434 THE APOCALYPSE [cH. xvi. 5  
  
She is a slumbering volcano of paganism, about to  
burst forth anew, when Romanism has attained her  
final gleam of triumph.  
At Babel of old was men’s sinful point of union,  
Gen. xi. So is Rome the centre of unity to corrupted  
Christianity. Ancient Babylon had many idols: so had  
Rome pagan: so has Rome papal. Babylon, as Words-  
worth observes, was surrounded by morasses and  
swamps, which create a dreary and unwholesome  
neighbourhood. ’Tis thus also with Rome.  
She is “ Babylon THE Gruat,”  
Jesus taught His disciples to be little in their own  
eyes, and instructed them in doctrines the very opposite  
to worldly greatness.  
Rome, as the centre of empire, is “‘ Great Babylon :”’  
as the professed centre of the Church of Christ, she is  
the great Harlot. The blending of Christianity with  
worldly empire is spiritual whoredom in Christ’s sight.  
All the evils of her doctrine have sprung from this  
root. Romanism is the doctrine of Jesus, leavened  
with the flesh and the world. She has taken to her-  
self Jerusalem’s millennial place: she is the rival of  
Jerusalem under Solomon. Hence, when Christ’s king-  
dom comes, she is destroyed as the city of His enemy.  
God owned Jerusalem of old, as the centre, both of  
kingly government, and of divine worship. But, in  
this dispensation, to attempt to unite the two is confu-  
sion. Rome’s making herself the Holy City, the place  
of the High Priest and the king; the centre of pilgrim-  
ages and jubilees ; is the wearing of rags stripped from  
the mantle of Jerusalem. The Most High never owns  
Rome, save as the centre of Gentile empire. This  
book, when representing to us Christianity, most signi-  
ficantly never mentions Rome. It speaks not even of  
any Churches of Europe, but of seven favoured ones of  
Asia.