

was the intention of God to reveal *all* things to man, even under the cloak of symbolism or allegory. There is much which must necessarily be withheld until after the end of all earthly things ; and just as no mortal can possibly know the 'new name' (chap. iii. 12), so no one on earth can receive perfect knowledge of the 'mysteries of the kingdom of heaven,' which were symbolically contained in the book" (*i.e.*, the roll unsealed by the Lamb). And on chap. viii. 7, "It is very doubtful how much of the imagery is to be considered merely as the accessories of the picture," &c. And on chap. ix. 14, "The following is offered as a possible solution to some extent, though it is not pretended that every difficulty is satisfactorily disposed of." Nevertheless difficulties are not evaded, and the decisions arrived at are clearly enunciated. On p. 230 the characteristics of the trumpet visions are set forth ; and on p. 266, the chief reasons for the spiritual interpretation adopted are briefly and pointedly summed up. The writers, by implication, accept the book as one whole, not agreeing with those critics who think that it was originally written in separate unconnected portions, afterwards edited by one man. Thus the passage concerning Michael and the dragon in chap. xi. 7-13, is understood to refer to the primeval struggle, and is believed to be inserted here after the mention of the Church of God (the *woman* of verse 1), in order to account for the co-existence of good and evil, and the consequent struggle between the Church and the world. Chap. x. 1 explains the connection of the "episodal" portion (x. 1—xi. 14, the two witnesses) with what precedes and follows. Its position between the sixth and seventh trumpets is thus accounted for : "Chap. ix. ends (almost in a tone of surprise) with the words, 'Neither repented they,' &c. ; therefore the angel now declares that, as all warnings vouchsafed have brought men as a whole no nearer to God, the last final punishment must now fall. But, as if the measure of God's mercy were not yet fully filled up, it is shown how He has given to the world two witnesses, by which men might be induced to repent. But this, too, only serves to add to the condemnation of the world, which wrests this gift to its own