cH. xviii. 8] EXPOUNDED 475  
  
Though Rome has so lately been made desolate by  
God: though Babylon, smitten of the Most High, lay  
inruins for centuries; she is confident of never seeing  
woe. Though full of her sins, set face to face with a  
just God in His hour of wrath, she is at rest in false  
security. Though the prophets of God have foretold  
her dcom, she will not believe. The Church and Jeru-  
salem below have their sorrows now. John xvi. 20-22.  
Their glory is to come. The saints of the first resur-  
rection and their heavenly city will take, with God’s  
full sanction, in the millennial day the place of glory,  
and power, and security; a place which she usurps  
“out of due time.”  
8. “‘ Therefore in one day shall her plagues arrive : pestilence,  
and mourning, and famine; and in fire shall she be burned up ;  
for strong is the Lord God who judged her.”  
The passage of the Old Testament which this brings  
vividly before us is Isa. xlvii. 8, 9.  
It is hard to understand how no note of her con-  
nection with the Wild Beast is struck.  
There may be remnants of the magnificence of Rome  
when destroyed by the ten kings: but it will bean utter  
burning when God’s fire is kindled on Babylon. Rome  
and Babylon both burned both the city and temple  
of Jerusalem. With fire are they, too, burned up.  
This second desolation is directly and peculiarly  
God’s. Man hurled the brand before: but now ’tis  
God’s destruction. He takes one of His Old Testa-  
ment names here.  
Jt is remarkable that the participle is in the past  
tense, “the Lord God who judged her.” This con-  
firms the twofoldness of Babylon. She has been  
already smitten; the ten kings ignorantly wrought  
God’s mind. God’s strength is about to be put forth  
in the blow to be delivered now. If the human wrath  
were so desolating, what shall the divine be ?