438 THE APOCALYPSE [oH. xvii. 6  
  
How is it that the Church which (as Romanists  
assert) is to be the guide of all Christians, is never  
named as a Church in all that prophetic book, which is  
to enlighten Christ’s people till His return ? How is it,  
on Rome’s theory, that the apostle John alone appears,  
and ‘‘St. Peter’ is never named, nor the Popes as his  
successors in the apostleship ?  
John, as he gazed, grew amazed. So completely  
was probability overturned, so utterly had the Harlot  
outraged all the Saviour’s commands, that he marvelled,  
and was horrorstruck at the wickedness and the im-  
pudence of her professed subjection to Christ.  
How extraordinary, that out of the meek, lowly  
body of Christ’s persecuted few in Rome should rise  
a man professing to have authority over the Holy  
Roman Empire, and to possess the right to rule even the  
Emperor! How marvellous, that while asserting herself  
to be Christ’s Church, she should persecute to death  
believers in Jesus more fiercely than the pagan emperors !  
How strange, that a professed follower of the Lamb  
should tolerate the Wild Beast’s blasphemies, and ride  
his back! How awful, that out of the Church in Rome,  
once owned of God, should spring such utter devotion  
to the world! that poverty and lowliness should be  
exchanged for riches and power, ruling for suffering,  
the diffusion of darkness and superstition in place  
of light and simplicity, idolatry in place of the worship  
of faith, and that in place of giving up life for Christ,  
there should be shedding the blood of those beloved by  
Jesus! A rich, ruling, bloodthirsty, drunken harlot,  
allied to the False Christ, usurps the place of the faithful  
and patient virgin expectant of her lord! That as  
Church of Christ, set to bear witness to the world of its  
sin and its doom, should be so utterly lost as to stoop  
to its worst evils, was deserving of wonder indeed !  
Babylon in her first aspect (chapter xvii.) is the at-