INTRODUCTION. ] REVELATION. (on. xxi.   
   
   
 loosed from the Euphrates to slay the destined portion out of all man-   
 kind (ix. 13 ff), in obedience to a voice from the four corners of the   
 altar: Satan deceives the nations in the four corners of the earth   
 (xx. 8): the new Jerusalem lieth four-square, having all sides equal.   
 28. Twelve is the number especially appropriated to the Church, and   
 to appearances symbolically connected with her. Twice twelve is the   
 number of the heavenly elders: twelve times twelve thousand, the   
 number of the sealed elect: the woman in ch, xii. 1 has a crown of   
 twelve stars: the heavenly city has twelve gates, at the gates twelve   
 angels, and on them the names of the twelve tribes of Israel ; also twelve   
 foundations, and on them the names of the twelve Apostles: and its   
 circumference (probably : sce note, ch. xxi, 17) is twelve thousand stadii.   
 Finally, in the midst of her the tree of life brings forth twelve manner   
 of fruits.   
 29. The oceurrence of aliquot portions of these numbers is also   
 worthy of our attention. The half of seven, three and a half, is a ruling   
 number in the apocalyptic periods of time. Three years and a half had   
 been the duration of the drought prayed for by Elijah (see James v. 17,   
 note: also Luke iv. 25): “a time, and times, and the dividing of time”   
 was the prescribed prophetic duration of the oppression of the saints in   
 Dan. vii.25. Accordingly, we find in the Apocalypse (ch. xi. 2)-that the   
 two witnesses, one of whose powers is, to shut up heaven that there shall   
 be no rain (xi. 6), shall prophesy 1260 days=3 x 360 + 180= three   
 years and a half, And if this particular reminds us of Elijah, the other,   
 the turning the water into blood and smiting the earth with plagues,   
 directs our attention to Moses, whose testimony endured throughout   
 the forty and two stations of the children of Israel’s pilgrimage, as that   
 of these witnesses is to endure forty and two months=3 x 12 +6   
 months = three years and a half. (Again, for three days and a half   
 shall the bodies of these witnesses lie unburied in the street of the great   
 city, after which they shall rise again.) ‘The same period in days (1260)   
 is the term during which the woman shall be fed in the wilderness   
 (xii. 6). The same in months (42) is allotted (xiii. 5) to the power of   
 the first wild-beast which aseended from the sea.   
 30. I have not pretended to offer any solution of these periods of   
 time, so remarkably pervaded by the half of the mystic seven. Tam   
 quite unable to say, who the two witnesses are: quite unable, in   
 common with all apocalyptic interpreters, to point out definitely any   
 period in the history of the church corresponding to the 1260 days   
 of ch. xii. 6, or any in the history of this world’s civil power which shall   
 satisfy the forty-two months of ch. xiii. 5. As far as I have seen, every   
 such attempt hitherto made has been characterized by signal failure.   
 One after another, the years fixed on for the consummation by different   
 authors have passed away, beginning with the 1836 of Bengel: one   
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