§ v.] PROPHETIC IMPORT OF CHAP. I. 1—12. [intropucrion.   
   
 be Antichrist, then has the manifestation been made, and endured now   
 for nearly 1500 years, and yet that day of the Lord is not come, which   
 by the terms of our prophecy such manifestation is immediately to   
 precede \*.   
 34, The same remarks will apply even more forcibly to all those minor   
 interpretations which I have enumerated above. None of them exhausts   
 the sense of the prophecy: and the taking any one of them to be that   
 which is here designated, would shew the failure of the prophecy, not   
 its fulfilment: for they have been and have passed away, and the Lord is   
 not yet come.   
 35, We are thus directed to a point of view with regard to the pro-   
 phecy, of the following kind. The lawless one, in the full prophetic sense,   
 is not yet come. Though 1800 years later, we stand, with regard to him,   
 where the Apostle stood: the day of the Lord not present, and not to   
 arrive until this man of sin be manifested: the mystery of lawlessness   
 still working, and much advanced in its working: the hindrance still hin-   
 dering. And let us ask ourselves, what does this represent to us? Is   
 it not indicative of a state in which the /awlessness is working on, so to   
 speak, underground, under the surface of things,—gaining, throughout   
 these many ages, more expansive force, more accumulated power, but   
 still hidden and unconcentrated ? And might we not look, in the pro-   
 gress of such a state of things, for repeated minor embodiments of this   
 lawlessness,—lawless men, and many Antichrists (1 John ii. 18) springing   
 up here and there in different ages and countries,—the apostasy going   
 onward and growing,—just as there were of Christ Himself frequent   
 types and minor embodiments before He came in the flesh? Thus in   
 the Papacy, where so many of the prophetic features are combined, we   
 see as it were a standing embodiment and type of the final Antichrist   
 —in the remarkable words of Gregory the Great, the “precursor of   
 Antichrist :” and in Nero, and every persecutor as he arose, and Mo-   
 hammed, and Napoleon, and many other forms and agencies of evil, other   
 more transient types and examples of him. We may, following out the   
 parallelism, contrast the Papacy, asa type of Antichrist, having its false   
 priesthood, its pretended sacrifices, its “Lord God” the Pope, with that   
 standing Jewish hierarchy of God’s own appointing, and its High Priest-   
 hood by which our Lord was prefigured: and the other and personal types,   
 with those typical persons, who appeared under the old covenant, and   
 set forth so plainly the character and sufferings and triumphs of the Christ   
 of God.   
 86. According then to this view, we still look for the man of sin, in   
 the fulness of the prophetic sense, to appear, and that immediately   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 ® For surely this is the only possible understanding of our ver. 8 on the ordinary   
 acceptance of words.   
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