

4 *The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.*

The first beast was like a lion, and had eagle's wings, and in course of time the wings became plucked, and he was caught or lifted up from the ground, and made to stand up like a man.

This beast derives his origin from the Roman empire; and covers that period of history from the foundation of Rome to the accession of Constantine the Great; and as there are plenty of books in circulation giving full information about the doings of the Romans, I shall content myself with merely touching such parts of their history as point directly to the text; leaving to my readers some work to do to supply the deficiency, and do some of the thinking for themselves in order to obtain full satisfaction, and be well persuaded in their own minds.

From the foundation of Rome until the year one hundred and seventeen of the christian era, the symbol will answer to the conquests and power of the Romans; the lion, by his superior strength and courage, bore down all opposition—the eagle's wings denoting an almost unlimited extent of conquest. During the reign of Trajan, the noble animal put forth one last and crowning effort, before his wings should be plucked from him by the moderate Hadrian. This active prince visited every province of the empire, and saw with his own eyes the actual state of his subjects, with a view to the improve-

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