1070 REVELATION. XVII.   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED. AUTHORIZED VERSION,   
 Wherefore didst thou wonder? I   
 will tell thee the mystery of the Wherefore didst thou   
 woman, and of the wild-beast that marvel? I will tell thee   
 earrieth her, which hath the seven the mystery of the woman,   
 and of the beast that car-   
 rieth her, which hath the   
 heads and the ten horns. | seven heads and ten horns.   
 that thou sawest was, and is beast! sire deast that thou   
 and shall ascend out of the abyss, | sawest was, and out of the   
 cheat 7. and \* goeth into perdition: and they bottomless pit, and go into   
 a ww 1 that dwell on the earth \*shall won- perdition: and they that   
 der, » whose names are not written dwell on the earth shall   
 beh. xiih.s, wonder, whose names were   
 in the book of life from the founda- | not prom the in the book of   
   
 tion of the world, when they see the the world, when they behold   
   
   
 this shall be so, the apostasy shull not em- perors then past, present, and expected.   
 brace the whole church, so that the second ‘Against such a view it seems to me the   
 woman in the apocalyptic vision should be whole imagery and diction of the vision   
 absolutely identical with the first. ‘The protest: and this it will be my endeavour   
 identity is, in the main, not to be ques- to shew as each of their details comes un-   
 tioned: in formal strictness, not to be der my notice. If, as universally acknow-   
 pressed. "This being so, I should rather ledged, our prophecy be a taking up and   
 regard St. John’s astonishment as a com- continuation of that of Dauiel, then we   
 pound feeling, occasioned partly by the are dealing with larger matters and on a   
 enormity of the sight revealed to him, wider scale than such a limited interpreta-   
 partly also by the identity of the sym- tion would imply. 2) Noragain, after the   
 bolism with ‘that which had been the nicaning assigned above to the harlot and   
 vehicle of a Explanation altogether angel of her title, will be expected that I should   
 the mystery of the woman and of the beast. agree with those who take her as, accord-   
 And first, 7—14] of the beast. And the ing to the letter of our ver. 18, strictly   
 angel said to me, Wherefore didst thou confined in meaning to the material city   
 wonder? I will tell to thee the mystery of Rome. She is that city: but she is also   
 (whieh, be it noted, is but one) of the mystery. She is herself a harlot, apos-   
 woman and of the wild-beast that carrieth tate and faithless church : but she is also   
 her, which hath the seven heads and the mother: from her spring, of her nature   
 ten horns, The beast which thou sawest, partake, with her shall be destroyed, all   
 was, and is not, and shall come up ont of the fornications and abominations of' the   
 the abyss, and goeth to perdition (these carth, though they be not in Rome, though   
 words have been a very battle-ficld for they be not called by her name, though in   
 apocalyptic expositors. ‘The principal dif- outward semblance they quarrel with and   
 fering interpretations are far too long to oppose her. 3) The above remarks will   
 Le given at all intelligibly but will be lead their intelligent reader to expect, that   
 seen best in their own works, aud compen- the present words of our text, which are in   
 diously but fairly stated in the notices in the main reproductive of the imagery of   
 ‘Mr. Elliott’s fourth volume. What is here ch. xiii. 1—4, will be interpreted as those   
 required, is that I should give a consistent were interpreted, not of mere passing   
 account of that solution which I have been events and persons, but of world-wide and   
 myself led to adopt. 1) It will not be sup- world-long empires and changes. 4) Hay-   
 posed, with the general view which I have ing thus indicated the line of interpreta-   
 taken of the beast as the secular perse- tion which I shall follow, I reserve the   
 cuting power, that I am prepared to accede details for ver. 10, where they necessarily   
 to that line of interpretation which makes come before us): and they shall wonder   
 the whole vision descriptive of the who dwell upon the earth, of whom the   
 Scer’s own time, and of the Roman em- name is not written upon (so litcrally,   
 as often in this book) the book of life   
 from the foundation of the world (i.e.