

# **THE SYMBOLICAL NUMBERS OF SCRIPTURE**

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The Symbolical Numbers of Scripture by Malcolm White

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**MALCOLM WHITE**

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BY THE  
REV. MALCOLM WHITE, M.A.



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# THE SYMBOLICAL NUMBERS

OF

## SCRIPTURE.

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### INTRODUCTION.

AN impression prevails very generally that the years 1866-1868 are to be distinguished by the fulfilment of a large portion of Old and New Testament prophecy. And certainly the events of the last few years have been sufficiently marvellous. If these be not the concluding years of the world, they are at all events wonderful enough to answer many of the requirements of those who fix down days and dates. Many have rushed forward to interpret Daniel, and as every one makes much of the downfall of Popery, it would be strange if neither the part Napoleon has played, nor Garibaldi with his volunteers, nor the glory of Prussia, nor the humiliation of the House of Hapsburg, should be regarded as fulfilling the prophecies that have been uttered. Still, it would be amusing to compare some of the theories that have been broached with the actual way the world has gone.

For instance, in one case, it was shown how the Fenians would conquer Britain by aid of the Emperor of the French, and that before the year 66 had closed. Nor is this the only adventurer in the region of prophecy who has painted the Emperor of the French as the Man of Sin. If that dull-eyed Ruler, who, rightly or wrongly, ever since the coup d'etat of 1848, has got the credit of being at the bottom of every possible movement in Europe, saw his likeness as it is drawn on the covers of some of our prophetic journals, he would be no way flattered. Colporteurs are sure to have one of these attractive volumes hidden in their pack; and in many other ways it is manifest that they have their reward, who, by dint of ingenuity have succeeded in establishing that Napoleon bears the number of the beast. Indeed it is said that the name Napoleon is a most ominous one. For, take the N away and you have Apollyon, or something like it,—and so on, through a series of horrid titles that might grace another Pandemonium. Now, every false prediction does harm, and shakes the confidence of men in Scripture. Thus people reason—'If the Bible in regard to prophecy anent the future, be but a juggler's book, which turns up different numbers according to the different throws of the dice, then, as regards prophecies of old, said to have been fulfilled in Jesus Christ, what evidence is there that they were a whit more certain, or capable of any definite fulfilment?' This is the serious aspect of

our subject, that makes us lay all levity aside, and soberly consider whether the year 1866 or the years near it, on to 1868 or later, be entitled to pre-eminence regard.

That the year 1866, on its own merits, will stand the closest investigation, no one will deny. Had any of the numerous writers on prophecy foretold the needle-gun, and the victories it has achieved, the world could not have been more surprised than with the actual progress of events. A fortnight's campaign, ending with the battle of Sadowa, was all that the special reporters of the *Times* were able to record; but what a multum in parvo did the gnadelgewähr of the Prussians prove! We know the result; and for our present purpose it may be stated thus: that the most Popish nation on the Continent has been pushed into a corner by a power which is essentially Protestant. Does it not appear as if the days of Popery were numbered? With the Pope sitting solitarily in Rome, deprived of the bayonets of France, and the beloved white-coats that but the other day held Venice and the Quadrilateral, might it not seem as if we should be preparing to shout—'Babylon the Great is fallen?' It would be enthusiasm thus to seize the trumpet of victory. The Pope has not left Rome; and though he had fled again as once he did before, Popery would not necessarily have been overthrown. Let Cardinal Cullen's forebodings prove true, and let the Pope be a refugee in England, the system of which he is the head might