the production of covetousness. Commerce flourished  
in Solomon’s day: but it was not approved of God, and  
it tended to idolatry. There is no commerce in the  
new earth, so far as we can judge.  
 This is a very conclusive proof that Babylon in her  
last phase is not Rome. Rome pagan was not a great  
commercial city: much less is Rome papal. Hence  
the merchants of the earth do not appear in the xviith  
chapter, or while Babylon is mystic.  
 Rome has no good port, nor is she fitted to become  
the great commercial city of the world.  
 Still further, the city before us is not great in her  
exchanges, produce against produce; but in her imports. She is great in purchases: the commerce of  
earth waits upon her luxuriousness.  
 Her imports are of seven classes: 1. Precious metals,  
etc., for personal display. 2. Articles of clothing. 3.  
Furniture. 4. Aromatics. 5. Eatables. 6. Conveyances. 7. Slaves.  
 Among the articles of furniture we do not read of  
“vessels of *earth*,” both because of their liability to be  
broken on a long voyage, and also because of their  
cheapness. The list exhibits articles of *luxury*.  
  
 14. “And the fruits that thy soul lusted after departed from  
thee, and all things that are dainty and splendid perished from  
thee, and men shall find them no more at all.”  
  
 Babylon is situated on soil of great fertility, as all  
travellers testify. The climate is suitable to rear  
almost all fruits. These will be produced in great  
abundance, of great excellence, and be largely sought  
after.  
 But when God deals His final stroke, all will depart:  
the arid desert will resume its reign.  
  
 15. “The merchants of these things who grew rich by her,  
shall stand afar off because of the fear of her torment.