CHAPTER XVIII

BABYLON’S SECOND OVERTHROW

THERE are TWO DESTRUCTIONS OF BABYLON: one of  
*Babylon mystic*, which has subsisted during the time  
of “the Mystery”: and one of *Babylon literal*, which  
is to survive Babylon mystic, and to be destroyed after  
her.  
 Answering to these two different positions is the  
different style of the prophecy in chapter xvii. from  
that found in this chapter. The former dealt chiefly  
with symbols: a harlot, and wild beast, heads, horns,  
waters, a cup, and so on. To these the angel adds  
explanations, that we might know they were not to be  
literally taken.  
 But in this chapter the horns and heads, and the  
Wild Beast, do not appear. No explanation is given.  
Why is this? Because there is no mystery to be explained: that is, it is literal. Mystery rests on chapter  
xvii., for it describes the city of man during God’s time  
of mystery. But it does not rest on chapter xviii.: for  
by that time, mystery has fled. Babylon the *Harlot* is  
past: but Babylon the *city* of old time reappears.  
 As God is retiring from the Church back to Israel, so  
Satan retires from the mystic Babylon to the literal one,  
and destroys her, because she is in the way of his kingdom’s appearing.  
 The reconciling link between the two conflicting