472 THE APOCALYPSE [CH. xviii. 6  
  
With thousands around indulging themselves in sin  
through careless unbelief, how easy is it to fallin with  
the current! How hard to escape contamination !  
‘“ Evil communications corrupt good manners.”  
‘‘ For her sins reached unto the heaven.”  
The expression is a very singular one. It seems to  
give the idea of each sin being a snowflake that adhered  
to its fellows, till it made a pile whose top reached the  
sky, and drew down the lightning.  
“ And God remembered her iniquities.”  
So long is the interval between Babylon’s first sin at  
Babel and this point, that it would seem as if God had  
forgotten her misdeeds. But it was not so. He took  
notice, though He smote not at once. Thus Israel’s  
sin of the calf is not yet avenged. Exod. xxxii. 34.  
That word, “‘ God remembered her iniquities,” is a  
golden hook to connect this with xvi. 19. “ Great  
Babylon came in remembrance before God to give unto  
her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.”  
This scene, then, occurs immediately before, and at, the  
last bowl.  
  
6. “ Render to her as she also rendered : and double the double  
to her according to her works: in the cup which she mingled,  
mingle to her double.”  
  
This is the call of God: but to whom can it be  
given ?  
Certainly not to the Church; for that is expressly  
taught, as its law, not to render to a man according to  
his ill deserts. The very word here used is employed  
in Rom. xii. 17, with the negative affixed to it.  
‘““ Recompense to no man evil for evil.” “ See that none  
render evil for evil unto any” (1 Thess. v. 15). “ Not  
rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing, but contra-  
riwise blessing’? (1 Pet. ii. 9). These are but apos-  
tolic echoes of the Great Master in the Sermon on the  
Mount. The return of good for evil is owr command.