350 THE APOCALYPSE Lou. xiii. 18  
  
1. It is not the number of a people, or of a state of  
men, as “the Latin kingdom” (Greek). It is no title  
of honour, but the name of an individual.  
2. “ His number is 666.”  
This is the second point, the sum total of the letters.  
It is one number thrice repeated, and so the more  
easily retained in the memory. It is remarkable, that  
it should be so uniform in its modern dress, or in our  
adopted Arabic numerals ; as they were not the mode  
of numeration anciently adopted. In Latin numerals  
the number is no less singular. It is DCLXVI, or six  
letters, one of each of the numeral letters. Some have  
remarked, also, on the peculiarity of the three Greek  
letters which signify the number : y represents the cross,  
£ the crooked serpent, yr is a contraction for Christ.  
The serpent has entered the Christ, and the False  
Christ is before us.  
On the commerce of Israel under Solomon the num-  
ber 666 is impressed. Just so many were the talents of  
gold which accrued to the king in a year. 1 Kings x.  
14. The same number touches commerce in Revela-  
tion. None may buy or sell, without that number, or  
its equivalent.  
What name, then, of a Roman emperor is it, which  
will fulfil the conditions given ?  
Nero! In the later Syriac, John is said to have been  
banished to Patmos by “‘ Nero Cesar.” That is a mis-  
take ; but it shows us that the two names were usually  
coupled together, when designating that cruel monarch.  
A few cases may be presented here in proof that  
not the word “‘ Nero” alone, but “‘ Nero Cesar” was  
his proper and formal designation.  
We may observe, first, that Caesar is added in the  
New Testament to the name of Claudius, the emperor  
who preceded Nero. Agabus foretold the “ great dearth  
throughout all the world, wnich came to pass in the