CH. xiv. 17-20] EXPOUNDED 391  
  
Nominal, worldly Christianity is by this time de-  
stroyed. True Christians are reaped; borne away  
from earth. There remain then only the False Christ  
and his host of adherents. This explanation suits admi-  
rably all the conditions of the case.  
As the True Christ and the believers in Him consti-  
tute the true vine of a heavenly spirit, speedily to  
enter on their heritage of heaven; so the False Christ  
and his adherents form one body. It consists of apos-  
tates from the religions of Moses and of Jesus. The  
Father is the husbandman of the true vine ; the lord of  
the false vine, dooming it to destruction. The Father  
and the Holy Spirit together cause the true vine to bear  
fruit to perfection. Thus Satan and the False Prophet  
bring the false vine to its ripeness. When iniquity is  
come to the full, it gathers to itself all, both Jew and  
Gentile, who disbelieve. Antichrist, as its stem, gives  
it unity. As the true vine was made up of Jew and Gen-  
tile, one in faith, so is the false vine composed of Jew  
and Gentile, one in unbelief. The false vine mects the  
wrath of God in the winepress. 19. But the followers  
of the Wild Beast and False Prophet are trodden in the  
winepress, in xix. 15. This fully identifies them.  
As it is a vine of the earth, the bunches are the natural  
clusters of nations.  
“Her grapes are fully ripe.”  
The reason for the Vintage is the same as that given  
for the Harvest. ‘‘ The crop is ripe.” Of the natural  
ripeness of field and vineyard, man isa judge. But, of the  
gathering seasons of the better covenant, God is alone  
the fit judge. Iniquity is come to the full. ‘The  
press is full, the vats overflow, for their wickedness is  
great’ (Joel iii. 13; Isa. lxiii. 1-6).  
The children of the Wicked One are now fully devel-  
oped : they can no more be confounded with Christians.  
God’s wrath of terrible heat, and the awful sap of the