352 THE APOCALYPSE- [ou. xiii. 18  
  
and make four of the same name. Three are not re-  
peated. The first word begins and ends with the same  
letter. Also the four last according to the Hebrew  
system of numeration, and in the order of the Hebrew  
alphabet, are alternately consecutive, thus :—  
1—=50. D=—60. N and § are consecutive, both  
in numeral and alphabetic order.  
> = 100. 1 = 200. K and R are so also.  
This name accounts also for another remarkable cir-  
cumstance. Ignatius tells us that some read 616 as  
the true number; instead of 666. Now if the Roman  
Christians believed Nero to be the person indicated,  
they were very likely to read the name in Roman style  
without the final N—Nero—which the Greeks used in  
expressing that emperor’s name. But if they so read  
it, then the omission of the second N would cause the  
subtraction of the number 50: and the total would be,  
666 minus 50, or 616.  
This discovery was made by Prof. Benary, a German,  
of Berlin, as M. Stuart observes ; and has been adopted  
by Moses Stuart as the true answer, though on such  
grounds as entirely to destroy its value. If Nero be  
the person designated, he must arise from the dead to  
fulfil the prophecy. That Stuart rejects as incredible  
and absurd; and, of course, the plenary inspiration  
of the passage and of the book is destroyed. ;  
Nero is the person, and he will rise to fulfil the word.  
What fitter person for the task could Satan select ?  
But we shall notice some further confirmatory proofs,  
when we come to chapter xvii.  
Most remarkable were many of the occurrences of  
his reign. His personal sins were portentous: pro-  
bably beyond all former example.  
In his government, he was the first to persecute the  
Christians, and he burnt them to death to illuminate his  
gardens at night. Before him were brought, it is sup-