

until the days of Papin. It was by his decree that the Pope of Rome was raised to the dignity of a secular prince, by having conferred upon him a great part of Italy as Peter's patrimony. On that occasion, Pope Paul I., on whom the patrimony was first conferred, assumed the tiara, or triple crown, which denotes that he who wears it is Prince of princes, Vicar of Christ, and Head of the Church; and which has since been worn by his successors. By this assumption he identified himself as the eighth head of the Roman Empire. The wild Beast from the abyss, the great Antichrist of Scripture, was thus fully developed, and the prophecy fulfilled. In corroboration of this view of the subject, it may be added, that Christ is the King of Nations as well as the King of Saints; and therefore it was not until the Pope of Rome was thus exalted above Christ, both as King of nations and as King of Saints, that the Scripture was fully verified which saith, "He opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped."

The decree of Papin was afterwards confirmed by his son Charlemagne, and the development of Antichrist as King of Nations, to which it gave rise, took place, as nearly as we have been able to ascertain, in the year 758—the same year in which Paul I. began to build the Cathedrals of St. Peter and St. Paul. By taking this year, then—the year 758—as the commencement of the Papal Kingdom, and adding to it 1260, the predicted period of its continuance, we are brought down to the year 2018, according to the Julian mode of reckoning; or exactly to the year 2000, according to the prophetic mode of 360 days to the year. The year 2000 after the birth of Christ, therefore, may be looked upon as the utmost limit to which the Papal Kingdom or Pope's reign, either as a civil or ecclesiastical ruler, shall extend. Then it shall be completely and for ever overthrown, and the Millennial era of the Church's Jubilee will begin.

We have said enough to satisfy our own mind at least, that the conjecture we have thus thrown out is far from being improbable. That which tends more strongly to confirm us in the opinion is the fact, that the year 758 corresponds exactly with the characteristic mark of the Beast, or number of his name, when we reckon from the time the revelation was given to John in the Isle of Patmos. "The number of his name," said the angel to John, "is 666." Why was this number made known to John, and why was he commanded to make it known to the Church? One design which God had in view might be, that the Church might know when Antichrist should arise, and of course what persecutions she had to expect. He would arise, said the angel in effect to John, 666 years hence, for that is the number of his name; and precisely 666 years hence—that is, in the year 758—he did arise into supreme power, both in Church and State. On assuming the tiara in that year, the Pope of Rome was declared Prince of Princes, Vicar of Christ, and Head of the Church. He thus became fully developed as the great Antichrist of Scripture, exalting himself "above all that is called God." That this exaltation took place precisely 666 years after the prophecy was made known by the angel to John, is well known to every one acquainted with ecclesiastical history. The prophecy was made known to John in the Isle of Patmos, whither he had been banished by Domitian, in the year 92, the eleventh year after Domitian commenced his reign. Now, if we add 666 to the year 92, it brings us down exactly to the year 758, the precise period, as we have seen, when the Pontiff of Rome rose to the head of the Empire as a secular as well as an ecclesiastical Prince. Again, if we add 1260, the predicted period of the continuance of his power, to 758, it will bring us down, as we have said, according to the prophetic mode of reckoning, exactly to the year 2000 after the birth of Christ, as the predicted era of his complete and final overthrow, when "the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of our God and of His Christ."

If we be correct in the conclusion we have thus arrived at, that the Miller