to the avowed  
plans of rulers and people of our day. “Cherish commerce” is one of the great admitted ends of statesmanship now. But its effects upon the mind are generally