CH. xvii. 11] EXPOUNDED 447  
  
generally assumed, a history of the Roman empire. On  
the contrary, there is a huge blank after the sixth  
emperor ; and the history of the empire becomes merged  
in the few traits told us of the Harlot. As, after Zede-  
kiah, there occurred, and still continues, a large gap in  
the kings of the line of David, whence the Christ has  
sprung ; so is it also with kings of Rome, whence is to  
spring the False Christ. While Jerusalem lies desolate,  
and her kings have ceased, the kings of Rome have  
ceased also. Restore Jerusalem, when “ the Mystery ”’  
is past, and the antagonist power rises also.  
“And when he cometh he must continue a short  
space.”  
When the time is come, a Roman emperor, at first  
seemingly acquiescent in Romanism, will arise, whose  
heathen leanings, however, will become more and more  
apparent, till at length he professes himself to be the  
One True God. He is a mighty and victorious king.  
But this impious pretension raises enemies. He “ falls,”  
like the preceding six. He is assassinated with the  
sword. xiii. 3,14. But his dead body comes to life  
again. The true Antichrist is then on the stage.  
This account of the matter explains how such pro-  
digious results can be effected in so short a space as  
three years and a half. They are not times of prepara-  
tion. Antichrist shows himself at once on a fully  
prepared theatre. The line has long been laid down ;  
the electric wires are in their places; every touch  
thrills the world.  
  
11. ‘‘ And the Wild Beast that was, and is not, both himself is  
the eighth, and is (one) of the seven, and is going into perdition.”  
  
1. At times the Wild Beast signifies, generally, the  
Roman empire. xiii.1. As such it possesses seven heads,  
and ten horns. The Woman sits upon it as such: as  
“a scarlet-coloured wild beast, full of names of blas-