

The Twelve Hundred and Sixty Years.

A recent writer, in a work entitled *The Seventh Vial*, offers the following remarks.—

“About the year 530 we find a change passing upon the ten Gothic kingdoms, which made them, in fact, Roman kingdoms, and linked them to the fourth monarchy of Daniel, and made them, in truth, but a continuation of that Roman empire to which the invasion had given a deadly wound. From A.D. 530 to A.D. 533, Gibbon tells us, the Emperor Justinian published his immortal works, the CODE, the PANDECTS, and the INSTITUTES. These contained a digest of the laws of the ancient Roman empire, which henceforward became the law of the ten kingdoms. Gibbon remarks that, by the execution of this work, ‘Justinian, the Greek emperor of Constantinople and the East, was the legal successor of the Latian shepherd who had planted a colony on the banks of the Tiber.’ Much more, would we remark, was it true of the ten kingdoms, which now began to be governed by the laws of ancient Rome, and into which the very spirit of Rome was thus infused, that it had now become the legal successor of that Latin kingdom which Romulus founded on the banks of the Tiber. The promulgation of the Justinian CODE seems to mark the epoch of the full emergence of the ten-horned beast above the Gothic flood: the ten kingdoms then became the true lineal descendant of pagan Rome. But what of the papacy? Was there about the same time any signal enlargement or confirmation of the powers of the Pope? It was just at this time that Justinian issued his famous Decretal Epistle to the Pope, in which he recognized him as the head of all holy churches,—not the head of the churches of the western empire only, but of those of the eastern also. Ro-

man Catholics themselves have acknowledged this to be the first imperial recognition of the absolute primacy of the Pope. Then it was that the Pope assumed the blasphemous title of Christ’s Vicar,—a character which forms the basis of that authority which the Pope claims over temporal sovereigns. Christ is King of kings; and were the Pope really Christ’s Vicar, he would be a king of kings too. Thus, in the assumption of the title and character of Christ’s vicar, the antichrist was revealed. It is remarkable that at the same period we find a remarkable change taking place, both in the constitution of the ten kingdoms, and in the character of their real head: we find the former becoming Roman kingdoms, and the latter Christ’s vicar, *i. e.* antichrist. From this period, then, we are disposed to date the commencement of the twelve hundred and sixty years, during which the witnesses prophesied clothed in sackcloth.”

Admitting the correctness of these statements, and fixing the commencement of the twelve hundred and sixty years at A.D. 533, we are brought to A.D. 1793—the French Revolution, which may be regarded as a singular coincidence.

Select Sentences.

Keep the truth, and the truth will keep thee.—*William Allen.*

Some think that a tender conscience is a weak one, but it is a sign of their weakness who think so.—*Beddome.*

Be patient, and the mulberry-leaf, though naturally so rough, will become satin.—*Arabian Proverb.*

The best shield against slanderers is so to live that none may believe them.—*Countess of Warwick.*

The true measure of loving God is to love him without measure.—*Ibid.*