460 THE APOCALYPSE [oH. xvii. 16  
  
The kings of the carth are lukewarm friends of the  
Harlot, and do not interpose to defend her from Anti-  
christ’s hot enmity.  
The seventh emperer may temporize with the Harlot  
while she rides the Wild Beast : but the cighth has no  
need for concealment ; he blasphemes and acts out his  
hatred at once. The imperial and previously ruling  
pagan power of Rome destroys the subsequent ecclesi-  
astical power, and its abode.  
“They make her desolate.”  
She dwells in the wilderness. The Campagna of  
Rome is already a dreary desert girdling in the city.  
They destroy life and its abodes, in the one habitable  
spot of the Campagna; and the whole becomes, then,  
one uniform desolation.  
They make her “ naked.”  
She appears, before her judgment, magnificently  
arrayed. This apparel is stripped off: her wealth is  
seized on. Her secret iniquities, her crimes on principle,  
are laid bare. The doings of her convents and inquisi-  
tions are discovered. The ‘“ secret instructions ”’ of her  
agents and their results come to light.  
They ‘shall eat her flesh.” This refers, I suppose,  
to the destroying of her inhabitants, and of her great  
men in particular.  
“And burn her with fire.’ We read not of any  
defence made by her: she is a woman. Rome has  
several times been scourged with fire and sword. This  
is the last time. It is universal: it never: rears its  
head again. Rome was partially burnt by one of the  
five first kings.  
Of Nero, Suetonius writes thus :—  
“He spared, however, neither the people nor the  
city itself. Somebody in conversation saying, ‘ When  
I am dead let fire devour the world ;’ ‘ Nay,’ said he,  
“Jet it be whilst I am living.” And he acted accord-