V.1,2. REVELATION, 983   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSLON. AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED,   
   
 Lackside, sealed with seven | hack, sealed with GENK seals, b Dan. xii.   
 seals. 24nd I saw a 2And I saw a strong angel pro-   
 strong angel proclaiming   
   
 0k (i. e., a roll of a book,” as seven. There are some excellent remarks   
 . 9 & ‘Chis explanation alone on the entire distinctness of the opening   
 will suit the meaning of the word as ap- o the seals, and the reading of the book,   
 plied to the contemporary practice regard- in Cornelius-a-lapide : “ Vor nothing in the   
 ing sacred writings. See also Jer. xxxvi- would be read, except after the open-   
 within 23; behiud 2: (such below) written ing of all seven seals; for when all were   
 not only, as commonly, on the inner side, opened, then at length the book could be   
 but also ou the outer, which, to one read- opened and read, not before.” So also   
 ing the inner, was Jehind [see below’), aro Ribera: ‘Those calamities which were   
 mentioned by Pliny, Lucian, Juvenal, and involved in the seals, were all to come,   
 Martial. This writing, within and with- hefore the things which were written in   
 out, so that the whole roll was full, the book appeared and were known.”   
 to betoken the completeness of the con- Mr, Elliott, in his work “Apocalypsis   
 tents as containing the divine counsel Alfordiana,” specially directed against   
 there was no room for addition to that my commentary on this book, treats this   
 which was therein written. This would view with all the scorn which is unfortu-   
 be of itself a sutlicient reason for the nately so characteristic of him: calling it   
 JSulness of the scroll. To sce two divisions absurd, unscriptural, &c, He has not pro-   
 of written matter indicated, by the writing duced a word of proof, or even illustrative   
 within, and by that on the back, cor- corroboration, of his own view, that the   
 respondent to one another, seems hardly opening of each seal corresponds to the   
 ‘warranted by the text), fast-sealed with unrolling of a certain portion of the scroll :   
 seven seals (not, consisting of seven but has contented himself with re-assert-   
 writings, cach sealed with one seal, as ing it in the strongest language, and pour-   
 various Commentators hold: but one ing on those who hold the other   
 book, fastened with seven seals, which view. I grieve to say, that this is often   
 were visible to the Apostle, Various in- the case throughout his above-mentioned   
 genious methods have been imagined, b; work, as to render it impossible for me, in   
 Which the opening of each of these seals many places, to meet his objections in argu-   
 may have loosened a corresponding por- ment. One who distrusts his own as well   
 tion of the roll. But they all proceed on as all other explanations, and believes that   
 the assumption that the roll in the vision much of this mysterious book is as yet un-   
 was unfolded, which is nowhere to be ftathomed, is uo match for one who hesi:   
 gathered from the text. Nor have we any tates not on every occasion to shew his   
 right to say that the separate visions confidence that he is in the right, and ull   
 which follow the opening of each seal are who differ from him are wrong. An   
 identical with separate portions of writing enquiry here arises, What is represented by   
 on the roll. These visions are merely sym- this Book? Opinions have been very va-   
 bolic representations of the progress of rious. 1) Some of our earliest Commen-   
 God’s manifestation of the purpose of His tators understood by it the Old ‘Testa-   
 will; but no portion of the roll is actually ment: or the Old aud New conjoined. It   
 unfolded, nor is any thing read out of the will appear from the extraets given in my   
 book. Not its contents, but the gradual Greek Test., that the opening of the seals   
 stops of access to it, are represented by was very generally by the earlier fathers   
 these visions. What is in that book, shail and interpreters taken to mean, the fulfil-   
 not be known, until there shall be known ment, and consequent bringing to light,   
 to the powers and authorities in the hea- of Old Test. prophecy by the events of   
 venly places, by the Church, the manifold 382 Redemption as accomplished in the Person   
 wisdom of God, Eph. iii. 10: till those of our Lord, But, if so, then this view   
 material events, which marked the gradual cannot consist with what follows in the   
 opening of the sum of God’s purposes, are Apocalypse. For manifestly the opening   
 all past, and the roll is in its of the seals, as notified by the symbolic   
 completeness by the spirits of the glorified visions belonging to each, does not relate   
 hereaficr. This completeness is here set to things past, but to things which were   
 forth to us again by the mystic number yet future when this book was written.   
 Nor can this apparent consensus of the