cH. xiii. 17] EXPOUNDED 347  
  
He commanded that the Jews of Alexandria should  
be deprived of their ancient privileges of citizenship,  
and enrolled in the inferior class ; and that when they  
came to be enrolled, AN IVY-LEAT, EMBLEM OF THE GOD  
BACCHUS, SHOULD BE IMPRINTED ON THEIR BODIES WITH  
A HOT IRON; and that if any obstinately resisted he  
should be put to death. This edict caused some hun-  
dreds of Jews to apostatize.  
In Mussulman countries similar laws have been  
enacted against Christians. “ Abdallah commanded  
the Christians to shave their faces, and caused both  
Jews and Christians to be marked in the hand ”’ (Picart’s  
Ceremonies, i. 177).  
  
17. “ And that none might be able to buy or sell, except he  
hath the mark, the name of the Wild Beast, or the number of his  
name.”  
  
See in this verse the proof that the mark is literal  
and abiding, or at least continually renewed. Ere the  
bargain is struck in the market—‘Show me your  
hand !” or, “‘ Uncover your forehead ! ” and the transac-  
tion stands good, if the mark appear. Each is made a  
spy on the other. The dealings of commerce are made  
illegal without this.  
How strongly, then, is this misbelief fastened on the  
world’s neck! All need to buy, if not to sell. The  
mark is the licence required in order to buy or sell.  
Thus religion is brought into the common concerns  
of life. “Tis planned with devilish wisdom, and fearfully  
will it succeed. It is designed, that none may be able  
to buy or sell, save the devotees of the False Christ.  
The former verse spoke of the member whereon the  
sign was to be impressed. Two were allowed: the  
forehead or right hand. The forehead, as the most  
conspicuous, would be used by the enthusiastic: the  
hand by females, as less detrimental to beauty.  
There is a further choice, as regards the imprint