“The Mother of the Harlots of the earth.”  
 It is very observable that *the Pope* does not once  
make his appearance in all John’s description. The  
wickedness is of a feminine, not of a masculine description.  
The Holy Spirit’s great charge is of false doctrine.  
The Pope and Romanism are the development  
of (1) Justification by works. As the result of that,  
(2) the priesthood of a class of Christians comes in, in  
order to satisfy divine wrath.  
 She is not only a harlot herself, she is “the mother  
of the harlots of the earth.” She has set the example  
of uniting the Church and the world: and other national  
establishments have followed in her train. Jesus recognizes  
*churches of believers separated from the world, as  
lights*. But national assemblies, taking it for granted  
that all the nation are elect and holy, are a stain upon  
the truth; a shame to the name of Christ. Rome  
calls herself, in the Creed of Pope Pius, “*mother* and  
mistress *of all churches*.” She is indeed mother of  
many assemblies calling themselves churches, but they  
are not owned of Christ as chaste virgins. They are  
“of the earth,” and are “harlots.”  
 How shall we know who are her daughters? They  
have Rome for their mother. Every church that  
acknowledges Rome for her mother is a harlot. Those  
churches which have been set up by missions from  
Rome, are her daughters.  
 Morally, that so-called Church is a harlot, which,  
loving the world more than Jesus, consents to take the  
civil magistrate as its ruler, throwing open its communion  
to the worldly, and calling them Christians. The  
civil ruler, in return for Christian rites, and the name of  
Christ, gives to the ministers rank and wealth. Then  
the Church’s witness to the world of its iniquity and  
its danger from Christ’s appearing ceases, and the salt  
has lost its savour.