

It is not to be expected that we are here to enumerate all the different theories that have been entertained on this difficult subject. Nor do we deem it either necessary or useful for us to do so, as it would only tend to perplex the reader, and embarrass the subject. But having had occasion to investigate the subject, for the benefit of the people of our charge, we purpose merely to present the readers of the *U. P. Magazine*, if the Editor should think proper, with the result of our investigation, by laying before them that particular view which appears to us the most correct, and which best harmonises with the facts of history and the prophecies made known to John in that Apocalyptic vision which he had in Patmos.

It will be observed that in the book of Revelation we have three grand Apocalyptic numbers given us, all of them denoting precisely the same period or number of days, and although applying to widely different subjects, all indicating the precise period during which the power of Antichrist, under the prophetic symbol of a wild Beast, was destined to continue. These Apocalyptic numbers are twelve hundred and sixty days, forty-two months, and a time, times, and half a time. The first of these numbers applies to the two witnesses; they, it is said chap. 9. 3., were to prophesy in sackcloth "twelve hundred and sixty days." The second number applies to Antichrist, under the emblem of a wild Beast; it is said, chap 13. 5., "power was given unto him to continue forty-two months." The third applies to the Church of Christ, under the emblem of a woman in the wilderness, whither she fled from the face of the Serpent for "a time, times, and half a time." Each and all of these numbers, we have said, denote precisely the same period or number of days; that is to say, the second and third numbers denote precisely the same as the first, viz., 1260 days. And, according to a well known principle of interpretation, 1260 prophetic days are equal to 1260 literal years. That is the time during which the witnesses were to prophesy in sackcloth; it is the time during which the woman was to continue in the wilderness; and it is also the time during which power was given unto the wild Beast. If we are right, then, in understanding the wild Beast of Antichrist—and there is ample evidence of this—we have here given us the precise period during which that Antichristian power is destined to continue. According to the prophecy, he is destined to continue 1260 literal years.

Now, if we can ascertain the precise period when that Antichristian power arose, by adding to that period the number of 1260 literal years, we shall have the precise period of his decline or fall. Let us endeavour to ascertain this point. Dr. Cumming, to whom we are indebted for an able exposition of the Apocalypse, dates the rise of Antichrist as far back as the year 533. In that year, he tells us, the excellent code, commonly called the Justinian Code, was first promulgated, by which the Papal power was greatly extended, and according to which it was declared to be death to dissent from the Roman Catholic religion; and from that year, accordingly, Dr. Cumming dates the commencement of the Papal power as the Antichrist of Scripture. By adding 1260, the predicted period of the continuance of that power, to 533, we are brought down to the year 1793, as the year in which, according to that able writer, the Papal power should decline or fall. This, it will be observed, was the year in which the great Revolution first broke out in France; and in that year, it is probable, the first of the seven vials, or third woe of the Apocalypse, began to be poured out on the nations that gave their power to the Beast. But although the Pontiff of Rome was at that time, or soon after, politically cast down and divested of his power for a season; it was only for a short season. And although we agree with the opinion of the able writer referred to, in the opinion that Antichrist will not be fully overthrown on a sudden, or all at once, till the time of the end, yet we do think that, by fixing on the year 533, he is ante-dating the rise of that Antichristian power, and, of course, is thus led to ante-date the time of his fall. One mistake very often leads to another, and these mistakes