436 THE APOCALYPSE [on. xvii. 6  
  
“ And of the abominations of the earth.”  
‘“ Abominations ” signify, in Old Testament language,  
idols.  
Rome, then, is described as the patroness of idolatry.  
And most interesting is it to notice somewhat in detail  
the confirmation given to this by history. Several of  
the Greek emperors of Constantinople set themselves to  
oppose the idolatry which was coming in as a flood, into  
that which called itself the Christian Church. ‘That was  
the source of Rome’s modern independence and power.  
“Tn the eighth century of the Christian era, a religious  
quarrel, the worship of images, provoked the Romans to  
assert their independence: their bishop became the  
temporal as well as the spiritual father of a free people.”  
—Gibbon, vi. 519.  
  
6. ‘‘ And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints,  
and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and I wondered as I  
saw her, with great wonder.”  
  
She “is drunken with the blood of the saints.” As  
loving the world, she hates the renewed in spirit.  
"Tis no slight draught of blood that intoxicates her :  
it is long and deep. Her bloodthirstiness is not occa-  
sional, and soon satiated. For many years the Most  
High has restrained Rome’s persecutions: only in  
secret has she been able to slay. But this predicts a  
time when those who refuse her superstitions will be  
cut off in numbers. Rome has slept off her former  
potations of blood, and is cool and wary. This \_pre-  
dicts a day when she will have power to destroy all  
who will not bow to Trent, and to the Jesuit. Then  
she will imagine that all is secure. Nothing can  
withstand her: caution will be cast to the winds.  
Her open murderousness will disgust her friends: her  
manifest unbelief will multiply infidels. Then her  
hour of doom has struck.