

it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little while, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, which should be killed, even as they were, should be fulfilled."

In xvii. 6, 9, the woman is unquestionably Rome and she is seen "drunken with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus."

In xviii. 24, we read that "in her (Babylon, *i. e.*, Rome) was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all that have been slain upon the earth."

In xx. 4, John "saw the souls of them that had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus, and for the word of God." Beheading was the proper Roman mode of execution.

*The enemies of the Church* are not merely earthly—human forces and human organizations—but Satanic. The conflict is not merely a visible conflict between suffering Christian men and Churches on the one side and the Roman authorities on the other. John carries the conflict up higher and sees it essentially one between God and Christ on the one side and the devil and his agents on the other. In chapter xii, the Church (the woman clothed with the sun) gives birth to the Messiah, the leader of the forces of righteousness. Immediately the old dragon, Satan, the leader of the forces of evil, attempts to destroy Him, and, failing that, to destroy His followers. And so the drama of human history becomes finally a conflict between the Messiah and His Church and the devil and his agents, until eternal victory is achieved for the kingdom of God.

Satan's great earthly agent is indubitably the vast