OH, xili. 18] EXPOUNDED 353  
  
posed, two of God’s especial witnesses in that day:  
Peter and Paul: and by him they were slain, as the  
two coming witnesses will be.  
By him was the armament sent, which resulted in  
the desolation of Palestine, and the conflagration and  
spoiling of the temple of God.  
The expectations of the heathen concerning him were  
very remarkable.  
“Some of the astrologers promised him, a/ter his  
forlorn condition, the government of the East, and some  
expressly the kingdom of Jerusalem. But the greater  
part flattered him with assurances of being restored to his  
former fortune’ (Suetonius, Nero, chap. xl.).  
The expectations of the Christians of that day were  
very similar. Of these Moses Stuart has given the  
following interesting account :—  
“The expectation of Nero’s reviviscence was cherished  
by some, and feared by others, even some centuries  
after his assassination.  
“ The expectation that Nero was to reappear and renew  
his former fortune, was plainly cherished by this most  
distant and barbarous people.  
“Tacitus has given us several hints respecting the  
same phenomena to which Suetonius has adverted.  
Thus (Hist. ii. 8) he says :—‘ About the same time,  
[a.U.c. 823, a.D. 71], Achaia and Asia were terrified  
without any good reason (false), as if Nero were coming ;  
reports being various respecting his death, and many  
on this account imagining and believing that he was  
still alive.’ It should be observed here, that the very  
region in which John lived (Asia) is here designated  
by Tacitus as one that was filled with alarm at the  
apprehended reappearance of Nero. This was three  
years after his death; and it therefore shows how  
strongly the fear, that what the soothsayers had pre-  
dicted respecting Nero would come to pass, had taken  
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