572 THE APOCALYPSE [on. xxi. 9-14  
  
by various builders ; hence one plan reigns through-  
out.  
The wall has twelve foundations. These are the  
great peculiarity of the city. In other cities, founda-  
tions are slight compared with this. They are covered  
up from sight. Here they underlie the whole city,  
elevate it to a wondrous height, and are its chief and  
most striking adornment. They’ represent it as the  
settled city, never to be moved. The Old Jerusalem  
was shaken by earthquake. The cities of the Gentiles,  
just before the Saviour appears, are laid in ruins by  
shocks destroying their foundations. But this abides  
unshaken.  
On the foundations are engraved “ the names of the  
twelve apostles of the Lamb.’ The God of the city is  
author both of the Law and of the Gospel. Jehovah is  
the God of justice, evidenced by the Law and its tribes :  
and of mercy, as witnessed by the apostles and their  
testimony.  
Apostles are witnesses of grace: on them, as foun-  
dations spiritually, the Church rested. Eph. i. 20.  
As foundations are more important than gates, to them  
is assigned the nobler position. They inscribed not  
their own names thereon, but God glorifies them, when  
the names of the conquerors and monarchs of earth are  
forgot.  
The names are those of “the twelve apostles of the  
Lamb.” There were many other apostles beside the  
twelve originally chosen. The New Testament notices  
at least twelve others. Acts xiv. 4, 14, etc. But the  
  
twelve original ones were those chosen by Jesus in the  
flesh.