CHAPTER XX

THE BINDING OF SATAN

1-3. “And I saw an angel coming down out of the heaven,  
having the key of the bottomless pit, and a great chain on his  
hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, the old serpent who is the  
devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and cast  
him into the bottomless pit, and locked and sealed (it) over him,  
that he should not deceive the nations any more, until the thousand years were fulfilled: after that he must be loosed a little while.”  
  
THE victory over men is not sufficient. The Evil  
Spirit, by whose instigation the troops were collected  
and the battle joined, needs to be arrested. For want  
of this, former successes have been turned into defeats,  
sooner or later. New plots have been framed by the  
great Deceiver; and new tools found to carry them into  
effect. Justice then proceeds to seize the chief culprit.  
 The key that was lent him awhile was taken away to  
heaven. It is brought again to earth only to be used  
against him.  
 He is dealt with by himself: he is not a man, but  
a spirit. He is not found, like the others, with arms  
in his hands. Hence his treatment is different: an  
angel seizes him. He is beyond man’s power to retain.  
In chapter xii. Michael the archangel and his angels  
cast him down after a battle. Now there is no fight:  
but a single angel arrests him.  
 By the act of angels Satan was defeated on high.  
By an angel he is arrested on earth. This is the last