

**THE RISE AND FALL OF THE PAPACY,
DELIVERED IN LONDON, A.D. 1701; WITH
AN APPENDIX, CONTAINING EXTRACTS
ON PROPHECY, FROM MEDE, OWEN,
DURHAM, WILLISON, &C.**

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ROBERT FLEMING

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770
The
(Prophecy) (1000)
THE
RISE AND FALL
BY
THE PAPACY.

DELIVERED IN LONDON, A.D. 1701,

BY

ROBERT FLEMING, V.D.M.

WITH AN APPENDIX,
CONTAINING
EXTRACTS ON PROPHECY,
FROM
MEDE, OWEN, DURHAM, WILLISON, &C.

Seventeenth Thousand.

ABERDEEN:
GEORGE & ROBERT KING;
EDINBURGH: OLIVER & BOYD,;
GLASGOW: WILLIAM COLLINS; LONDON:
WARD & CO., PATERNOSTER ROW.

1849.

It is a singular circumstance
 that the title "Vicarius
 1 Fili. Dei" — which the
 Popes of Rome have
 assumed to themselves,
 and caused to be inscribed
 over the Door of the Vatican
 exactly makes the number
 666. When decyphered
 according to the numeral
 signification of its
 Consequent Letters — Thus

Added together

V	—	5
I	—	1
C	—	100
A	—	0
Z	—	0
I	—	1
V	—	5
S	—	0
F	—	0
L	—	1
L	—	50
L	—	1
L	—	1
D	—	500
C	—	0
I	—	1
—	—	<hr/>
number of letters.	—	666

C 4227.01.5



Fine Money

PREFACE

TO THE

SIXTH EDITION.

THE events which have happened in Europe *
within the last twenty years¹⁷⁸⁹ are of a very re-
markable kind, and, viewed in all their circum-
stances, quite unparalleled in modern history. ^{to}
At the beginning of that period, a Revolution ¹⁸⁰⁹
broke out in France, which not only threw that
kingdom into the most violent internal convul-
sions, but led to wars and commotions in all the
surrounding countries, and has produced changes
in the political and ecclesiastical state of the
Continent, which, by their magnitude, surpris-
ing progress, and probable issue, have caused
the primary Revolution, astonishing as it was,
to be comparatively forgotten.

While others are employed in canvassing the
characters, principles, and designs of the persons
who have acted the most conspicuous parts in
these strange scenes, and in calculating the ef-

fects which these Revolutions may produce upon the political affairs of the world or of a particular nation, the genuine Christian, though not indifferent to the external welfare of mankind, or of his native country, is chiefly concerned to view the operations of Divine Providence, to observe the invisible hand which has presided over the storm, overruled, and directed the passions, counsels, and views of individuals and conflicting nations. Aided by the light of inspired prophecy, he endeavours to discover the connexion of these portentous events with the advancement of that kingdom, for the sake of which all kings and kingdoms rise or fall. While thus engaged, he cannot be inattentive to that wonderful book which closes the inspired canon of Scripture, "THE REVELATION" which God gave "to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass;" which contains an exhibition of the fates of the church of Christ during a succession of many ages, and of the changes that were to take place in the kingdoms of this world, as far as these are connected with the interests of the church and the glory of her King. Whatever difficulties may attend the study of that mysterious book, he knows that the Spirit hath said, "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy."

Many learned and pious men have employed their time and the gifts which God bestowed on them, in expounding THE REVELATION; particularly since the era of the Reformation. By their labours the unlearned Christian may be greatly assisted in reading it with understanding and profit; some of them having with much success elucidated its general scheme and arrangement, with the meaning of its emblems; and others having succeeded in pointing out the periods and events to which the principal predictions referred. As the most conspicuous part of the prophecy is that which describes the rise, advancement, and overthrow of the Antichristian power under the mystical name of Babylon, we need not be surprised that this has particularly engaged the attention of interpreters. Among those who have published their views of this part of the Revelation, is the Rev. Mr. FLEMING, the author of the following Treatise. He was the son of the writer of that well-known book, *The Fulfilling of Scripture*; and was trained up by his pious and judicious parent in a habit of observing the dispensations of Divine providence, and comparing them with the intimations of prophecy.

The Discourse on the Rise and Fall of Papacy was published by its author in the year 1701. After expressing his thorough acquiescence in

the concurring sentiment of orthodox divines, and indeed of all the Protestant churches, that the Papal Roman power is represented under the name of Babylon, he proceeds to prove that the periods of 1260 days, of forty-two months, and of a time, times and a half, are synchronical, i. e. refer exactly to the same period of time, and described the duration of the Antichristian kingdom; and that they are to be understood prophetically, a day being put for a year. He states his opinion as to the proper way of computing the exact amount of these years. He then proceeds to lay down his opinion respecting the time at which the 1260 prophetic days are to be considered as commencing, from which the period of the fall of the *Papacy* may be calculated. He traces the regular series of the prophecy in the opening of the Seven Seals, the blowing of the Seven Trumpets, and the pouring out of the Seven Vials, and expresses his judgment as to the events and periods to which each of these refer. In commenting upon the *Fourth Vial*, which he thinks will expire about the year 1794, he says, "the pouring out of this Vial on the sun must denote the humiliation of some eminent potentates of the Romish interest, whose influence and countenance cherish and support the Papal cause. And these, therefore, must be

principally understood of the house of Austria and Bourbon, though not exclusively of other Popish princes." In giving his opinion as to events, connected with this Vial, which were posterior to the time in which he lived, he has these remarkable expressions: "I cannot but hope that some new mortification of the chief supporters of Antichrist will then happen; and perhaps the French monarchy may begin to be considerably humbled about that time: that whereas the French king takes the sun for his emblem, and this for his motto, *Nec pluribus impar*, he may at length, or rather his successors, and the monarchy itself (at least before the year 1794), be forced to acknowledge, that (in respect to neighbouring potentates) he is even *singulis impar*."

The singular coincidence between these intimations and what actually happened at the time condescended upon by the author, could not fail, when the French Revolution took place, to strike the minds of those who were acquainted with this Discourse. Accordingly it was re-published in 1792, and repeated editions were bought up with avidity. The author expresses his opinions with great and becoming modesty as to those things in which he differs from other approved expositors, especially in fixing upon particular dates; "industriously avoiding (to use his own expres-