

have led him, as they have led a great many others, to conclude that the time of the end, or what he calls the pre-millennial advent of Christ, is near at hand.

It appears to us that the Pontiff of Rome could not, with any degree of propriety, be called Antichrist, until he assumed and was known in the world by the title of Universal Bishop. Until he assumed that title, he could not, in the language of Scripture, be said to sit "in the temple of God, saying that he is God." The truth of this statement is all but universally admitted. Even Gregory the Great, one of the most distinguished Popes of Rome, declared that so soon as he who sat in the Chair of St. Peter, should assume the title of Universal Bishop, and be known in the world by that proud title, he would be the forerunner of Antichrist. That proud title was not conferred upon him, nor do we learn that he ever assumed it, till the year 606. Although the Justinian Code gave him great power, it was not until seventy-three years after, that is, in the year 606, that the Emperor Phocas, by a special decree, constituted him, in return for favours received, the great head and ruler of the Universal Church, and commanded all men to obey his mandates, or be punished with imprisonment, confiscation of goods, exile, and death, in case of disobedience. From that year the rise of Antichrist may be dated; when the Pope of Rome, Boniface III., had formally conferred upon him the dignity of Universal Bishop, and when he became known in the world by that proud title.

It has been remarked that there is a striking coincidence between the year 606 and the characteristic mark of the Beast, or the number of his name. "The number of his name," saith the angel to John, "is six hundred and sixty-six." The Roman soldiers, criminals, and slaves, had a stigma or mark affixed to them, by which they were known from all others. The number 666 was to be the stigma or mark, saith the Angel, by which Antichrist was to be known, as soon as he should arise. Between these two numbers there is a striking coincidence. But the coincidence is still more remarkable, when it is observed, as Irenaeus and others after him have observed, that the Greek numeral characters in which the name was originally written, and which represent the number 666, are such as to form the word *Lateinos*, or Latin man. It was in that very year, the year 666, that Vitalian, the then reigning Pontiff, first ordained that, as all the canons and decretals were in Latin, so all public worship should henceforth be performed in Latin. Vitalian thus assumed the characteristic stigma or mark by which the angel declared that Antichrist should be known from all others. He thus became known in the world as the Latin man, his Church became known as the Latin Church, and that, too, in the very year that corresponds with the prophetic number of his name as the Antichrist of Scripture.

Assuming, on these grounds, that Antichrist took his rise in the year 606, by adding to it 1260, the predicted period of his continuance, we are brought down to the year 1866, according to the Julian mode of reckoning, or to the year 1848, according to the prophetic, as the predicted era when his power as Antichrist should wane.

This predicted era of the decline of the Antichristian power seems to agree very well with the facts of history, and the pouring out of the seven vials, as generally interpreted. The first of these vials began to be poured out upon the nations that gave their power to the Beast, as early as the year 1793, the year of the breaking out of the French Revolution, if not before. Four of them have already emptied their contents on those guilty nations. The first part of the woe is past; and it is probable that the doomed nations are, at the present time, under the action of the fifth and sixth vials; we say the fifth and sixth, for these two vials are so closely connected, that they seem, as it were, to run into one another. The fifth vial, we are assured by the angel, is to be poured out on the seat of the Beast; that is, on the Italian dominions that are more immediately connected with, and dependent upon, him. This will greatly weaken the power of Antichrist. Indeed, his power has already been greatly