The kings *of the earth* are lukewarm friends of the  
Harlot, and do not interpose to defend her from Antichrist’s hot enmity.  
 The seventh emperor may temporize with the Harlot  
while she rides the Wild Beast: but the eighth has no  
need for concealment; he blasphemes and acts out his  
hatred at once. The imperial and previously ruling  
pagan power of Rome destroys the subsequent ecclesiastical power, and its abode.  
 “They make her desolate.”  
 She dwells in the wilderness. The Campagna of  
Rome is already a dreary desert girdling in the city.  
They destroy life and its abodes, in the one habitable  
spot of the Campagna; and the whole becomes, then,  
one uniform desolation.  
 They make her “naked.”  
 She appears, before her judgment, magnificently  
arrayed. This apparel is stripped off: her wealth is  
seized on. Her secret iniquities, her crimes on principle,  
are laid bare. The doings of her convents and inquisitions are discovered. The “secret instructions” of her  
agents and their results come to light.  
 They “shall eat her flesh.” This refers, I suppose,  
to the destroying of her inhabitants, and of her great  
men in particular.  
 “And burn her with fire.” We read not of any  
defence made by her: she is a woman. Rome has  
several times been scourged with fire and sword. This  
is the last time. It is universal: it never rears its  
head again. Rome was partially burnt by one of the  
five first kings.  
 Of Nero, Suetonius writes thus:—  
 “He spared, however, neither the people nor the  
city itself. Somebody in conversation saying, ‘When  
I am dead let fire devour the world’; ‘Nay,’ said he,  
‘let it be whilst I am living.’ And he acted accordingly: