cu. xvii. 9] EXPOUNDED 441  
  
stands in close contact with “the man of sin,’ who is  
  
>  
  
also “the son of Perdition ” (2 Thess. ii. 3).  
  
9. “Here is (seen) the mind that hath wisdom. The seven  
heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.”  
  
A similar expression occurred in the close of chapter  
xii. “Here is wisdom.” There it related to the  
Wild Beast’s number: here, to his heads. What is  
meant by them ?  
They have two significations; (1) territorial, and  
(2) personal. For an empire consists jointly of territory  
and of men.  
(1) The Wild Beast, in its general sense as the  
Roman empire, has territory which always abides. The  
heads of earth are mountains: the heads of an empire  
considered as territory, are the mountains of its  
metropolis.  
In this sense the word “head” is used in the Old  
Testament. Num. xxi. 20; Jer. xxii. 6; Amos i.  
2; ix. 2. Thus we speak of Flamborough Head,  
Beachy Head, Lizard Head.  
The heads are seven mountains, on which the woman  
sits. The heads then are first noticed as they stand  
related to the Woman. ‘They clearly point her out to  
be Rome. The names of the seven hills are—  
Aventine, Cceelian, Esquiline, Janiculan, Palatine,  
Quirinal, Viminal.  
The number seven is peculiarly in keeping with our  
book. The New Jerusalem has but one mountain  
(xxi. 10), as the Lamb has but one head.  
Rome was, as Dr. Wordsworth says, in John’s age  
“usually called the seven-hilled city.”  
“ Virgil, Horace, Tibullus, Propertius, Ovid, Silius  
Italicus, Statius, Martial, Claudian, Prudentius—in  
short, the unanimous voice of the Roman poetry during  
more than five hundred years, beginning with the age