

carried away by her inordinate ambition, her character has suffered a complete transformation. She is now the seat of Antichrist, Rev. xvii. 9.

Fourth Identification: Seated in this temple, he exhibits himself to men as if he were God. This does not mean that he claims superiority over the true God, but only equality with him. Yet this is an assumption sufficiently daring to fill every mind with astonishment, and even to lead one to ask, if it can be possible that any mortal man can be guilty of such a blasphemous usurpation. It is admitted, indeed, that such a claim is not put forth openly, and in so many words, either by Pope or Prelate. But it is undeniable that the Pope claims attributes and prerogatives that belong only to the Divine Being; nay, according to his own profession, he is, every day of his life, performing acts that can be performed only by the Most High. He avows himself to be infallible; he maintains that he can forgive sins, and send men to Heaven or to hell as he thinks proper. He possesses the key of the gate of Paradise, and can admit or exclude whomsoever he pleases. He has the power to change laws and ordinances at his pleasure. By his mere decree he can change the character of an action, so that what was unlawful before shall become lawful, and what was lawful shall become a sin. In these, and many other ways which I have not time to mention, he exhibits himself to the world as if he were God; he claims to be next to God himself, a terrestrial divinity, who holds the destinies of men in his hand, and can send them to happiness or misery according to his sovereign will.

I again appeal to yourself, Christian reader, whether you can find any person, in the whole compass of history, to whom these words in the text will apply, except the Head of the Roman Church. It seems to me that the

Head of that Church has sat here for his picture. He is here photographed in lineaments that are strikingly true, and that will never be obliterated. And the fact, that this strange prediction, written in the middle of the first century, at a time when, humanly speaking, it must have seemed exceedingly improbable, should have been so remarkably fulfilled, as it is in our day, in 1876, after the revolution of eighteen centuries and a half, must be held to be a clear proof, that the Apostle Paul, like other holy inspired men, spoke and wrote as he was moved by the Holy Ghost; for no human foresight could have anticipated anything of the kind.

I wish it, however, to be understood, that I do not refer to the Popes of Rome, either past or present, in their personal characters, but only as the Heads, or Representatives of the Antichristian system. In personal character they have been very different from one another; some better, and some worse. According to universal report, the present Pope is one of exemplary moral character; according to the testimony of history, some of his predecessors have been monsters of vice. But, in their official capacity, they have all of necessity, put forth the same blasphemous assumptions; claiming to be regarded as the Vicars of Christ,—the Vicegerents of God on earth. It is not an uncommon thing, in the scriptures, to take the name of an individual, or a city, as the synonym of a class; as, for example, Abraham, Moses, Sion, Babylon, etc. Now, there never was a system in the world which could be so fairly represented by an individual, as the Church of Rome by its Popes; for there never was a system to which a certain individual is so indispensable. The Pope is every thing to the Church of Rome; he is so necessary to her that her ministrations cannot be carried on without him; he is head, without