

24 son of Joseph, of Heli, of Matthat, of  
 25 Levi, of Melchi, of Janna, of Joseph,  
 26 of Mattathias, of Amos, of Nahum, of  
 26 Esli, of Naggai, of Maath, of Matta-  
 thias, of Semein, of Josech, of Joda,  
 27 of Joanan, of Rhesa, of Zerubbabel,  
 28 of Salathiel, of Neri, of Melchi, of  
 Addi, of Cosam, of Elmadam, of Er,  
 29 of Jesus, of Eliezer, of Jorim, of  
 30 Matthat, of Levi, of Simeon, of Juda,  
 31 of Joseph, of Jonam, of Eliakim, of  
 Melea, of Menna, of Mattatha, of  
 32 Nathan, of David, of Jesse, of Obed,  
 33 of Boaz, of Salmon, of Naasson, of  
 Aminadab, of Arni, of Hezron, of  
 34 Pharez, of Judah, of Jacob, of Isaac,  
 35 of Abraham, of Terah, of Nahor, of  
 Serug, of Raga, of Peleg, of Eber,

of Salah, of Cainan, of Arphaxad, 36  
 of Shem, of Noah, of Lamech, of 37  
 Methuselah, of Enoch, of Jared, of  
 Mahalaleel, of Cainan, of Enos, of 38  
 Seth, of Adam, of God.<sup>1]]</sup>

**1 NOTE.**—I remove the Genealogy, vvs. 23—  
 38 of ch. iii., and place it at the end of this  
 Gospel for the following reason: It is quite  
 irreconcilable with the one of Joseph given by  
 St. Matthew, which is capable of verification  
 from the records of the Old Testament, while  
 this interpolated one in St. Luke's Gospel  
 cannot be so. It also breaks the continuity  
 of the Text, in a manner that so accomplished  
 a writer as that Evangelist would never have  
 done. I am, therefore, perfectly satisfied that  
 it is merely a note of some early editor, and  
 never formed part of St. Luke's Gospel.—F. F.

## ACTS OF THE APOSTLES.

### Introduction.

**1** THE above narrative I compiled,  
 Theophilus, concerning every-  
 thing that Jesus began to do and  
 2 teach, from the beginning until the day  
 when, having equipped the apostles  
 whom He had selected with Holy  
 3 Spirit, He ascended: to whom He  
 also presented Himself alive, with  
 many proofs, after His suffering; ap-  
 pearing to them during forty days,  
 and speaking regarding the welfare of  
 4 the Kingdom of God. And, being in  
 their company, He enjoined them  
 "not to remove from Jerusalem; but  
 await the promise of the Father, con-  
 cerning which you heard from Me.  
 5 Because John indeed baptized with  
 water; but you shall be baptized with  
 Holy Spirit not many days from now."  
 6 When they were together, however,  
 they asked Him: "Master, will You  
 at this time restore the kingdom to  
 Israel?"  
 7 "It is not for you," He answered  
 them, "to know times or periods  
 which the Father has reserved at His  
 8 own absolute disposal. But you shall  
 receive power from the Holy Spirit  
 coming upon you; and you shall be  
 My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all  
 Judea and Samaria, and to the bounds  
 of the earth."

### The Ascension.

**9** And saying this, even while they  
 were looking, He ascended; and a

cloud carried Him up from their view.  
 And as they were gazing intently into 10  
 the heaven at His departure, two men  
 in white robes suddenly stood beside  
 them; who also said: "Men of Gali- 11  
 lee, why do you stand gazing up into  
 heaven? This Jesus, Who has as-  
 cended from you to the heaven, will  
 even return in the same way as you  
 have seen Him depart to the heaven."

They then returned to Jerusalem 12  
 from the Mount called Olivet, which  
 is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's  
 journey. And when they had entered 13  
 it, they ascended to the upper cham-  
 ber, where they were staying; that is,  
 Peter and John, James and Andrew,  
 Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and  
 Matthew, James of Alphæus and  
 Simon the Zealous, and Judas of  
 14 James. All these were waiting in  
 full union in prayer together, with  
 women, and Mary the mother of  
 Jesus, and with His brothers.

### Choosing a Successor to Judas.

On such an occasion, Peter standing 15  
 up among the brethren (who included  
 about one hundred and twenty  
 names), said:

"Men, brothers! it was necessary 16  
 that the Scripture should be fulfilled,  
 which the Holy Spirit dictated through  
 the mouth of David, concerning Judas,  
 who became the guide to those who  
 arrested Jesus; because he was enu- 17  
 merated with us, and obtained a share  
 in this service."

18 (He bought a farm, however, with  
the wages of that wickedness; and,  
falling there, face downwards, the  
body burst, and the whole of his  
19 viscera fell out. And this was known  
to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem;  
so that in their own language the  
farm was named, "Aceldama," that  
20 is, "Blood-Farm." For it is recorded  
in the book of Psalms:

LET HIS HOUSE BE DESERTED,  
AND LET NONE BECOME ITS OC-  
CUPANT;<sup>1</sup>

and,

LET ANOTHER TAKE HIS OFFICE.<sup>2</sup>)

21 "It is therefore necessary that one  
of those men who have been included  
in our company during the whole of  
the time that the Lord Jesus went in  
22 and out among us, beginning from the  
baptism of John until the day in which  
He was taken up from us, should be  
one of those who will be a witness  
with us of His resurrection."

23 They accordingly chose two, Joseph,  
surnamed Barsabas, who was also  
24 called Justus, and Matthias. And,  
praying, they said: "Lord, You  
Knower of all hearts, indicate which  
one of these two You have chosen  
25 to receive the position of this ministry  
and apostleship, from which Judas  
went astray, so as to sink to his  
26 proper position." They then gave  
them their votes; and the vote fell on  
Matthias. He was accordingly elected  
to work with the eleven apostles.

### Pentecost: The Holy Spirit.

2 During the celebration of the day of  
Pentecost, they were all harmoniously  
2 assembled in one place; when, sud-  
denly, a sound was heard from the  
sky, similar to that of a very violent  
tempest-blast, filling the whole house  
in which they were seated.

3 And they saw distributed to them-  
selves fiery tongues, which settled  
4 upon every one of them. And they  
were all filled with Holy Spirit; and  
began to speak in foreign languages,  
as the Spirit endowed them with clear  
expression.

5 There were then staying in Jeru-  
salem devout Jews from every nation  
6 under heaven. And when this sound  
was heard, the crowd collected and  
were astonished, because each one  
heard them speaking his own peculiar  
7 dialect. And they were delighted,  
and wondered, saying, "Why, are not

all these speakers Galileans? How, 8  
then, do we each hear our own  
peculiar dialect in which we were  
born? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, 9  
the inhabitants of Mesopotamia,  
Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and  
Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt, 10  
and the neighbourhood of Libya  
about Cyrene, as well as Roman  
visitors, both Jews and converts,  
Cretans and Arabs, we hear them 11  
speaking in our own languages the  
marvellous acts of God." So they 12  
were all enraptured and puzzled, ask-  
ing one another: "What can this  
mean?" Others, however, scoffingly 13  
declared: "They are simply drunk  
with sweet wine."

### Peter's Discourse.

Peter, however, standing up with 14  
the eleven, raised his voice and spoke  
out to them as follows:

"Judeans, and all men residing in  
Jerusalem, let this be known to you,  
and mark my assertions; for these 15  
are not drunkards, as you imagine,  
seeing it is now but nine o'clock in  
the morning. But, on the contrary,  
this is what was said through the 16  
prophet Joel:

AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LATTER 17  
DAYS, GOD SAYS,

I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT UPON  
ALL FLESH;

AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR  
DAUGHTERS WILL PREACH,

AND YOUR YOUTHS WILL SEE  
VISIONS;

AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM  
DREAMS.

YES, INDEED, UPON MY SONS AND 18  
DAUGHTERS IN THOSE DAYS

WILL I POUR OUT FROM MY  
SPIRIT; AND THEY SHALL PRO-  
CLAIM IT.

AND I WILL SEND MARVELS FROM 19  
THE SKY ABOVE,

AND SIGNS FROM THE EARTH BE-  
LOW;

BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND SMOKING  
VAPOUR.

THE SUN SHALL BE TRANSFORMED 20  
TO DARKNESS,

AND THE MOON TO BLOOD,  
BEFORE THE COMING OF THE DAY

OF THE LORD,  
THAT GREAT AND DAZZLING DAY;

AND THEN ALL CALLING ON THE 21  
NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE  
SAVED.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Psa. lxxix. 25.

<sup>2</sup> Psa. cix. 8.

<sup>1</sup> Joel ii. 28-32.

- 22 "Men of Israel! listen to these statements: Jesus the Nazarene, a Man pointed out as from God by powers, and wonders, and signs, which God did through Him amongst you.
- 23 as you yourselves know; having betrayed, you murdered Him by crucifixion through lawless hands, in accordance with the settled purpose and foreknowledge of God. God,
- 24 however, has raised Him up, having liberated from the grip of Death; because it was not possible that He
- 25 should be mastered by him. For David said concerning Him:
- I HAVE AT ALL TIMES SEEN THE LORD IN MY PRESENCE;  
FOR HE IS UPON MY RIGHT, SO THAT I MAY NOT STUMBLE;  
26 MY HEART THEREFORE REJOICED, AND MY TONGUE EXULTED.  
MY BODY, MOREOVER, RESTED IN HOPE;
- 27 BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT LEAVE MY SOUL IN THE LAND OF SPIRITS,  
NOR WILL YOU ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO SEE CORRUPTION.
- 28 YOU HAVE INSTRUCTED ME IN THE PATHS OF LIFE;  
YOU HAVE ENRAPTURED ME WITH YOUR OWN PRESENCE.<sup>1</sup>
- 29 "Men, brothers! it is necessary to speak to you with freedom about the patriarch David; because he died, and was buried, and his tomb is among us
- 30 until the present time. Being, however, a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn to him with an oath, that from the fruit of his body One
- 31 should be seated upon his throne, he, foreseeing, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Messiah, that He was neither left in the land of spirits, nor did His body see corruption.
- 32 "God has raised Him, Jesus, of
- 33 which we all are witnesses. Having also been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received the promised Holy Spirit from the Father, He has conferred this, which you now
- 34 see and hear. For David has not ascended into the heavens; but he himself says:
- THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD,  
BE SEATED AT MY RIGHT,  
35 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.<sup>2</sup>
- 36 "Let the whole house of Israel therefore know most certainly, that

God has made this Jesus, Whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

### The Effect of the Discourse.

Now on hearing it, they were stung 37 to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men, brothers, what shall we do?"

But Peter said to them: "Change 38 your minds and be baptized, every one of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ, for a release from your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Because the promise is for you, and 39 for your children, and to all afar off, whoever the Lord our God may call," And with many other reasons he persuaded, bore witness, and comforted them, saying: "Save yourselves from this perverse generation!"

Then those who accepted his state- 41 ment were baptized; and that very day there were added about three thousand souls. And they attended 42 to the teaching of the apostles, and to the fellowship; to the breaking of the bread; and to the prayers.

Dread then took possession of every 43 soul, numerous wonders and signs being performed by means of the apostles. And all the believers were 44 united, and formed an organized community; and selling their estates and 45 possessions, they distributed to all, according to the needs of each. And 46 they assembled daily in harmony in the temple, taking, however, their meals at home; partaking of their food with gladness, combined with humility of heart; praising God, and enjoying 47 the respect of all the people. And the Lord united to them daily those who were for salvation.

### Cure of a Lame Man.

Once Peter and John were going up 3 to the temple at the hour of prayer, three o'clock in the afternoon. And 2 a man, who had been lame from his birth, used to be carried, and placed daily at the door of the temple, called Beautiful, to ask charity from those who entered the temple; who seeing 3 Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked them to give him something. But Peter, with John, looking 4 intently upon him, said: "Look at us."

He accordingly paid attention to 5 them, expecting to receive something from them.

Peter, however, said, "Of silver and 6 gold I possess none; but what I have,

<sup>1</sup> Psa. xvi. 8-11.

<sup>2</sup> Psa. cx. 1

that I will give you: in the Name of  
7 Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!" And  
seizing him by the right hand, he lifted  
him up; and his feet and legs were at  
once strengthened.

8 And rising up, he staggered, and  
began to walk; and entered the temple  
with them, walking, leaping, and prais-  
ing God.

9 And all the people saw him walking  
10 and praising God; and they recognised  
him to be the same person who had  
been accustomed to sit begging at the  
Beautiful Gate of the temple; and  
they were filled with astonishment  
mingled with ecstasy over what had  
happened to him.

### Peter's Address to the People.

11 And while he kept fast hold of  
Peter and John, all the people, being  
greatly astonished, ran towards them  
in the portico known as Solomon's.

12 Then Peter, seeing this, thus addressed  
the people:

"Men of Israel: Why are you sur-  
prised at this? or why do you stare at  
us, as if by our own individual power,  
or active piety, we had enabled this  
man to walk?

13 "The God of Abraham, of Isaac, and  
of Jacob, the God of our forefathers,  
has magnified His Child Jesus; Whom,  
however, you betrayed and rejected in  
the presence of Pilate, when he had  
14 decided to discharge Him. But you  
refused the Pure and Righteous, and  
demanded a man, a murderer, to be  
15 granted to you; while you murdered  
the Prince of Life, Whom God has  
raised from the dead, of which we are  
16 witnesses. And by the faith in His  
Name, this man whom you see and  
know, His Name has strengthened;  
yes, the faith which is through Him,  
has given to him this perfect sound-  
ness in the presence of you all.

17 "And now, brothers, I know that  
you did it through ignorance, as did  
18 also your rulers; but what God fore-  
told through the mouth of all the  
prophets concerning His Suffering  
Messiah, has thus been accomplished.

19 Change your minds, however, and turn  
back towards that which can blot out  
your sins; so that a period of refresh-  
ing may come from the presence of the  
20 Lord; and that He may send to you  
the pre-appointed Messiah, Jesus:

21 Who must take possession of the  
heaven until the accomplishment of  
all that God has spoken through the

mouth of His holy prophets for ages  
past. Moses, indeed, said: YOUR 22  
LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU,  
FROM AMONG YOUR BROTHERS, A  
PROPHET LIKE ME; LISTEN TO HIM  
IN ALL THAT HE MAY SAY TO YOU.  
AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERY SOUL 23  
THAT WILL NOT LISTEN TO THAT  
PROPHET, SHALL BE EXPELLED  
FROM AMONG THE PEOPLE.<sup>1</sup> And 24  
all the prophets, also, from Samuel,  
and those that succeeded, as many,  
indeed, as have spoken, have also  
promised these days. You are the 25  
sons of the prophets, and of the  
covenant which God executed with  
our forefathers, saying to Abraham:  
AND BY YOUR HEIR SHALL ALL THE  
FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE  
BLESSED.<sup>2</sup> God, having raised up 26  
His Son, has first sent Him to you,  
benefiting you, with the object of  
turning you all from your wicked-  
ness."

### The Apostles Arrested.

But while they were speaking to 4  
the people, the priests, and the com-  
mander of the temple, and the Sad-  
ducees, made their appearance; being 2  
very indignant because they were  
teaching the people, and announcing  
in Jesus the resurrection from the  
dead. They accordingly arrested 3  
them, and took them into custody  
until the following morning; for it  
was now evening. But many of the 4  
hearers believed the Message; and  
their number increased to about five  
thousand.

Then on the following day, they 5  
collected at Jerusalem their own  
magistrates, elders, and professors, 6  
and Annas the High Priest, and  
Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander,  
together with as many as were  
relatives of the High Priest; and 7  
placing them in the centre, they  
inquired: "By the authority of what  
power, or by the appointment of  
whose Name, have you done this?"

### Peter's Address to the Council.

Then Peter, full of Holy Spirit, 8  
answered them:

"Princes of the people, and elders,  
since we are to-day examined con- 9  
cerning a benefit to a feeble man, by  
what means he has been cured, let it 10  
be known to you, and to all the people

<sup>1</sup> Deut. xviii. 15-19    <sup>2</sup> Gen. xii. 3; xxii. 18.

- of Israel, that by the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth—Whom you crucified, Whom God raised from the dead—by means of Him, this man now stands quite well before you.
- 11 This Man is THE STONE DESPISED BY YOU, THE BUILDERS, WHICH HAS BECOME THE CHIEF KEystone.<sup>1</sup>
- 12 And there is salvation by no other; for there is not another name under heaven given among men, by which we can be saved."
- 13 Perceiving then the unfettered eloquence of Peter and John, and understanding that they were common, illiterate men, they were much astonished; and recollected that they
- 14 had been with Jesus. But seeing the man who had been cured standing with them, they could not contradict
- 15 it. Ordering them, therefore, to leave the council, they debated among
- 16 themselves, saying: "What shall we do to these men? for a strange affair has undoubtedly occurred through them, which is perfectly clear to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem;
- 17 and we cannot deny it. But so that it spread no further through the nation, let us terrify them with threats to speak no more to any man in this Name."
- 18 Then summoning them into their presence, they imperatively forbade them either to converse in any way, or teach about the name of Jesus.
- 19 Peter and John, replying to them, however, said:
- "Decide whether it is right in the presence of God to listen to you rather than to God. Because we have no power to do otherwise than tell what we have seen and heard."
- 21 Accordingly, finding no means of securing a conviction against them, they threatened them further and discharged them, on account of the people, because all the people praised
- 22 God for what had been done. For the man upon whom the evidence of curing had been effected was upwards of forty years of age.

### The Apostles Rejoicing in Persecution.

- 23 Being then dismissed, they returned to their own company, and reported everything that the chief priest and
- 24 elders had said to them. And when

they heard it, they sang in unison to God, and said:

"Almighty, You Who have made the heaven, the earth, and the sea, and all that is in them; Who by the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our fore-

25 father David, Your servant, said:

WHY RAGE THE HEATHEN SO,  
AND THE PEOPLE PLOT IN VAIN?  
THE KINGS OF THE EARTH RANGE  
26 THEMSELVES FOR ATTACK,  
AND THE JUDGES ARE COMBINED  
TOGETHER  
AGAINST THE LORD, AND AGAINST  
HIS MESSIAH.<sup>1</sup>

For of a truth both Herod and Pilate

27 plotted in this city against Your holy Son Jesus, Whom You had consecrated, inviting the heathen and

28 people of Israel to effect what Your hand and counsel had decided should be done. And now, Lord, observe

29 their threats; and grant Your servants full freedom to declare Your message;

30 while You extend Your hand for restoring health, with signs and wonders to be done through the Name of Your holy Child Jesus!"

And while they prayed, the place

31 in which they were assembled was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke out the message of God with freedom.

### Brotherly Love Exemplified.

But the crowd of the believers were

32 one, heart and soul; and no one who possessed property claimed it as exclusively his own: but it was for the use of all. And the apostles, with

33 much vigour, propagated the evidence of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And goodwill reigned supreme among

34 them; because none among them were in poverty. For some who were possessors of lands or houses sold

35 them; and, bringing the price of the sales, and presenting the same at the feet of the apostles, a distribution was made to each according to his need.

For Joseph, who was surnamed by

36 the apostles Barnabas (which, when translated, means Son of Consolation), a Levite, and a native of Cyprus,

37 possessing an estate of his own, sold it; and bringing the money, he placed it at the disposal of the apostles.

<sup>1</sup> Psa. cxviii. 22.

<sup>1</sup> Psa. ii. 1, 2.

### Ananias and Sapphira.

- 5 Then a man named Ananias, with  
2 his wife Sapphira, sold an estate, and he deducted part of the price, with the knowledge of his wife; and, bringing a part, presented it at the feet of the apostles.
- 3 But Peter said: "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart, that you should attempt to deceive the Holy Spirit, and to deduct a part of the price of the farm? While still remaining, was it not your own? and even when it was sold, was it not under your own control? Why then have you admitted this matter into your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God."
- 5 Ananias, on hearing these words, fell down and expired; and great fear took possession of all those who heard  
6 it. And the young men, getting up, swathed the body; and, carrying it out, they buried it.
- 7 Then, after an interval of about three hours, his wife, ignorant of what  
8 had occurred, came in. And Peter said to her: "Tell me now, did you sell the farm for so much?"
- "Yes, for so much," was her reply.
- 9 Peter then said to her, "How is it that you have conspired together to try the Spirit of the Lord? The feet of those who have been burying your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."
- 10 And she immediately fell down at his feet, and expired; and the youths, on entering, found her dead; and, carrying her out, they buried her by her husband.
- 11 And great terror came upon the whole church, and upon all who heard these facts.

### Healing by the Apostles.

- 12 But through the hands of the apostles numerous startling evidences were produced among the people. And they agreed to meet in Solomon's  
13 portico; but of the disreputable, none dared to join them. Yet the people  
14 exalted them; while additional crowds of believers, including both men and women, attached themselves to the  
15 Lord: so that they even carried the sick into the streets, laying them upon couches and rugs, in the hope that, as Peter passed, his shadow might at least fall upon some of them.
- 10 And a crowd collected from the

towns surrounding Jerusalem, also brought sick people, and those troubled with foul spirits, all of whom were cured.

### Imprisonment of the Apostles.

So the High Priest, and all his 17 supporters, who were of the heresy of the Sadducees, being mad with rage, arose, arrested the apostles, and 18 put them in the common prison.

But a messenger of the Lord opened 19 the prison doors during the night, and leading them out, said: "Go, take 20 your stand in the temple, and declare to the people all the doctrines of this Life."

On hearing this, they accordingly 21 went about daybreak into the temple, and taught. But the High Priest came, with his supporters, and assembling the senate, together with the full council of the sons of Israel, they sent to the prison to have them brought up. When, however, the 22 officers arrived, they did not find them in the prison; and returning, they reported, saying, "We found the 23 prison shut, and quite secure, with the guard stationed at the doors: but on opening, we found no one inside."

### The Apostles and their Judges.

When the commander of the temple 24 and the chief priests heard these facts, they were much perplexed concerning them, as to what they could mean.

A man, however, came to them 25 reporting: "Why, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple teaching the people."

Then the commander going with the 26 officers, brought them, but without violence; for they dreaded the people, fearing that they should be stoned. And when they had brought them, 27 they placed them before the senate; and the High Priest examined them, saying: "We absolutely prohibited 28 you from teaching about this Name; and yet you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and you wish to bring upon us the blood of this Man."

### A Bold Defence.

But Peter and the apostles, answer- 29 ing, said:

"God ought to be obeyed rather than men. The God of our fore- 30 fathers raised up Jesus, Whom you murdered by hanging upon a tree.

31 God has exalted Him to His own right hand, to be Prince and Saviour, to give a change of mind to Israel, 32 and release from sins. And we are witnesses of these statements; also the Holy Spirit, Whom God has given to those obeying Him.

### Gamaliel's Counsel.

33 When they heard this, however, they were infuriated, and were deciding to have them executed. But one member of the senate, named Gamaliel, a Pharisee, and a doctor of the law—who was held in high esteem among all the people—stood up and asked for the men to be sent out for a short time. He then addressed them: 35 "Men of Israel, now take care of yourselves in regard to what you intend to do to these men. For before our time, Theudas rose up, asserting himself to be somebody; with whom a number of about four hundred allied themselves: who, however, were slaughtered, and all who listened to him were scattered, and brought to nothing. After this, Judas the Galilean rose up during the time of the census, and led people after him: he was destroyed; and as many as 38 listened to him were dispersed. Now let me tell you, Refrain from these men, and release them. Because if this doctrine or this work should be from men, it will be wrecked; but if it is from God, you will not be able to crush it; and perhaps you may find yourselves the opponents of God."

### The Apostles Flogged.

40 They were accordingly persuaded by him; and calling the apostles forward, they flogged them, and forbade them to speak about the name of Jesus, and allowed them to go. 41 They therefore took their departure from the presence of the senate, delighted that they were considered worthy to be exposed to infamy for the sake of that Name. Yet every day, both in the temple and at home, they never ceased teaching and declaring the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

### The Election of Deacons.

6 But about this time, when the number of the disciples kept increasing, a complaint came from the Hellenists (or Grecian Jews) against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected

in the distribution of relief. The 2 twelve then convened the body of the disciples, and said, "It is not desirable that we should have to neglect the Divine teaching, in order to attend to mere money matters; therefore, brothers, choose from 3 among yourselves seven men of attested character, full of spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint to look after this business. But we will 4 ourselves constantly attend to prayer, and to the office of teaching."

And the suggestion pleased the 5 whole assembly: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of holy spirit; Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a convert from Antioch, whom 6 they presented to the apostles; and having prayed, they laid their hands upon them.

And the message of God extended; 7 and in Jerusalem the number of disciples greatly increased; besides which, very many of the priests were subdued to the faith.

### Arrest of Stephen.

Stephen, especially, full of active 8 benevolence, produced great and wonderful evidences for the people. Some 9 of those, however, belonging to the synagogue known as that of the Libertinites, as well as of the Cyrenians, Alexandrians, together with some from Cilicia and Asia Minor, debated with Stephen. But they 10 were not able to withstand the intelligence and the spirit with which he spoke. They accordingly bribed 11 men to say, "We have heard him utter slanderous statements against both Moses and God."

And they incited the people, the 12 elders, and the professors. And, coming upon him, they arrested him and brought him before the senate; 13 and produced false witnesses asserting, "This man never ceases making statements against this Sacred Place and the Law; for we have heard him 14 say that this Jesus the Nazarene will demolish this Place, and change the constitution which has been transmitted to us from Moses."

Then all who were seated in the 15 senate, looking intently upon him, saw that his face had the appearance of the face of an angel.

"Is this really so?" asked the High Priest.

**Stephen's Defence.**

2 In reply, he said: "Men, brothers  
and fathers, listen! The God of  
Majesty appeared to our forefather  
Abraham, while he was in Mesopo-  
tamia, before he settled in Charran;  
3 and said to him, **DEPART FROM YOUR  
OWN COUNTRY, AND FROM YOUR RE-  
LATIVES, AND COME INTO A COUNTRY  
WHICH I WILL SHOW YOU.**<sup>1</sup>  
4 "Leaving, therefore, the land of the  
Chaldeans, he resided in Charran;  
and from there, after the death of his  
father, he removed into this country  
5 in which you are now dwelling. But  
He gave him no estate in it; no, not  
even the breadth of a foot: yet He  
had promised to give it into his pos-  
session, and to his descendants after  
him, although he was as yet childless.  
6 God, however, spoke thus: That  
**HIS RACE SHOULD LODGE IN A  
FOREIGN COUNTRY, AND THEY WILL  
ENSLAVE AND OPPRESS IT FOUR  
7 HUNDRED YEARS.**<sup>2</sup> **AND THE NA-  
TION BY WHICH THEY ARE EN-  
SLAVED, said God, I WILL JUDGE;  
AND AFTER THAT THEY SHALL COME  
OUT AND WORSHIP ME IN THIS  
8 PLACE.**<sup>3</sup> And He gave him a covenant  
by circumcision. And Isaac being  
afterwards born, he circumcised him  
the eighth day; then Isaac, Jacob;  
9 and Jacob the twelve patriarchs. But  
the patriarchs, hating Joseph, sold  
him into Egypt: yet God was with  
10 him, and rescued him from all his  
troubles, and gave him favour and  
wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh,  
king of Egypt; and he appointed him  
prime minister over Egypt and all his  
household.  
11 "But a famine came upon the whole  
land of Egypt and Canaan, and great  
distress; and our forefathers could find  
12 no food. But Jacob, on learning that  
there was wheat in Egypt, sent our  
13 forefathers there a first time. And  
during a second visit Joseph made  
himself known to his brothers; and  
Pharaoh then became acquainted with  
Joseph's race.  
14 "Joseph then sent an invitation to  
his father Jacob, and to all his rela-  
tives, who were seventy-five persons.  
15 Jacob accordingly went down to  
Egypt, where he died, as well as our  
16 forefathers; and they removed him to  
Sychem, and placed in the tomb which  
Abraham had purchased for a sum of

money from the sons of Emmor of  
Sychem. But when the time ap- 17  
proached which God had promised to  
Abraham, the people increased and  
multiplied in Egypt, until the time 18  
that a **FOREIGN KING CONQUERED  
EGYPT, WHO KNEW NOTHING OF  
JOSEPH.**<sup>1</sup> This man's policy was to 19  
exterminate our race. He outraged  
our fathers, by making them cast out  
their infants, with the object that our  
race might not be reproduced.

"Then it was that Moses was born, 20  
and was divinely fair. For three  
months he was nursed in his father's  
house; and on being thrown out, 21  
daughter of Pharaoh took him, and  
adopted him as her own son. Moses 22  
was thus educated in all the philo-  
sophy of the Egyptians; and he was  
powerful in his speech and actions.  
But when he had attained the age of 23  
forty years, it came into his heart to  
interest himself in his brothers, the  
sons of Israel. And seeing one 24  
assaulted, he defended him, striking  
the Egyptian assailant by way of  
punishment; because he concluded 25  
that his brothers would understand  
that God would grant them deliver-  
ance by means of his hand: but they  
did not understand it. Some time 26  
after, he saw them quarrelling, and  
attempted to bring them to peace, re-  
marking, **MEN, YOU ARE BROTHERS!  
WHY DO YOU INJURE EACH OTHER?**  
But the aggressor of his neighbour 27  
retorted, **WHO APPOINTED YOU A  
GOVERNOR AND A JUDGE OVER US?  
DO YOU MEAN TO MURDER ME, IN 28  
THE WAY YOU KILLED THE EGYPTIAN  
THE OTHER DAY?**<sup>2</sup> At this remark 29  
Moses took to flight, and became a  
resident in the land of Midian, where  
two sons were born to him. Then 30  
when forty years had elapsed, an  
angel appeared to him in the desert  
of Sinai, in the flame of a burning  
bush. When Moses saw the appear- 31  
ance, he wondered at the sight; and  
as he approached to examine it, there  
came a commanding voice, **I AM THE  
GOD OF YOUR FOREFATHERS, THE  
GOD OF ABRAHAM, OF ISAAC, AND  
OF JACOB.**<sup>3</sup> Then Moses, becoming  
terrified, dare not examine it. But 33  
the Lord said to him, **UNFASTEN  
THE SHOES FROM YOUR FEET; FOR  
THE SPOT UPON WHICH YOU STAND**

<sup>1</sup> Exod. i. 8.<sup>2</sup> Gen. xii. 1. <sup>3</sup> Gen. xv. 13. <sup>4</sup> Exod. iii. 12.<sup>5</sup> Exod. ii. 13, 14.<sup>6</sup> Exod. iii. 6.



34 IS HOLY GROUND. HAVING LOOKED, I HAVE SEEN THE OPPRESSION OF MY PEOPLE NOW IN EGYPT; AND HAVING HEARD THEIR GROANING, I HAVE COME DOWN TO LEAD THEM OUT. AND NOW COME, I WILL SEND YOU TO EGYPT.<sup>1</sup>

35 "This very Moses, whom they rejected—saying, WHO CONSTITUTED YOU A GOVERNOR AND JUDGE?—God sent him as a governor and deliverer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush.

36 This man led them out, having produced terrors and evidences in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the desert for forty years.

37 "This is the Moses who said to the sons of Israel, GOD WILL RAISE UP A PROPHET FROM AMONG YOUR

38 BROTHERS, LIKE MYSELF.<sup>2</sup> He was the ambassador to the congregation in the desert, with the angel who spoke to him, and to our ancestors at the Mount Sinai, who received living

39 messages to transmit to us. Our forefathers, however, were unwilling to be obedient to him; on the contrary, they revolted, and in their

40 hearts turned back to Egypt, saying to Aaron, MAKE FOR US GODS TO PRECEDE US; FOR AS FOR THIS FELLOW MOSES, WHO BROUGHT US FROM THE LAND OF EGYPT, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT HAS BECOME OF

41 HIM!<sup>3</sup> And in those days they made a calf; and bringing out sacrifice to this idol, they rejoiced over their own

42 handiwork. But God turned Himself from them, abandoning them to worship the army of the sky; as it is written in the book of the prophets:

DID YOU OFFER TO ME VICTIMS  
AND SACRIFICES  
FORTY YEARS IN THE DESERT, O  
HOUSE OF ISRAEL?

43 YES, AND YOU ERECTED THE TENT OF MOLOCH,  
AND OF YOUR GOD, THE STAR  
REMPHAN—  
THOSE IMAGES WHICH YOU MADE  
FOR YOURSELVES TO WORSHIP:  
THEREFORE I WILL TRANSPORT  
YOU BEYOND DAMASCUS.<sup>4</sup>

44 "The tent of the witness, however, was with our forefathers in the desert, just as He Who spoke to Moses directed it to be made according to

45 the model which he had seen; which

also our forefathers, in their turn, brought in with Joshua, on the defeat of the heathen, whom God drove out from the presence of our forefathers, until the time of David; who found 45  
favour before God, and prayed to find a dwelling for the God of Jacob. 47  
Solomon, however, built a house for Him; although the Highest dwells 48  
not in hand-made structures; as indeed the prophet says:

THE HEAVEN IS MY THRONE, 49  
AND THE EARTH A REST FOR MY  
FEET:

WHAT HOUSE CAN YOU BUILD FOR  
ME? SAYS THE LORD,  
OR WHAT IS THE PLACE OF MY  
REST?

HAS NOT MY OWN HAND MADE 50  
ALL THESE?<sup>1</sup>

"You stiff-necked and uncircum- 51  
cised heathen in heart and ears! you are always in opposition to the Holy Spirit! As your forefathers were, so are you. Which of the prophets have 52  
not your forefathers persecuted? and they murdered those who foretold the coming of the Just One: of Whom you have now yourselves become the betrayers and murderers; even you, 53  
who received the law by means of the agency of angels, and have not observed it"— \* \* \* \*

### The Murder of Stephen.

Now, on hearing this, they were cut 54  
to the heart, and they ground their teeth at him. But, possessing fulness 55  
of Holy Spirit, looking up into the heaven, he saw a Divine Majesty, with Jesus standing at the right of God; and said, "Look! I see the heavens 56  
open, and the Son of Man standing at the right of God!"

Then, shrieking out with a great 57  
voice, they stopped their ears, and rushed in a mass upon him; and, 58  
casting him out of the city, they stoned him. And the witnesses deposited their clothes at the feet of a Noble named Saul. And they stoned 59  
Stephen, who prayed, saying, "Lord Jesus, accept my spirit!" Then, 60  
kneeling, he cried aloud, "Lord, weigh not this sin to them." And so saying, he fell asleep. And Saul 8  
concurring in his murder.

### The First Missionaries.

Just then a violent persecution broke out against the assembly which

<sup>1</sup> Exod. iii. 5, 7, 10.    <sup>2</sup> Deut. xviii. 15.  
<sup>3</sup> Exod. xxxii. 1.    <sup>4</sup> Amos v. 25—27.

<sup>1</sup> Isa. lxvi. 1, 2.

existed at Jerusalem; and, with the exception of the apostles, they were all scattered through the villages of Judea and Samaria. But some pious men took up the body of Stephen, and the mourning over him was great.

Saul, however, played havoc with the church; searching house by house he dragged out both men and women, and imprisoned them. Those, therefore, who were scattered, went about preaching the good news of the Message.

#### Philip in Samaria.

Philip, arriving thus at a town of the Samaritans, proclaimed the Messiah to them. Now the crowd, unanimously relying upon the things spoken by Philip, united with him, when they heard them and saw the evidences which he produced. For from many of those possessed he expelled foul spirits, yelling with a loud voice; and many who were paralyzed and lame were made well. And there was great rejoicing in that town.

#### Simon the Magician.

But a man named Simon had been professing magic in the town, and startled the people of Samaria, holding himself out to be something extraordinary: to whom they all paid regard, from the least to the greatest, remarking, "This man is the power of God Who is called the Great." And they relied upon him, owing to the length of time he had charmed them with his sciences.

But when they believed Philip, announcing the good news concerning the Kingdom of God, and of the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized—even Simon himself also believed; and, having been baptized, he became an attendant on Philip, and was in ecstasy on seeing the powerful evidences which were produced.

When the apostles who were at Jerusalem learned that the Samaritans had accepted the message of God, they sent to them Peter and John: who, going down, prayed for them, in order that they might receive Holy Spirit; for as yet He had alighted upon none of them; they had only been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. They then placed their hands upon them, and they received Holy Spirit.

And when Simon observed that the Spirit was transmitted through the agency of the imposition of the hands of the apostles, he proffered them money, saying, "Grant this power also to me, so that if I place my hands upon any one, he may receive Holy Spirit."

But Peter replying to him, said: "May your wealth go with you to perdition, because you have imagined that the gift of God can be bought with money. There is no part nor lot in this message for you: for your heart is not upright in the presence of God. Change your mind, therefore, from this wickedness; and pray the Lord, if, perhaps, He will remove from you the intention of your heart. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness, and the bonds of iniquity!"

"Pray you to the Lord for me," said Simon in reply, "so that nothing of what you have stated may come upon me."

Then when they had given evidence, and delivered the message of the Lord, they returned towards Jerusalem, preaching the good news in many of the Samaritan villages.

#### The Ethiopian Chamberlain.

But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Rise up, and go towards the south, upon the road descending from Jerusalem to Gaza; which is deserted." And, having arisen, he went, and there met a man, an Ethiopian, a chamberlain of influence under Candacē, the queen of Ethiopia, who was also chancellor of her treasury: who had come to worship at Jerusalem, and was returning, seated in his carriage, reading out the prophet Isaiah.

The Spirit then said to Philip, "Go forward, and join yourself to this man's carriage." Philip accordingly running up heard him reading Isaiah the prophet; and asked, "Do you at all understand what you are reading?"

But he said, "How is it possible that I should, unless some one can explain it to me?" And he requested Philip to come up and sit with him.

Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this:

HE WAS LED LIKE A SHEEP TO  
SLAUGHTER;  
AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS  
SHEARERS IS DUMB,  
SO HE OPENED NOT HIS MOUTH!

33 IN HIS GENTLENESS HE WAS DEPRIVED OF HIS TRIAL; WHO CAN EXPLAIN HIS GENERATION? BECAUSE IT CUT HIM OFF FROM THE LAND OF THE LIVING.<sup>1</sup>

34 Addressing Philip, the chamberlain then said, "I wish you would tell me about whom the prophet says this; about himself, or about some one else?"

35 Philip then opened his mouth, and beginning from that Scripture, told him the good news concerning Jesus.

36 And as they went along the road, they came to a brook; when the chamberlain observed, "See, water! what hinders me from being baptized?"

37 He then ordered the carriage to be stopped: and both Philip and the chamberlain stepped down into the water; and he baptized him. When they came up out of the brook, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip suddenly away; and the chamberlain saw him no more, for he proceeded on his way rejoicing.

38 Philip, however, was found at Azotus; and travelling through all the towns, he evangelized until he arrived at Cæsarea.

### The Conversion of Saul.

9 Meanwhile, Saul, still breathing threatenings and murder against the disciples of the Lord, applying to the

2 High Priest, demanded from him letters addressed to the synagogues of Damascus, ordering that if any should be found of the Way,<sup>2</sup> whether men or women, he should bring them

3 under arrest to Jerusalem. But while he travelled, arriving near to Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly flashed around him; and falling upon the ground, he heard a voice asking him, "Saul! Saul! why do you persecute Me?"

4 And he replied: "Who are you, Sir?"

5 "I am Jesus, Whom you persecute," was the response; "but rise up, and go into the town, and it shall be told you what you must do."

6 The men accompanying him, however, were stunned, hearing the voice

<sup>1</sup> Isa. liii. 7, 8.

<sup>2</sup> NOTE.—"The Way" was the first name by which the Christian Faith was distinguished, and St. Paul so calls it even in his latest epistles.—F. F.

indeed, but seeing no one. Saul then arose from the ground; but on opening his eyes, he could see nothing. They accordingly, leading him, entered into Damascus. And for three days he was without sight, and did neither eat nor drink.

### The Vision of Ananias.

There was a disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"I am here, Lord," was his reply.

The Lord then said to him, "Rise up, and go into the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judah for a man named Saul, a Tarsian; for he is now praying. And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias entering and laying hands upon him, in order that he may recover his eyesight."

Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many people about this man, how much injury he has done to Your holy ones at Jerusalem; and here he is commissioned by the chief priests to apprehend all calling upon Your Name."

The Lord said to him, "Go, because this man is an instrument specially chosen by Myself, to bear My Name in the presence of both the heathen and kings, as well as the sons of Israel; for I will show him what he must endure for the sake of My Name."

Ananias accordingly went; and entering the house, he placed his hands upon him, and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, Who appeared to you during your journey, has sent me, so that you may recover your eyesight, and be endowed with Holy Spirit." And something like scales falling from his eyes, he immediately saw again. Then getting up, he was baptized; and partaking of food, he was strengthened.

### Saul at Damascus.

And for some time afterwards he remained with the disciples in Damascus; and at once in the synagogues he proclaimed Jesus, that He is the Son of God. But all who heard him were astonished, and exclaimed, "Is not this the very man who devastated those who called upon this Name in Jerusalem; and who came here specially for the purpose of apprehending them, and bringing them before the chief priests?"

22 But Saul the more energetically overpowered and refuted the Judeans inhabiting Damascus, proving that He was the Messiah.

### Judeans Conspire to Murder Saul.

23 After a considerable time had elapsed, however, the Judeans conspired to murder him; but their plot was made known to Saul. They even watched the gates day and night, to murder him. But his disciples, conveying him by night, lowered him from the wall in a hamper.

26 Afterwards, when he visited Jerusalem, he tried to associate himself with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was himself a disciple. Barnabas, however, accepting him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained to them how he had seen the Lord during the journey; and how He had spoken to him; and how at Damascus he had spoken boldly for the Name of Jesus. And he went about in their company in Jerusalem, and spoke eloquently in the Name of the Lord. He also spoke and debated with the Grecian Jews; but they conspired to murder him. When, however, the brethren became aware of it, they took him down to Cæsarea, and sent him off to Tarsus.

31 The church through the whole of Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, accordingly had rest, being built up; and, progressing in the reverence of the Lord, they were being increased through the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

### Peter at Lydda.

32 It now occurred that Peter, journeying through all, also came down to the holy residing at Lydda; and there he found a man, named Æneas, who, on account of paralysis, had been bedridden for eight years. And Peter, addressing him, said, "Æneas, Jesus the Messiah cures you! Rise up and straighten yourself." And he stood up straight. And all the inhabitants of Lydda and Sharon knew him, and turned to the Lord.

### Peter at Joppa.

36 There was at Joppa a female disciple, named Tabitha,<sup>1</sup> which, when translated, means Dorcas; and she

was conspicuous for her works of goodness and benevolence which she did. But it happened about that time that she fell sick, and died; and having washed the body, they placed it in an upper chamber Lydda being near to Joppa, however, the disciples, learning that Peter was there, dispatched two men to him, with the message, "Come to us without delay."

Peter accordingly arose, and accompanied them. And on arrival, they took him to the upper chamber, where the widows stood round weeping; and showed him the jackets and cloaks which Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter, however, put them all out; and having knelt, he prayed, and turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, rise up!"

And she opened her eyes; but seeing Peter, she fell backwards. But giving her a hand, he assisted her up; and calling the holy ones and widows, he presented her to them alive. And it became known through the whole of Joppa; and many believed on the Lord. He afterwards remained in Joppa for a considerable time with Simon, a tanner.

### Peter and Cornelius.

At Cæsarea there was a man named Cornelius, a captain of the detachment called the Italian, who was pious and God-fearing with all his household, giving many gifts to many people, and in all things seeking God. He saw distinctly in a vision about three o'clock in the afternoon, an angel of God coming towards him, and addressing him, "Cornelius!"

Gazing at him earnestly, and becoming terrified, he asked, "What is it, Sir?"

"Your prayers and your acts of charity have ascended as a memorial to the presence of God," was the reply; "so now send men to Joppa, and bring back Simon, who is surnamed Peter; he lodges with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea-side."

Accordingly, as soon as the angel who had spoken to him had taken his departure, he summoned two of the domestics as well as a pious soldier from among his officers; and having explained everything to them, he dispatched them to Joppa.

Now on the following day, while they were travelling and approaching the town. Peter ascended the balcony

<sup>1</sup> This is a Hebrew name, the Greek form of which is Dorcas; or in English, Gazelle.

10 for prayer, about noon; and he became very hungry, and longed to taste something. While they were preparing, however, he fell into an  
 11 ecstatic reverie; and he saw the sky open, and something descending from it, resembling a large sheet, supported at the four corners, and  
 12 lowered to the ground; in which were all kinds of quadrupeds, reptiles, and  
 13 birds of the sky. And a voice came to him, "Arise, Peter, sacrifice and eat."  
 14 "By no means, Sir," replied Peter, "for I have never eaten anything vile and unclean."  
 15 A voice addressed him a second time, "What God has purified, never treat as defiled!"  
 16 This occurred three times; and the article was then taken up into the sky.  
 17 While Peter was pondering in himself what the vision which he had seen might mean, the men sent by  
 18 Cornelius, having found out the house of Simon, then stood at the gate; and, calling, they inquired whether  
 19 Simon, surnamed Peter, lodged there. Then while Peter was reflecting about the vision, the Spirit said to him,  
 20 "Three men are now inquiring for you; but rise up, descend, and accompany them unhesitatingly: because I have sent them."  
 21 Peter accordingly went down to the men, and said, "I am the man you want; what is the object of your coming?"  
 22 They answered, "Cornelius, a captain, a righteous and God-fearing man, whose character is attested by the whole of the Jewish people, has been instructed by a holy angel to bring you into his house, and to listen to instructions from you."  
 23 He accordingly invited them in, and entertained them. Then, on the following morning, arising, he went with them, accompanied by some of the  
 24 disciples from Joppa; and the day after they arrived at Cæsarea. And Cornelius, awaiting them, had collected his relatives and more intimate friends.  
 25 Then as Peter was entering, Cornelius met him, and showed him  
 26 respect by bowing at his feet. Peter raised him, however, saying, "Stand  
 27 up; I am a man like yourself." And, conversing with him, he went in and  
 28 found a considerable assemblage; and

he said to them: "You know quite well how unusual it is for a Jewish man to join or associate with a foreigner. God has taught me, however, to regard no man as common or defiled. And therefore I have come  
 29 without scruple on being sent for; I may now be allowed to ask for what reason you have brought me?"

"Four days ago from this time,"  
 30 replied Cornelius, "I was observing the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon, in my house; when suddenly a man in lustrous robes stood before me, and said, 'Cornelius,  
 31 your prayers have been heard, and your almsgivings are remembered in the presence of God. Send, therefore,  
 32 to Joppa, and invite here Simon, who is surnamed Peter; he lodges in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea-side.' This is the reason why I sent  
 33 for you; and you have been very kind in coming. Now we are all here present before God, to learn from you all that has been entrusted to you by the Lord."

Peter then opened his mouth and  
 34 said: "Of a truth I perceive that God is not a flatterer; but, on the contrary,  
 35 in every nation, whoever reverences Him and practises righteousness, is acceptable to Him. The  
 36 message which He sent to the sons of Israel—promising them the good news of peace through Jesus Christ,  
 37 Who is Lord of all. You know the message of Jesus from Nazareth, which came through all Judea, beginning from Galilee, after the baptism which was proclaimed by John  
 38 —when God had endowed Him with Holy Spirit and with power. He went  
 39 about doing good, and curing all who were overpowered by the Devil; because God was with Him. And we  
 40 are witnesses of all that He did, both in the villages of the Judeans, and in Jerusalem; Whom, however, they murdered by hanging Him upon a tree. But God raised Him the third  
 41 day, and granted Him to become visible—not indeed to all the people; but to witnesses previously appointed  
 42 by God, to ourselves, who ate together and drank together with Him after His resurrection from the dead. And  
 43 He commanded us to proclaim it to the people, and to testify that He is the One appointed under God, Judge of both living and dead. All the prophets are witnesses to this, that

every believer in Him shall receive release from sins through His Name."

- 44 Even while Peter was delivering these statements, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who hearkened to the message; and the circumcised believers, who had accompanied Peter, were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had also been poured out upon the Gentiles; for they heard them speaking languages, and exalting God.
- 47 Peter then asked, "Can any one prohibit the water for these to be baptized, since they have received the Holy Spirit as well as ourselves?"
- 48 He then ordered them to be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ. And they asked him to stay with them for a few days.

### Peter's Defence of Gentile Believers.

- 11 However, the apostles and brothers who were resident in Judea, learned that the heathen had received the message of God. And when Peter went up to Jerusalem, those from the circumcision criticised him, remarking, "Why do you associate with uncircumcised men, and even eat with them?"
- 4 But Peter began explaining it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the town of Joppa praying; and entranced, I saw in a vision something like a large sheet carried by the four corners, descending from the sky, and coming near to myself. On which gazing, I looked carefully, and saw the quadrupeds of the earth, and the wild beasts, and the reptiles, and the birds of the sky. And then I heard a voice saying to me, 'Arise, Peter; sacrifice and eat!' But I replied, 'By no means, Sir; for never has anything common or impure entered my mouth.' A voice out of the sky then addressed me the second time, 'What God has purified is not defiled to you.' This occurred three times; and all were drawn up again into the sky. And at that moment, three men, sent to me from Cæsarea, approached the house where we were. The Spirit then instructed me to accompany them without the least hesitation. These six brothers also accompanied me; and entering the man's house, he related to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, 'Send to Joppa,

and fetch Simon, surnamed Peter, who will explain to you the means by which you, as well as all your family, may be saved!' And just as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them in the same way as upon us at the beginning. Then I remembered the declaration of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water; but you shall be baptized in Holy Spirit.'<sup>1</sup> If then God has granted the same gift also to them as to ourselves, when they believed upon the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I, that I should be able to hinder God?"

When they heard this, they were silent, and thanked God, remarking, "Then God has indeed also given to the Gentiles conversion into life."

### Missionary Enterprise.

Meantime those dispersed by the distress that arose on account of Stephen, traversed as far as Phœnicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, delivering the message to none but Jews only. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus, and Cyrenians, who, arriving at Antioch, spoke also to the Greeks, proclaiming the good news of the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them; and a large number, having believed, turned to the Lord.

### The Assembly at Antioch.

And the report concerning them reached the ears of the assembly in Jerusalem. And they commissioned Barnabas to proceed to Antioch; who, on arrival, was delighted to witness the gift of God, and consoled and encouraged all their hearts to adhere to the Lord; for he was a genial man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith; and a considerable number were added to the Lord. He then proceeded to Tarsus, to search for Saul; and having found him, he took him to Antioch. So it came about that they were working together in that assembly for a whole year, and instructed a large number of people; the disciples, too, at Antioch first called themselves Christians.

At this time, some preachers came down from Jerusalem to Antioch; and one of them, named Agabus, standing up, announced, through the influence of the Spirit, that a severe famine would come over

<sup>1</sup> Acts i. 5; Matt. iii. 11.

all the empire; which, indeed, did  
 29 occur under Claudius. The disciples  
 then determined, according to their  
 individual ability, to send assistance  
 30 to their brothers living in Judea; this  
 they did, sending it to the elders by  
 the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

### Martyrdom of James.

12 About that time king Herod<sup>1</sup> ar-  
 rested some of those connected with  
 2 the assembly, to maltreat them; and  
 James the brother of John he killed  
 with a sword.

### Peter's Deliverance from Prison.

3 And seeing that this pleased the  
 Judeans, he also set about the appre-  
 hension of Peter. And it was then  
 4 the time of unfermented bread. So  
 having arrested him, he placed him in  
 prison with a guard of four bands of  
 soldiers, intending after the Passover  
 5 to bring him out to the people. Peter  
 was therefore confined in prison; but  
 incessant prayer was offered to God  
 6 on his behalf by the assembly. When,  
 however, Herod was about to produce  
 him to the people, Peter was that  
 very night sleeping in double chains  
 between two soldiers, with a guard  
 7 watching the prison door; when sud-  
 denly an angel of the Lord appeared  
 beside him, and the cell was lit up.  
 And touching Peter on the side, he  
 roused him, saying, "Arise quickly";  
 whereupon the chains fell from his  
 8 hands. The angel then said, "Clothe  
 yourself, and put on your shoes." Having  
 done so, he further said to him, "Throw  
 your cloak around you,  
 9 and follow me." And going out, he  
 followed. Yet he did not realize  
 the actuality of what was done by the  
 angel; but supposed that he had  
 10 seen a vision. Then passing the  
 first and second guard, they came to  
 the iron gate leading to the city,  
 which opened to them of its own  
 accord; and going out, they passed  
 along one street, when, of a sudden,  
 the angel vanished from his presence.  
 11 Peter then coming to himself, re-  
 marked, "Now I know of a certainty  
 that the Lord has sent His angel,  
 and has delivered me from the hand  
 of Herod, as well as from all the  
 expectation of the Judean people."  
 12 Then on reflection, he proceeded  
 to the house of Mary, the Mother of  
 John, surnamed Mark; where many  
 13 were assembled, and were praying.

<sup>1</sup> Agrippa I.

And when he knocked at the hall  
 door, a little girl named Rhoda came  
 to listen. Recognising Peter's voice, 14  
 however, she did not in her delight  
 open the door; but running back,  
 reported that Peter was standing at  
 the gate.

"You are mad!" they exclaimed 15  
 in reply to her; but she confidently  
 asserted that it was so. They then  
 said, "It is his angel." But Peter 16  
 continued knocking; and when they  
 had opened, they saw him, and were  
 astonished.

Motioning to them with the hand 17  
 to be silent, he explained to them  
 how the Lord had rescued him from  
 the prison, adding, "Report this to  
 James, and to the brothers." And  
 taking his departure, he went to  
 another place.

And when the morning came, there 18  
 was not a little consternation among  
 the soldiers as to what had become  
 of Peter. But Herod, when he had 19  
 himself searched for him in vain,  
 examined the guards, and ordered  
 them to be led out to execution.  
 Leaving Judea then, he went down  
 to Cæsarea, where he resided.

### The Death of Herod Agrippa.

And he was at that time highly 20  
 incensed against the Tyrians and  
 Sidonians; but they unanimously  
 approached him. And having bribed  
 Blastus, the King's chamberlain, they  
 sued for reconciliation; because they  
 were fed from the territories of the  
 king. So upon an appointed day, 21  
 Herod robed himself in a royal splen-  
 dour, and seated upon the platform,  
 delivered a popular oration to them.  
 And the mob shouted out, "It is the 22  
 voice of a god, and not of a man."

But an angel of the Lord imme- 23  
 diately struck him, because he had  
 not given up that honour to God; and  
 being eaten by worms, he died. The 24  
 message of God, however, extended  
 and increased.

Barnabas and Saul, when they had 25  
 completed their mission, then re-  
 turned from Jerusalem, taking with  
 them John, surnamed Mark.

### The Dedication of Barnabas and Saul.

There were connected with the 13  
 assembly at Antioch preachers and

Chap. 12, v. 17. NOTE.—The James Peter  
 referred to was "James the Brother of Jesus,  
 the Messiah"

teachers, particularly such as Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen, the school-fellow of Herod the tetrarch and  
 2 Saul. And while they were worshipping the Lord, and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "You must set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work  
 3 which I have allotted them." Then fasting and praying, and laying their hands upon them, they dispatched them.  
 4 Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they accordingly went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed  
 5 to Cyprus. And arriving at Salamis, they proclaimed the message of God in the Jewish synagogues; and they also had John as a helper.

### Elymas the Magician.

6 And going through the whole of the island as far as Paphos, they found a certain Judean, a magician and sham  
 7 prophet, named Bar-Jesus; who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence. He invited Barnabas and Saul, desiring to listen  
 8 to the message of God. But Elymas the magician (for such is the name when translated), opposed them, attempting to divert the proconsul from the faith.  
 9 But Saul, who is also named Paul, full of Holy Spirit, looking at him  
 10 sternly, said, "O you full of all deceit, and every villainy, you son of the Devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you never cease to misrepresent the straight paths of the  
 11 Lord? But even now the hand of the Lord is upon you; you shall be blind, and for a time you shall not see the sun." And immediately a mist and darkness came over him; and staggering, he groped for some one to lead  
 12 him by the hand. The proconsul, on seeing what had happened, believed, being struck with the teaching of the Lord.

### Paul's Sermon at Antioch.

13 Paul and his company now set sail from Paphos, and went to Perga, in Pamphylia; but John, separating from them, returned to Jerusalem.  
 14 Then, proceeding from Perga, they arrived at Antioch of Pisidia; and, entering the synagogue on the  
 15 Sabbath day, they sat down. Then, after the reading of the law and the prophets, the leaders of the synagogue

sent to them, saying, "Men, brothers, if you have any comforting message for the people, speak it."

Paul accordingly stood up, and, 16 waving his hand, said:

"Men of Israel, and those that reverence God, listen. The God of 17 this people Israel chose our forefathers and raised up the nation during their residence in the land of Egypt, and with a high arm He led them out of it. And for the space of 18 about forty years He endured their behaviour in the desert. Afterwards, 19 when He had conquered seven nations in the land of Canaan, He entrusted them with the possession of their country for about four hundred and fifty years; and, con- 20 temporary with these events, He gave judges until the end of Samuel the prophet. And when they de- 21 manded a kingdom, then God gave them Saul, the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for the period of forty years. And when He had re- 22 moved him, He raised up David for them into the kingdom; and, giving evidence about him, He said, DAVID THE SON OF JESSE I HAVE FOUND A MAN AFTER MY OWN HEART, WHO WILL EXECUTE ALL MY PURPOSES.<sup>1</sup> From his race God has, according to 23 promise, brought to Israel a Saviour— Jesus; John, having to introduce His 24 appearance, proclaimed beforehand a baptism for conversion to all the people of Israel. And as John was 25 completing his mission, he said, 'What do you suppose me to be? Not I AM; but, on the contrary, there follows me One, the shoes of Whose feet I am not worthy to unfasten.'

"Men, brothers, sons of Abra- 26 ham's race, and those among you who reverence God, to us the message of this salvation is sent; for the 27 inhabitants of Jerusalem, and their rulers, ignoring this, and the voices of the prophets read every Sabbath, have fulfilled it by condemning Him; and of Pilate, who found no capital 28 crime, they demanded that He should be executed. But when they had 29 completed all that had been written about Him, taking Him down from the tree, they placed Him in a tomb. But God raised Him from the dead; 30 and upon several days He appeared 31 to those who accompanied Him from

<sup>1</sup> 1 Sam. xiii. 14.



Galilee to Jerusalem—those who now are witnesses for Him to the nation.  
 32 And we are announcing to you the good news that God, having raised  
 33 up Jesus, by that event has fulfilled to us—their children—the promise made to our fathers; as also it is written in the second Psalm,

YOU ARE MY SON,

TO-DAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.<sup>1</sup>

34 "But further, having raised Him from the dead, He will no more return to dissolution; as He said, THAT I WILL GIVE TO YOU THE ASSURED  
 35 BLESSINGS OF DAVID.<sup>2</sup> And He also says elsewhere, YOU WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR GIFTED ONE TO SEE DISSOLUTION.<sup>3</sup>

36 "Now David, indeed, in his own generation, having laboured under the instruction of God, slept, and was added to his forefathers, and saw dissolution; but this One Whom God  
 37 raised up saw no dissolution. Therefore, be it known to you, men,  
 38 brothers, that through Him release from sins is announced to you; and  
 39 from all those things from which you were not able to be acquitted by the law of Moses, every believer in Him will be acquitted.

40 "Take care therefore that you do not bring upon yourselves the declaration in the prophets:

41 ATTEND, YOU OPPONENTS! AND WONDER AND VANISH;  
 FOR I WILL DO A WORK IN YOUR DAYS,  
 A WORK WHICH YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE,  
 IF ONE SHOULD DISPLAY IT TO YOU!"<sup>4</sup>

42 When they went out, they were requested to have those matters related to them in the time intervening between the next Sabbath. But when  
 43 the assembly broke up, many of the Jews and pious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas; who, addressing them, entreated them to adhere to the gift of God.

#### The Jews Reject the Gospel.

44 Then on the Sabbath following, nearly the whole town collected to  
 45 hear the message of God. But the Jews, seeing the crowds, were filled with rage, and sneeringly contradicted the statements of Paul.

Consequently speaking out with perfect freedom, Paul and Barnabas said: "It was necessary that the message of God should first of all be delivered to you; but since you reject it, and do not consider yourselves worthy of that eternal life, we will now turn to the Gentiles; for thus  
 47 the Lord commanded us:

I HAVE PLACED YOU AS A LIGHT FOR THE HEATHEN,  
 THAT YOU SHOULD CARRY SALVATION TO THE BOUNDS OF THE EARTH."<sup>1</sup>

When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and praised the message of God; and whoever were disciplined for eternal life believed. The message of the Lord then spread throughout the whole of the district. But the  
 48 Jews incensed the pious women of rank, as well as the principal men of the town; and raising a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, they expelled them from their boundaries.  
 49 So, shaking the dust off their feet against them, they proceeded to  
 50 Iconium. And the disciples were filled with delight and with the Holy  
 51 Spirit.  
 52

#### At Iconium.

Arriving then at Iconium, they entered together the Jewish synagogue, and spoke in such a manner, that a considerable number both of Jews and of Greeks believed. But the  
 2 unbelieving Judeans excited and embittered the spirits of the heathen against the brethren. However, they  
 3 stayed there for some time, speaking with freedom for the Lord, Who gave evidence to the message of His gift, by granting signs and wonders to be effected through their hands. But  
 4 the crowd of the town was divided; some holding with the Jews, and others with the apostles. But when  
 5 there came a conspiracy both on the part of the heathen and the Jews, with their rulers, to assault and stone them, becoming aware of it, they  
 6 fled to the towns of Lycaonia, Lystra, and Derbē, and that neighbourhood; and were evangelizing there.  
 7

#### In Lycaonia: The Cripple Cured.

Now at Lystra there was sitting a man, powerless in his feet, lame from birth, having never walked. This man  
 9

<sup>1</sup> Psa. ii. 7.

<sup>2</sup> Isa. lv. 3.

<sup>3</sup> Psa. xvi. 10.

<sup>4</sup> Hab. i. 3.

<sup>1</sup> Isa. xlix. 6.

heard Paul speaking; who, looking fixedly at him, perceiving that he had  
 10 faith to be cured, said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet!" And he jumped up and walked.

11 But when the crowd observed what Paul had done, they raised a shout, saying in the Lycaonian dialect, "The gods have come down to us in the  
 12 likeness of men!" And they called Barnabas Zeus;<sup>1</sup> and Paul Hermes,<sup>2</sup> because he was the principal speaker.  
 13 And the priest of Zeus, whose shrine stood at the entrance of the town, brought garlanded bulls to the gates, intending, with the crowds, to offer a sacrifice.

14 When the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard it, however, they tore their cloaks, and rushed out among  
 15 the crowd, shouting and exclaiming, "Men, why do you this? We are only men like yourselves, declaring to you the good news, to turn away from these follies, to a Living God, WHO CREATED THE HEAVEN, THE  
 16 EARTH, AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM;<sup>3</sup> Who, in former generations, allowed all the heathen  
 17 to follow their own ways. Although He left not Himself without evidence, doing good, showering heavenly rain upon you, and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness."

18 Even after speaking in this way, however, it was with difficulty that they restrained the people from sacrificing to them.

#### Paul Stoned.

19 But Judeans came there from Antioch and Iconium; and having won over the mob, and stoned Paul, they dragged him out of the town, under the supposition that he was dead.  
 20 But the disciples having surrounded him, he rose up, and returned to the town; and the next day he departed, with Barnabas, to Derbe.

#### Conclusion of the First Missionary Journey.

21 After having evangelized that town, and secured a goodly number of disciples, they returned through Lystra,  
 22 to Iconium, and Antioch; strengthening the spirits of the disciples, encouraging them to stand by the faith, and showing that it is necessary to endure many sufferings in

order to enter the Kingdom of God. Then having elected for them elders  
 23 in every assembly, praying with fasting, they entrusted them to the Lord, on Whom they had believed.

And passing through Pisidia, they  
 24 came to Pamphylia; and having delivered the message in Perga, they  
 25 went down to Attalia; from there sailing to Antioch, where they had  
 26 been dedicated by the blessing of God for the work which they had accom-  
 27 plished. Then when they had called together the assembly after their  
 arrival, they reported what God had done with them, and how He had  
 opened a door of faith to the nations. And they spent a considerable time  
 28 with the disciples.

#### Controversy regarding Circumcision.

But some of those coming down  
 15 from Judea taught the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised in accordance with the Mosaic custom, you cannot be saved."

The question accordingly having  
 2 created no small amount of discussion and debate between them and Paul and Barnabas, they resolved that Paul and Barnabas, together with some others of their number, should go up to the apostles and elders at Jerusalem in reference to the question. Having therefore been dispatched by  
 3 the assembly, they proceeded through both Phoenicia and Samaria, relating the conversion of the heathen; and they produced unbounded delight in all the brethren.

On their arrival at Jerusalem, they  
 4 were welcomed by the assembly, and the apostles and elders; to whom they related what God had done with them. But some believers belonging  
 5 to the Pharisaic party started up, declaring, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and enjoin them to observe the law of Moses."

The apostles and the elders accordingly met together for the consideration of this particular question. Then much discussion having occurred, Peter, arising, said to them:

"Men, brothers, you understand that some time ago, God, among you, decided that through my mouth the heathen should listen to the message of the gospel, and believe it. And  
 8 the heart-knowing God gave an evidence for them, granting to them the Holy Spirit, in the same way as to

<sup>1</sup> Jupiter.      <sup>2</sup> Mercury.  
<sup>3</sup> Psa. cxlvi. 6.

- 9 ourselves; and He made no distinction between us and them, having purified their hearts by the faith.
- 10 Now, therefore, why do you try God, by placing a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our forefathers nor ourselves are strong
- 11 enough to bear? On the contrary, we believe we are to be saved through the gift of the Lord Jesus; and they do the same."
- 12 Then all the assembly kept silence whilst they listened to Barnabas and Paul, relating how God had produced through them evidences and deep impressions among the nations.
- 13 But after they had finished speaking, James arose, and said:
- 14 "Men, brothers, listen to me. Symeon has been relating how God first turned to choose from among the heathen a people for His own name:
- 15 and this accords with the statements of the prophets; as it has been written:
- 16 AFTER THIS I WILL RETURN,  
AND RE-ERECT THE FALLEN TENT  
OF DAVID;  
AND I WILL RELAY ITS FOUNDATIONS,  
AND REBUILD IT;
- 17 SO THAT THE REST OF MANKIND  
MAY SEEK OUT THE LORD,  
AND ALL THE HEATHEN MAY TAKE  
MY NAME UPON THEM,
- 18 SAYS THE LORD, WHO EFFECTS  
THESE EVENTS, KNOWN FROM  
ETERNITY.<sup>1</sup>
- 19 "I am therefore of opinion that we should not harass those converted to
- 20 God from among the heathen; but that we send urging them to keep free from pollution by idols, from fornication, from that which is strangled, and
- 21 blood. For Moses, from preceding generations, has had his preachers in every town, being read every Sabbath in the synagogues."
- 22 Then it seemed good to the apostles and elders, with the whole assembly, that men should be chosen from among themselves to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas—Judah, called Barsabas, and Silas, leading
- 23 men in the brotherhood—writing by their hand:
- "The apostles and elder brothers, to their brothers from among the heathen who live in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia, greeting:

<sup>1</sup> Amos ix. ix.

"Since we have heard that some 24 from among us have disturbed you with statements, unsettling your minds—to whom we gave no instructions—it seemed right for us, being 25 assembled together, to select men and send them to you, together with our friends, Barnabas and Paul, men who 26 have delivered up their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We 27 have therefore sent Judah and Silas, who themselves will also report to you the same facts by word of mouth. 28 For it is the decision of the Holy Spirit, and our own, to lay upon you no greater burden than is necessary; that is, to turn away from idol sacri- 29 fices, from blood, from that which is strangled, and from fornication. Keeping yourselves free from these, you will do well. Farewell."

Having, therefore, been dispatched, 30 they went down to Antioch; and having convened the people, they delivered the letter. When they had 31 read it, they were pleased at its encouragement; and Judah and Silas 32 also, who were speakers, cheered the brethren by a long discourse, and strengthened them. After working 33 there for a time, they were released in peace from the brethren to those who had sent them.<sup>1</sup> Paul and 35 Barnabas, however, remained in Antioch, with several others, teaching and preaching the message of the Lord.

### Paul's Second Missionary Journey.

Then, after some time, Paul said to 36 Barnabas, "Let us now pay a return visit to our brothers in every town in which we have preached the good news of the message of the Lord, and see how they are proceeding."

But Barnabas was inclined to take 37 John, surnamed Mark, with them. Paul, however, considered it inad- 38 visable to take him with them, as he had deserted them at Pamphylia, and did not accompany them in that work.

A dispute consequently occurred, 39 which led them to separate from each other. And Barnabas, taking Mark with him, sailed to Cyprus; while Paul, choosing Silas, took his 40

<sup>1</sup> Some old MSS. here insert ver. 34 in language to the following effect, but each reading differently: "But Silas made up his mind to stay where he was." It has been suggested that the clause has been placed here to explain ver. 40.—F F.

departure, having been entrusted by the brethren to the blessing of the  
 41 Lord. He accordingly travelled through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the assemblies.

### Paul and Timothy.

16 And he descended to Derbe and Lystra. And there was a disciple there, named Timothy, the son of a woman, a believing Jewess, but of a  
 2 Grecian father, who was well recommended by the brothers who were at  
 3 Lystra and Iconium. Paul, being anxious that he should accompany him, took and circumcised him out of respect to the Jews resident in these places; because they all knew that his father was a Greek.  
 4 And as they travelled through the towns they delivered into their custody the decrees which had been agreed upon by the apostles and the  
 5 elders who were in Jerusalem. The assemblies were accordingly strengthened in the faith, and the number daily increased.  
 6 They next went through the districts of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to deliver the message in Asia Minor.  
 7 Coming down to Mysia, however, they attempted to proceed to Bithynia; but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.  
 8 Then, having passed by Mysia, they  
 9 went down to Troas. And during the night, a vision appeared to Paul, that of a man, a Macedonian, who stood imploring him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia, and help us!"

### Paul Visits Europe.

10 Accordingly, having seen this vision, we at once attempted to proceed to Macedonia, concluding that God had called us forward to evangelize them.

### The Conversion of Lydia.

11 Setting sail therefore from Troas, we steered straight to Samothracia, and the day following to Neapolis; 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a capital of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we rested for some days  
 13 in the town itself. On the Sabbath day, however, we went outside the gate, along a river side, where we were informed prayer was to be; and having sat down, we spoke to the women who were assembled.

Chap. 16, v. 10. NOTE.—Here I believe the united mission of Paul and his cousin, and physician, Luke, begins.

And a woman named Lydia, a dealer 14 in purple cloth, of the town of Thyatira, and a worshipper of God, was a listener; the heart of whom the Lord opened to attend to what was said by Paul. Then when she had been 15 baptized, as well as her family, she invited us, saying, "If you consider me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my house." And she prevailed upon us.

### The Slave Girl and her Masters.

And it happened, as we were pro- 16 ceeding to the place for prayer, that a girl who was possessed by a spirit of divination met us, who procured considerable profit for her masters by fortune-telling; and following Paul 17 and us, she shrieked out, exclaiming, "These men are servants of the highest God, who proclaim to you a path of salvation." And she did this 18 on many occasions."

Paul accordingly being annoyed by it, turning round, he said to the spirit, "By the power of Jesus Christ, I order you to come out of her." And it left her that very hour.

### Paul and Silas Scourged and Imprisoned.

But her masters, seeing that they 19 had lost the hope of their profits, arresting Paul and Silas, dragged them off to the market-place before the authorities; and bringing them to 20 the Generals, they said, "These men, being Jews, greatly disturb our town, and proclaim a religion which it is 21 illegal for us, being Romans, to accept, or to practise."

And the mob siding with them, the 22 Generals tore off their robes, and ordered them to be flogged. Then, 23 after lashing them severely, they flung them into prison, instructing the jailor to keep them securely; who, 24 having received such an order, threw them into the inner dungeon, and secured their feet in the stocks.

### Conversion of the Jailor.

About midnight, however, Paul and 25 Silas were praying and singing hymns to God; and the prisoners were listening to them. When suddenly there 26 was a violent earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and all the doors at once flew open, while every one was freed from his bonds. The warder being accordingly 27 roused from his sleep, and seeing the

prison doors open, seized his sword, and was about to kill himself, concluding that the prisoners had made their escape.

- 28 But Paul shouted, saying, "Do yourself no harm; for we are all here!"
- 29 Demanding then a light, he rushed in, and seized with a tremor, he fell before Paul and Silas, and conducting them out, he asked, "O sirs, what must I do so that I may save myself?"
- 31 And they replied, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you and your family shall be saved." And they delivered the message of the Lord to him, with all those in his family. Taking them out then at that hour of the night, he washed their wounds; and was himself baptized without delay, as well as
- 34 all his family. He also took them to his house, and spread a table before them; and, believing in God together with all his family, he was transported with joy.

#### Released from Prison.

- 35 When the day dawned, however, the Generals sent instructions to the officers to "Liberate these men."
- 36 The warder accordingly reported these words to Paul, saying: "The Generals have ordered you to be liberated; therefore come out, and depart quietly."
- 37 But Paul replied to them, "Having flogged us—who are Roman citizens—publicly, and without trial, and having thrown us into prison, would they now send us away privately? Certainly not! But instead let them come themselves, and conduct us out."
- 38 The Sergeants accordingly reported these words to the Generals, who on learning that they were Romans, became terrified. So they came apologizing; and conducting them out, requested them to leave the town.
- 40 Being thus liberated from custody, they entered the house of Lydia; and having seen the brethren, they consoled them, and departed.

#### Persecution at Thessalonica.

- 17 Travelling then through Amphipolis, and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. And Paul, as was his custom, went in among them, and for three Sabbaths discussed with them from the Scriptures, illustrating and proving that the Messiah must suffer, and rise again from the dead; "and that this

Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Messiah."

Some of them accordingly believed, and associated themselves with Paul and Silas; in addition to a considerable number of pious Greeks, and not a few of the women of rank.

But the Judeans becoming furious, secured the assistance of a number of ruffians from the markets, and collecting a mob, they made a riot in the town; and attacking the house of Jason, they endeavoured to drag them out to the mob. Failing to find them, however, they dragged Jason, as well as some of the brothers, before the town councillors,<sup>1</sup> shouting out: "These fellows who have turned the empire upside down, have also appeared here. Jason has privately protected them; and these fellows, ignoring the decrees of the Emperor, actually assert that there is another king, Jesus."

Then the crowd and the town councillors, on hearing this, cried out in alarm; and taking bail from Jason and the others, they discharged them.

#### Journey to Athens.

So the brethren at once sent both Paul and Silas off to Berea during the night; and arriving there, they entered the Jewish synagogue. Now these people were better disposed than the Thessalonians; they accepted the message with hearty good-will, examining the Scriptures daily, so as to verify the statements. Many among them therefore believed; including Grecian women of rank, as well as not a few of the men.

But when the Judeans of Thessalonica learned that the message of God was also proclaimed by Paul in Berea, they also came there, inciting and annoying the people. The brethren accordingly sent Paul immediately off in the direction of the sea; while Silas and Timothy continued there. But Paul's guides conveyed him as far as Athens; and dispatching a message to Silas and Timothy, that they should come to him as soon as possible, they returned.

#### Paul Preaches the Living God at Athens.

While Paul waited for them at Athens, he was grieved in his spirit to see the city devoted to idols. He accordingly discussed in the synagogue

<sup>1</sup> Literally, politarchs, or city fathers.

with the Judeans, and with the pious people, as well as every day with those who frequented the market-place.

18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also debated with him; and some said, "What would this Thought-sower wish to say?" And others, "He seems to be an introducer of foreign divinities"; because he told them the good news of Jesus and the resurrection.

19 They accordingly took him, and conducted him to the Hill of Ares (the High Court), saying, "Would it be possible for us to get to know what this new thing, this teaching of which you speak, might be? For you have brought some foreign ideas to our ears—we wish therefore to know what is the intention of these?" For all the Athenians and the foreign residents spent the whole of their leisure in telling and listening to something new.

22 Paul accordingly taking his stand in the centre of the High Court, said:

"Men of Athens, I perceive beyond everything how deeply religious you are, for, going about and studying your objects of worship, I even found an altar upon which had been inscribed.

#### TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.

"What, therefore, you unknowingly worship, I proclaim to you. 24 The God. Who made the Universe and all in it, Who, being Himself Lord of heaven and earth, resides not in temples made by hands, nor is served by the hands of men, as though needing anything: Himself giving to every one life and breath 25 and all things; because He made by One every race of men to dwell upon the whole face of the earth, having provided proper methods and guides 26 for their research in seeking God—if only they would feel for and find Him—and yet He is certainly not 27 far from every one of us; for from Him we live, and move, and exist; as also some among your own poets have said,

"That we originate from Him." 29 "Therefore, possessing an origin from God, we ought not to imagine the Divine Nature to be like gold, or silver, or stone, carved by human skill and genius. God, however, overlooking those periods of ignorance, now calls to all men everywhere 30 to change their mind; because He has appointed a day in which He will judge the world with justice by a

Man Whom He has provided, having given the strongest evidence by raising Him from among the dead." \* \* \* 1

The mention of the resurrection 32 of the dead provoked sneering on the part of some; but others said, "We will hear you again about this." Thus Paul went out from among 33 them. Some people, however, be- 34 lieved, and followed him; among whom were Dionysius, the Judge of the High Court, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

#### The Offence of the Cross at Corinth.

Paul, afterwards taking his depar- 18 ture from Athens, came to Corinth. And finding a Jew, named Aquila, a 2 Pontian by birth, lately come from Italy with his wife Priscilla—because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to be expelled from Rome—he went to them. And as he was of the same 3 profession, he stayed with them, employing himself; for by profession they were landscape painters. But 4 he debated every Sabbath in the synagogue, persuading both Jews and Greeks.

When Silas and Timothy came 5 down from Macedonia, however, Paul was engaged in earnest discussion, demonstrating to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. Then setting them- 6 selves in opposition to him, and abusing him, he shook out his robe, and said to them, "Your blood be upon your own heads; I am guiltless: from now I will go to the heathen."

He accordingly took his departure, 7 and went to the house of a God-fearing man, named Titus Justus, whose house was close to the synagogue. But Crispus, the chief of the 8 synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his family; and many of the Corinthians having heard, believed, and were baptized.

Then during a vision in the night, 9 the Lord said to Paul, "Fear not, but speak out, and do not keep silence; because I am with you, and no one 10 shall attack to injure you; for many 11 people in this city belong to Me." He accordingly remained there a year

1 NOTE.—The Apostle was not allowed to finish his argument, owing to the contentions of his audience, as he when sitting as judge upon Stephen had interrupted that martyr of the truth, and ordered him to execution. It is remarkable, however, that St. Stephen was the instrument of Paul's conversion, and that St. Paul converted his judge also by this unfinished strain of sublime reasoning.—F. F.

and six months, teaching the message of God among them.

- 12 But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews unanimously made an assault upon Paul, and took him  
13 before the Court, asserting, "This fellow misleads men, to worship God contrary to the law."  
14 Then when Paul was about to speak out in his defence, Gallio said to the Jews, "Now, if this were some act of injustice, or some atrocious crime, you  
15 Jews, it would be reasonable to listen to you: but if it is a dispute about language and names, and about your own law, why, just look to it yourselves; I am not disposed to be  
16 a judge of such matters." And he drove them from the Court.  
17 The whole of them then throwing themselves upon Sosthenes, the chief of the synagogue, assaulted him in the presence of the Court. But Gallio cared nothing about such things.

### Conclusion of the

#### Second Missionary Journey.

- 18 But Paul still stayed a considerable time organising the brotherhood, then took his leave of them, sailing for Syria—Priscilla and Aquila accompanying him—shaving his head at Cenchrea,  
19 for he had taken a vow. And on arriving at Ephesus, he left them. He, however, entered the synagogue by himself, and debated with the Jews.  
20 Yet when they asked him to stay with them a little longer, he would not consent; but took leave of them and said,  
21 "God willing, I will return to you again."  
22 Sailing then from Ephesus, and landing at Cæsarea, he went up and visited the Assembly (at Jerusalem).<sup>1</sup>  
23 Then he descended to Antioch. And spending some time there, he proceeded on his way; visiting in a regular manner the districts of Galatia and Phrygia, encouraging all the disciples.

#### The Evangelist Apollos.

- 24 A Judean, named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, a man of education, powerful in the Scriptures, met him at  
25 Ephesus. He had been instructed in the path of the Lord; and being fervent in his spirit, he spoke and taught about Jesus clearly, understanding only the

<sup>1</sup> NOTE ch. 18, v. 22.—The words "at Jerusalem" seem clearly to have been accidentally dropped out of the text by some early transcriber, for Paul came from Corinth especially to visit Jerusalem to fulfil a vow at the Temple; see v. 18 of this Chapter.—F.F

baptism of John. And he began to 26 speak out with confidence in the synagogue; when Priscilla and Aquila, hearing of him, took him and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

And as he was inclined to proceed 27 to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him, and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. And on his arrival, he was, by means of his gift, of considerable assistance to the believers; for 28 in public he eloquently demonstrated to the Judeans, proving by means of the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.

#### Paul at Ephesus.

It occurred while Apollos was at 19 Corinth, that Paul passed through the highland district on the way to Ephesus. And finding some disciples, 2 he asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit on becoming believers?"

But they answered him, "On the contrary; we have never heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

"Into what, then, were you bap- 3 tized?" he asked them.

"Into the baptism of John," was their reply.

Paul then said, "John baptized a 4 baptism for conversion, telling the people that they must believe on the One Who followed him, that is Jesus." Hearing this, they were accordingly 5 baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

And Paul having laid his hands 6 upon them, the Holy Spirit came upon them; and they spoke languages and preached. And all the 7 men were about twelve.

Then entering the synagogue, he 8 spoke eloquently, for three months, discussing and persuading concerning the Kingdom of God. When, however, 9 some obstinately resisted and disbelieved, defaming the Way before the mob, turning from them, he removed the disciples, discussing daily in the lecture-room of Tyrannus. And this 10 continued for two years; so that all the residents in Asia-Minor, both Judeans and Greeks, heard the message of the Lord. God also produced unusual 11 powers by means of the hands of Paul; so that handkerchiefs or sashes, on 12 being taken from his clothing and applied to the sick, their mental diseases and the evil spirits were expelled from them.

#### The Seven Sons of Sceva.

Some of the travelling Jewish exor- 13 cists, however, presumed to name the

name of the Lord Jesus over those possessed by foul spirits, saying: "I imprecate you by Jesus, Whom Paul  
14 proclaims!" And among those who did this, there were seven sons of  
15 Skeva, a Judean chief priest. But the evil spirit answering, said to them, "I recognise Jesus, and Paul I know well; but who are you?"

16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was, sprang upon them; overpowered them, and defeated them; and they fled stripped and wounded from that house.

17 And this became known to all the inhabitants of Ephesus, both Judeans and Greeks; and terror fell upon all of them, and they exalted  
18 the name of the Lord Jesus. Many of the believers also, frankly acknowledging it, came forward, and re-  
19 nounced their practices. Numbers also of the professors of magic rites, having collected their books, burned them in public; and their value being calculated, it was found to amount to about fifty thousand pieces  
20 of silver.<sup>1</sup> Thus the message of the Lord increased and excelled in power.

21 After the accomplishment of these events, Paul decided in his mind that, passing through Macedonia and Achaia, he would proceed to Jerusalem; remarking: "After I have been there, I must see Rome."

22 So having sent to Macedonia two of those who were serving with him, namely, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed for some time in Asia-Minor.

### The Ephesian Riot.

23 About this time, however, there occurred no small disturbance about  
24 the Way; because a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made shrines of Artemis, excited his opera-  
25 tives in the trade not a little. Who having assembled together with those making similar things, he addressed them:

"You know, men, that our wealth  
26 depends upon this trade; and you see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but indeed almost throughout the whole of Asia-Minor, this Paul has persuaded a great crowd to secede, saying, 'that they are not gods that  
27 are made by hand.' And further than that, there is danger not only that this trade of ours should come

into disrepute; but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be considered nothing, and that her magnificence will be swept away, which all Asia and the civilized world worship."

Fired with fury on hearing this, 28 they shouted out, exclaiming: "Great Artemis of the Ephesians!" And the 29 whole city being roused to riot, the crowd rushed in a mass to the theatre, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, of Macedonia, assistants of Paul.

When Paul, however, was anxious 30 to go into the mob, the disciples would not allow him. Several also 31 of the leading men among the Asiatics who were friends to him, sent advising him not to present himself in the theatre. Some therefore shouted one 32 thing, some another; for the meeting was in an uproar: and the greater part of the people did not even know for what purpose they had assembled. Then some of the Judeans from the 33 crowd, seizing Alexander, thrust him forward. But when Alexander advanced, stretching out his hand to defend himself before the mob, recognising that he was a Jew, all of them 34 began with one voice, for about two hours, to shout, "Great Artemis of the Ephesians!"

But the mayor, having quieted the 35 crowd, said:

"Men, Ephesians! what man, indeed, is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is the guardian of the great Artemis, and of the fallen god? Seeing then that 36 these facts are incontestable, it becomes you to preserve order, and do nothing rashly. You have dragged 37 these men here, however, who are neither temple-robbers nor libellers of our goddess. If Demetrius, therefore, 38 and the artisans who are with him have a ground of complaint against any one, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls in attendance—let them prosecute each other. But 39 if you desire anything respecting other matters, it should be settled in a legal assembly. For, indeed, we are 40 in danger of being called to account respecting the disturbance of to-day; for we can neither advance a reason, nor say anything in justification of this gathering."

And having said this, he dismissed 41 the meeting.

<sup>1</sup> A piece of silver, worth from half-a-crown to three shillings.



**Through Macedonia to Troas.**

20 After the disturbance had been quieted, Paul, calling the disciples together, comforted them and took leave, and went out to proceed into Macedonia. And, having passed through those parts, and encouraged them with sound reason, he went into Hellas.

3 But after he had been there three months, a plot having been laid against him by the Judeans when he was about to embark for Syria, he considered it advisable to return through Macedonia. And there accompanied him Sopater Pyrrhus, the Berean; as well as Aristarchus and Secundus of Thessalonica; Gaius of Derbē, and Timothy; with Tychicus and Trophimus, Asiatics. These, however, having preceded us, were awaiting our arrival at Troas.

6 After the days of unfermented bread, we accordingly sailed from Philippi, and five days later came to them at Troas, where we spent seven days.

**At Troas—A Christian Sabbath.**

7 On the first of the Sabbaths, when we assembled to break bread, Paul, intending to leave on the following day, addressed them, and prolonged his speech until midnight.

8 There were a number of lamps in the upper chamber in which we were assembled. And a youth, named Eutychus, sitting in the window-sill, fell into a deep slumber; and as Paul continued his address for a considerable time, he became so overpowered with sleep that he fell down from the third story, and was picked up insensible.

10 Paul, hastening down, however, stooped over him, and, taking him in his arms, said, "Do not agitate yourselves, for his life is in him."

11 Then, going up again, and having broken the bread and tasted, he conversed with them for a considerable time, even until daybreak, when he departed. They then took the boy away alive, and were greatly consoled.

**At Miletus—Address to the Ephesian Elders.**

13 Embarking, then, in the vessel, we made for Assos, where we intended to take up Paul; because he had him-

self decided to make the journey by land. Accordingly, picking him up 14 when we arrived at Assos, we next came to Mitylene. And, sailing from 15 there, we arrived opposite Chios on the following day; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we landed at Miletus. For Paul 16 had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia-Minor; for he was hurrying on so that it might be possible for the day of Pentecost to come to him in Jerusalem.

Sending then to Ephesus from 17 Miletus, he summoned there the elders of the assembly. Then when 18 they were come to him, he said to them:

"You yourselves know from the first day that I set foot in Asia-Minor, how I have conducted myself with you all the time, serving the 19 Lord with all gentleness, amid the griefs and trials which befel me owing to the plots of the Judeans; how I never 20 shrank from declaring to you anything that was advantageous; teaching you publicly and privately; producing 21 evidence to both Jews and Greeks for conversion to God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, 22 impelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem in ignorance of what awaits me there; except that in every town 23 the Holy Spirit attests to me, saying that bonds and afflictions await me.

"But I do not account my life of 24 value to myself, except that I may complete my course, and the commission which I received from the Lord Jesus to bear witness to the good news of the gift of God. And now I know 25 that all you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the Kingdom, may never see my presence again. I am 26 consequently anxious this very day to prove to you that I am clear from the blood of all men; because I never hesi- 27 tated in declaring to you the whole purpose of God. Guard yourselves, as 28 well as the whole of the fold in which the Holy Spirit has appointed you shepherds, to nourish the church of God, which He has purchased with the blood of His own Son. I know that 29 after my departure ferocious wolves shall come in among you, not sparing the little flock; yes, from among your 30 own selves men will spring up, speaking pervertingly, in order to draw followers after themselves. Because of 31

this, be on your guard : remembering that for the space of three years I never failed to warn every one night and day with tears. And now I entrust you to God, and to His given WORD,<sup>1</sup> Who has power to build up and to give you the inheritance with all the holy. I have desired from none of you silver, gold, nor clothing. You yourselves know that my own necessities, as well as of those accompanying me, have been supplied by these hands. In everything I have given you an example, so that, labouring in this way, you ought to assist the infirm, remembering also the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'<sup>2</sup>

And having thus spoken, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And the whole of them being much overcome with emotion, they leaned upon Paul's neck, and fervently kissed him; grieving especially on account of the remark which he made, that they might see his face no more. They then accompanied him to the ship.

#### Journey to Cæsarea.

As soon, however, as we had torn ourselves away from them, we set sail, and came with a straight run to Coös; on the following day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara; and finding a vessel bound for Phœnicia, we embarked and departed. Then sighting Cyprus, and leaving it on the left, we sailed to Syria, and landed at Tyre; for there the ship was to discharge her cargo. But finding some disciples there, we stayed with them seven days. Some of them advised Paul through the Spirit not to go up to Jerusalem.

But when we had completed those days, we departed and proceeded on our journey; all of them, with women and children, accompanying us until outside the town. And bending our knees upon the sand, we prayed, and wished each other good-bye, and embarked in the vessel; but they returned to their homes.

But we, completing the voyage from Tyre, arrived at Ptolemais; and greeting the brethren, we remained with

<sup>1</sup> See John i. 1.

<sup>2</sup> NOTE.—This quotation of an utterance of Christ which is nowhere else recorded in the Scriptures, proves that St. Paul had been personally acquainted with Him, and I might add references to other parts of this Apostle's writings to confirm the fact, as well as to passages in the Gospels.—F. F.

them for one day. On the following morning we took our departure, and came to Cæsarea; and entering the house of Philip the evangelist, who was of the seven, we stayed with him. Now this man had four maiden daughters, who preached.

And as we remained several days, there came down from Judea a preacher of the name of Agabus. And coming to us, he took Paul's belt, fastened his own feet and hands, and said: "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'In like manner shall the Judeans at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and shall deliver him over to heathen hands.'"

Then when we heard this, both we and the residents of that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. Paul, however, replied, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be arrested, but also to die at Jerusalem, for the sake of the name of the Lord Jesus!"

Then when he would not be persuaded, we were silent, saying, "The will of the Lord be done!"

#### Paul at Jerusalem.

After these days, having put our baggage in order, we ascended to Jerusalem; and some of the disciples from Cæsarea also accompanied us, by whom we were introduced to Mnason of Cyprus, a disciple from the first. When we arrived at Jerusalem, the brethren welcomed us with gladness.

And on the following morning, Paul accompanied us to James, where all the elders assembled. After greeting them, he gave them a detailed account of what God, through his own ministry, had done among the heathen.

When they heard it, they thanked God, and remarked to him: "You see, brother, how many tens of thousands of believers there are among the Judeans; and they are all enthusiastic for the law. They have been sedulously informed respecting you, however, that you instruct all the Jews who are among the heathen to apostatize from Moses; advising them not to circumcise their children, nor pay any attention to the customs. What is it, then? The crowd will certainly assemble; for they will learn that you have arrived.

"Suppose you do what we advise

you: there are four men with us who have taken a vow on themselves; 24 joining, be purified with them, and share the expenses with them, when they shave their heads. Then all will know that there is no truth in the reports concerning you; but that, on the contrary, you yourself keep the 25 directions of the law. But as for the believing heathen, we have published our decision, that they should keep themselves free from idol-offerings, from blood, from strangulation, and from fornication."

26 Then Paul, taking those men on the following day, having purified himself with them, entered into the temple, to give notice when they would complete the days of their purification; upon which would be offered the sacrifice for each one of them.

### Paul Arrested.

27 When the seven days were nearly completed, some of the Asiatic Judeans, observing him in the temple, incited the whole of the rabble, and they threw their hands upon him, 28 shouting out, "Men! Israelites! help! This is the man who everywhere teaches against the people, and the law, and this place! and he has actually brought Greeks into the temple, and has polluted this holy spot." 29 (Because they had previously seen in his company in the city Trophimus the Ephesian, whom they concluded Paul had brought into the temple.) 30 The whole city was agitated, and a mob of people collected; and seizing Paul, they dragged him outside the temple, and immediately they shut 31 the gates. Then trying to murder him, information was sent up to the commandant of the garrison that the whole of Jerusalem was in a state of 32 riot. He immediately ordered out soldiers and captains, charging down upon them; and when they saw the General and the troops, they desisted maltreating Paul.

33 The Commandant, then approaching, picked him up, and ordered him to be secured with two chains; inquiring as to who he was, and what 34 he had done. Some among the crowd yelled out one thing, some another; and failing to ascertain the cause of the uproar, he ordered him to 35 be conveyed to the fortress. But when he reached the stairs, it was necessary for him to be protected by the

soldiers, owing to the violence of the mob; because the mass of the people 36 followed yelling out, "Kill him!"

Then as they were about to enter 37 the fortress, Paul asked the Commandant, "May I be allowed to say something to you?"

"Can you speak Greek?" he asked in reply. "You are not then the 38 Egyptian, who some time ago revolted, and led those four thousand assassins out into the desert?"

Paul replied, "I am indeed a 39 Judean, a man of Tarsus of Cilicia; a citizen of no inglorious city; and I beg of you to grant me permission to address the people."

Having accordingly given him per- 40 mission, Paul taking his stand upon the stairs, waved his hand to the people; when a great silence ensuing, he addressed them as follows in the Hebrew dialect;

### Paul's Speech to the Crowd.

"Men, brothers, and fathers! listen 22 to me while I now defend myself before you."

When they heard that he addressed 2 them in the Hebrew dialect, they became still more attentive. So he proceeded:

"I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of 3 Cilicia, but educated at the feet of Gamaliel in this city, disciplined very strictly in the law of our forefathers. I was an enthusiast for God, as you yourselves all are to-day. I perse- 4 cuted this Way to the death, apprehending and imprisoning both men and women. Of this the High Priest 5 could also witness to me, as well as the whole body of the senate, from whom also I received dispatches to the brethren in Damascus. Proceed- 6 ing to it, I intended to bring those living there in chains to Jerusalem, so that they might be punished. But 7 while I was marching and approaching to Damascus, it occurred about mid-day that suddenly a great light shone around me from the sky; when 7 I fell down to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me: 'Saul! Saul! why do you persecute Me?'"

"But I answered, 'Who are You, 8 Sir?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazarene, Whom you are persecuting.'

"Those accompanying me saw the 9 light indeed, but they did not hear the voice of Him speaking to me.

- 10 "I then asked, 'What shall I do, Sir?' But the Lord answered me, 'Arise, march into Damascus; and there you shall be told about all that I have arranged for you to do.'
- 11 "Being unable, however, to see, owing to the brightness of that light, I proceeded to Damascus, led by the
- 12 hand of my companions. There one Ananias, a pious man according to the law, of good repute among all the
- 13 Jewish inhabitants, coming and standing by my side, said to me, 'Brother Saul, see again'; and I at that moment looked upon him.
- 14 "He then said, 'The God of our forefathers has prepared you to understand His intention, and to look upon the Righteous One, and to listen to
- 15 language from His mouth; so that you may be a witness for Him before all men respecting what you have seen
- 16 and heard. And why do you now delay? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling upon His name.'
- 17 "But it so happened to me on revisiting Jerusalem, that, while I was praying in the temple, I fell into an
- 18 ecstasy; and saw Him, saying to me, 'Haste, and go out from Jerusalem quickly, for they will not accept your evidence concerning Me.'
- 19 "I replied, 'They themselves well know, Lord, that I was imprisoning and flogging in every synagogue those
- 20 believing upon You. Yes, and when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was poured out, I myself was then Chief Justice, and gave the Decision, and guarded the garments of his
- 21 murderers.' He then said, 'Go: for I will send you far away to the heathen.'" \* \* \*
- 22 They listened attentively until he came to this expression, when, raising their voices, they exclaimed, "Take this fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live!"
- 23 And as they yelled, and tore off their cloaks, and threw dust in the
- 24 air, the Commandant ordered him to be taken into the fortress, directing him to be examined by flogging; so that he might ascertain for what reason they roared against him.
- 25 But when they had fastened him with the straps, Paul asked the

Chap. 22 v. 20. NOTE.—The Greek word used by Paul to indicate his position at that trial is a Titular one, 'Εφιστάς, (Ephestos), which in English would be "Chief Justice." He was, in fact, President of the Ecclesiastical Court of Jerusalem.—F.F.

captain, who stood near, "Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen, and without a trial?"

On hearing that, the captain went 26 to report to the Commandant: "What do you intend to do? for this man is a Roman."

The Commandant, coming, then 27 asked him, "Tell me, are you a Roman?"

"Yes," was his reply.

When the Commandant answered, 28 "I myself acquired that citizenship at an immense price."

"But I was one by birth," rejoined Paul.

Then those who were about to torture 29 him immediately stood back; and the Commandant himself was also terrified on discovering that he was a Roman; and because he had ordered him to be bound.<sup>1</sup>

On the following morning, however, 30 desiring to ascertain the actual accusation of the Judeans, he freed him; and, summoning the chief priests and the whole of the senate to assemble, he conducted Paul down, and placed him before them.

#### Paul before the Senate.

Paul, then, looking fixedly at the 23 senate, said, "Men, brothers! I have done my duty with a clear conscience in the presence of God until this very day \* \* \*"

The High Priest, Ananias, interposing, ordered the officers standing near him to strike him on the mouth.

"God will strike you, you white- 3 washed wall!" exclaimed Paul, in reply to him. "Do you sit to try me in accordance with the law, and in defiance of the law order me to be struck?"

The attendants, standing by, ex- 4 claimed, "How dare you abuse the High Priest of God?"

"I do not know, brothers, that he 5 is High Priest: for it is written, YOU SHALL NOT SPEAK ILL OF THE PRINCE OF YOUR PEOPLE."<sup>2</sup> Paul, 6 perceiving, however, that one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, shouted out to the senate:

"Men! Brothers! I am myself a Pharisee! a son of Pharisees! it is concerning a hope and resurrection from the dead that I am indicted!"

1 NOTE.—It was death under the old Roman Law for any one to bind up or flog a Roman citizen, except by order of the Emperor, or his Lieutenant, after trial.—F.F. <sup>2</sup>Exod. xxii. 28.

- 7 So when he had said this, a split occurred between the Pharisees and Sadducees; and the assembly was
- 8 divided. For the Sadducees hold that there is no rising again, neither is there angel or spirit; but the Pharisees, on the other hand, acknow-
- 9 ledge both. Consequently a great uproar ensued; and some of the professors, who were Pharisees, stood up in opposition and declared, "We can find nothing wrong against this man; but if a spirit has spoken to him, or an angel \* \* \*"
- 10 Then a great disturbance arose, and the Commandant being afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, ordered the troops to go down and forcibly take him from among them, and conduct him into the fortress.
- A Divine Promise to Paul.**
- 11 During the following night, however, the Lord stood beside him, and said, "Take courage! for as you have given evidence concerning Me at Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."
- Conspiracy to Murder Paul.**
- 12 But when day came, the Jews conspired, invoking a curse upon themselves, declaring that they would neither eat nor drink until they had
- 13 murdered Paul. And there were more than forty who made this conspiracy. These, coming to the chief
- 14 priests and senators, said:  
"Cursing, we have invoked a curse upon ourselves, to taste nothing until
- 15 we have assassinated Paul. Now, therefore, you yourselves, with the senate, intimate to the Commandant to bring him down to you, as if you desired to examine his case with greater accuracy; for we are ready to kill him before his arrival."
- 16 But Paul's nephew, hearing of the conspiracy, went and entered the fortress, and reported it to Paul.
- 17 Paul accordingly spoke to one of the captains, and said, "Conduct this gentleman to the Commandant, for he has something to tell him."
- 18 He accordingly took him and conducted him to the Commandant, and said, "The prisoner Paul, having called me to him, desired me to bring this gentleman to you, as he has something to say to you."
- 19 The Commandant, then shaking his hand and taking him to his private apartment, inquired, "What is it that you have to report to me?"

When he said, "The Jews have 20 decided to ask you in the morning to bring down Paul to the senate, as wishing to inquire with greater accuracy something about him. But 21 do not be persuaded by them; for more than forty men of them lie in ambush, who have invoked a curse upon themselves to neither eat nor drink until they have murdered him; and they are even now ready, under the impression that they will receive a favourable reply from you."

The Commandant then dismissed 22 the young man, enjoining him to "Be sure and tell no one that you have reported these matters to me."

Summoning then two of the cap- 23 tains, he said, "Get ready two hundred soldiers, seventy cavalry, and two hundred spearmen, to proceed as far as Cæsarea, by nine o'clock to-night. Also provide animals upon 24 which Paul may be conducted in safety to Felix the governor."

**Paul sent to Cæsarea.**

He also wrote a dispatch running 25 in this form:

"Claudius Lysias, to His Excel- 26 lency Governor Felix, greeting:

"This man, having been assaulted 27 by the Jews, and almost assassinated by them, I rescued by appearing with the troops, understanding that he was a Roman. And desiring to 28 know the ground of their accusation against him, I took him down to their senate; when I discovered that the 29 charge had reference to disputed points of their own law; but he was charged with nothing deserving of death, nor even of imprisonment. Accordingly, on its coming to my 30 knowledge that they had organized a conspiracy against the man, I have immediately sent him to you; instructing his prosecutors also to state their charge before you. Farewell."

So the soldiers, in accordance with 31 their orders, took Paul, and conducted him during the night to Antipatris. But on the following day, they re- 32 turned to the garrison, leaving the cavalry to proceed with him. These, 33 on their arrival at Cæsarea, delivered the dispatch to the governor, and also presented Paul to him.

Then having read it, he asked to 34 what province he belonged; and learning that he came from Cilicia, he remarked, "I will hear your case as 35

soon as your prosecutors make their appearance." He also ordered him to be entertained in the palace of Herod.

#### Before Felix.

24 Five days later, the High Priest Ananias came down together with some senators, and one Tertullus, a barrister, and appeared before the 2 governor against Paul. And on his being summoned, Tertullus opened for the prosecution, saying:

"Seeing that under you we enjoy much tranquillity, and that, through your foresight, this nation prospers 3 always and everywhere, we accept it, most noble Felix, with hearty thank- 4 fulness. Without troubling you with further preface, however, I beg you to listen to us briefly with your 5 usual kindness; because we have found this fellow a perfect pest, an organizer of insurrection among the whole of the Jews throughout the 6 empire, as well as a ringleader of the heresy of the Nazarenes: who, moreover, actually attempted to pro- 7 fane the temple. So we apprehended him; and we wished to try him ac- 8 cording to our own law: but the General Lysias intervening with great violence, took him out of our hands, 8 ordering his prosecutors to appear before you. Now, therefore, you will be able, by personally examining, to ascertain about all those things of 9 which we accuse him." The Jews also corroborated the charges, affirming their accuracy.

#### Paul's First Defence.

10 On the Governor then motioning him to speak, Paul said:

"Knowing, as I do, that you have been a judge of this nation for many years, I answer all the more confi- 11 dently for myself the charges which have been brought against me. It can be proved to you, that not more than twelve days have elapsed since I 12 went up to Jerusalem to worship; and neither in the temple did they find me courting discussion with any one, nor creating a disturbance, either in the 13 synagogues, or in the city. Neither are they able to prove to you what 14 they now charge against me. But I do admit this to you, that according to the Way, which they term a heresy, I worship the God of my fathers; believing in everything written in the 15 law and in the prophets; having this hope in God, which they them-

selves also expect, that there will be a resurrection both of the just and unjust. On this account I especially 16 exert myself to have at all times a clear conscience toward God and man in everything. Now, after many 17 years, I came bringing presents to the poor of my nation, as well as sacrifices; doing which there found me 18 certain Asiatic Judeans, while I purified myself in the temple—not with a crowd, nor with commotion. Those 19 ought to have been here to prosecute me before you—if indeed they had anything against me. Or let these 20 now present declare what fault they found in me when brought up before the senate; unless it be this one 21 exclamation, which, standing in their midst, I cried out, 'It is concerning the resurrection from the dead that I am accused this day before you.'"

Felix, knowing quite well about the 22 doctrine, then adjourned the hearing, saying: "When General Lysias comes down, I will decide your case." He 23 also directed the captain who attended to Paul, to allow him out on parole, and to prevent none of his friends from visiting him.

#### Paul's Interview with Felix and his Wife.

But after some days, Felix, at the 24 request of his wife, Drusilla, who was a Jewess, sent for Paul, and listened to him concerning the faith in Christ Jesus. But when he discoursed about 25 justice, self-control, and of the future Judgment, Felix, becoming terrified, interrupted with: "Go away for the present; and when I have an opportunity I will send for you again."

He hoped as well that Paul would 26 give him money; for which reason he also sent for him the more frequently to converse with him. After the lapse 27 of two years, however, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus; and Felix, desiring to ingratiate himself with the Jews, left Paul a prisoner.

#### Paul before Festus.

##### He appeals to Cæsar.

Festus therefore having entered into 28 the government of the province, three days afterwards went up to Jerusalem from Cæsarea, when the chief priests 2 and Jewish senators appeared before him against Paul; and appealed to him, asking as a favour, that he would 3 send him back to Jerusalem—them-

- 4 selves plotting to murder him on the road. Festus, however, told them in reply, that Paul should be detained at Cæsarea; and that he was himself about to return there at an early date.
- 5 He also added, "Let those therefore who are in authority among you go down with me; and if there is anything against this man, they can then indict him."
- 6 When he had stayed among them not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Cæsarea; and taking his seat upon the bench on the following day, he ordered Paul to be brought. But when he was produced, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing forward numerous as well as serious charges, which they were unable to prove. While Paul, in his defence, said, "Neither against the Jewish law, nor against the temple, nor against the Emperor, have I offended in any way."
- 9 Festus, however, anxious to ingratiate himself with the Jews, in answer, asked Paul, "Do you desire to go up to Jerusalem, there to be tried in respect of these matters before me?"
- 10 But Paul replied, "I am standing before the tribunal of the Emperor, where I ought to be tried. I have never injured Judeans, as also you have clearly ascertained. If, however, I have injured, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not fear to die. But if there is nothing in what they charge me with, no man is able to dispose of me to gratify them. I appeal to the Emperor."
- 12 Then Festus, having conferred with his council, answered, "You have appealed to the Emperor; you shall go to the Emperor."

#### Festus and Agrippa.

- 13 When several days had intervened, King Agrippa and Bernicē arrived at Cæsarea, to congratulate Festus.
- 14 And as they remained there for some time, Festus submitted the case of Paul to the king, remarking, "There is a man here who was left a prisoner by Felix, respecting whom, on my arrival in Jerusalem, the chief priests and Judean senators asked for sentence to be pronounced against him.
- 16 I told them in reply that it was not a custom with the Romans to surrender any man, before the accused had his prosecutors face to face, and an

opportunity afforded him of defending the charge brought against him. When therefore they were assembled here, I took my seat upon the bench without delay on the following day, and ordered the man to be produced. Against him, however, when the prosecutors appeared, they brought forward no criminal charge whatever, such as I had expected; but merely some disputes in reference to their own superstition, and about one Jesus, a dead person, whom Paul asserted to be alive. And being myself at a loss how to deal with such questions, I asked if he desired to go to Jerusalem, there to take his trial in regard to them. Paul himself appealing, however, for his case to be deferred for the decision of His Majesty, I accordingly ordered him to be detained until I could send him to the Emperor."

"I should myself also like to hear this man," remarked Agrippa to Festus.

"To-morrow, then, you shall hear him," was his reply.

So on the following day, Agrippa came, and Bernicē, with stately pomp. And entering the audience-chamber with the Generals and the principal men of the city, Paul, at the command of Festus, was also brought in.

Festus then said: "King Agrippa, and all other men now present with us, you see this man, about whom the whole mass of the Judeans both at Jerusalem and here have distracted me, roaring that he ought to live no longer. I found, however, that he had committed nothing deserving of death; and as he himself appealed to the Emperor, I decided to send him. But concerning him I have nothing of a definite character to write to my master. I have consequently brought him out before you all—and especially before you, King Agrippa—so that after full examination, I may have something to write for it seems to me absurd, when sending a prisoner, not to notify at the same time the nature of the charges against him."

#### Paul's Defence before Agrippa

Agrippa then said to Paul: "Permission is granted you to speak for yourself."

Paul, therefore, extending his hand, made his defence as follows:

2 "About everything in respect of which I am accused by the Judeans, King Agrippa, I consider myself happy in being able to defend myself  
3 before you to-day; especially so, as you are fully conversant with all the customs as well as the disputes of the Judeans. I consequently beg you to listen to me patiently.  
4 "My mode of life from my youth from my first coming into my nation at Jerusalem, all Judeans know; who knew me from the above time, if they would give evidence, that, according to the very strictest sect of our religion, I lived a Pharisee. And now, for that Hope, which came from God a promise to our fathers, I stand  
7 trial; for which our twelve tribes constantly pray both night and day in confident expectation to secure— for that Hope, King, I am accused as a criminal by the Judeans!  
8 "What! would it seem incredible to you if God should raise the dead?  
9 I indeed persuaded myself that I ought to do much in opposition to  
10 the report about Jesus of Nazareth: which I did in Jerusalem, where I shut up in prison many of the holy, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were being condemned to death, I voted against  
11 them. And throughout all the synagogues, I frequently forced them, by torturing, to blaspheme; and furiously mad against them, I persecuted them  
12 also in distant cities. For which purpose, proceeding to Damascus, holding an office and a commission equal to  
13 that of the chief priests, at mid-day upon the road, King, I saw a light from heaven, eclipsing the splendour of the sun, shining around me and  
14 those travelling with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me in the Hebrew dialect, 'Saul! Saul! why do you persecute Me? It is hard for you to kick against the pricks.'  
15 "'Who are you, Sir?' I asked.  
16 "But the Lord replied, 'I am Jesus Whom you persecute. Rise up, however, and stand upon your feet; for I have appeared to you to appoint you to be a minister and witness, both of what you learnt from Me, and also of  
17 what I will reveal to you. Having educated you among My people, as well as among the heathen, to whom  
18 I send you, to open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light, and

from the power of Satan to that of God; so that they may receive release from sins, and a participation with the purified by faith in Me.

"After that, King Agrippa, I was 19 not apathetic to the heavenly vision; but first to those in Damascus, and 20 then in Jerusalem, as well as throughout the whole district of Judea, and also among the heathen, I have announced a change of mind and return to God, leading a life of noble works, since that change. On account 21 of these, some Judeans, seizing me in the temple, attempted to overpower me. However, having obtained pro- 22 tection—even the protection from God—until this day I have stood bearing witness to both small and great; asserting nothing but what the prophets, as well as Moses, declared should come to pass—that the 23 Suffering Messiah should, in the first place, by means of a resurrection from among the dead, proclaim light both to the people and to the heathen."

As he was thus proceeding with his 24 defence, Festus exclaimed with a loud voice, "Paul! you are mad! your great learning has turned to madness!"

But Paul replied, "I am not mad, 25 most noble Festus. On the contrary, I am uttering thoughts of truth and sanity: for the king understands about 26 them, before whom also I speak with perfect frankness; because I am certain that none of these matters have escaped him: for this event was not done in a corner. King Agrippa! 27 do you believe the prophets? I know you believe that \* \* \*!"

Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You 28 almost persuade me to be made a Christian."

But Paul replied, "I wish to God 29 that not only almost, but altogether—not only you, but all who listen to me to-day—might become in every respect such as I am, except these bonds \* \* \*!"

Then the king arose, as well as the 30 Governor, and Bernicē, and the others sitting with them; and withdrawing, 31 they discussed the case among themselves, remarking, "This man has done nothing deserving of death, nor even imprisonment."

Agrippa also said to Festus, "This 32 man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed to the Emperor."



### The Voyage to Rome.

- 27 Then, as it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they delivered Paul, as well as some other prisoners, to a Captain named Julius, of the Augustan regiment. And embarking in an Adramyttium vessel, which was about to sail to some ports along the coast of Asia-Minor, we weighed anchor, taking with us Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica. We accordingly arrived at Sidon upon the following day, when Julius, treating Paul with much consideration, granted him permission to visit his friends to enjoy their attentions.
- 4 Proceeding then from there, we sailed, on account of the adverse winds, under the lee of Cyprus. And steering across the open sea towards Cilicia and Pamphylia, we arrived at Myra of Lycia, where the Captain found an Alexandrian vessel sailing for Italy; and to her he transferred us. For several days, however, we made but little progress, and with difficulty fetching Cnidus, the wind not favouring us, we tacked under the lee of Crete, towards Salmone; and, coasting along it with difficulty, we came to a port called the Fair Havens, near which was the town of Lasea.
- 9 After considerable delay there, and the voyage having become dangerous, Paul, owing to the fact that the time of the festival was already past, said to them, "Men, I perceive that the voyage is likely to be attended with disaster, and considerable loss, not only of the cargo of the vessel, but also to our lives."
- 11 The Captain, however, paid more attention to the pilot and the commander of the ship than he did to what was said by Paul. As, moreover, the harbour was not commodious enough for wintering purposes, the officers, having held a consultation, decided to sail from there; so that, for wintering, they might attempt at all hazards to reach Phenicē, a harbour of Crete, facing towards the north-west of Libia.

### The Storm and Shipwreck.

- 13 Under the impression, then, that they could accomplish their object, as the south wind was blowing gently, they coasted Crete, hugging the shore. Not long after, however, they were overtaken by a typhoon

wind, called "Euroclydon," the north-east breaker. The vessel being thus caught, and unable to face the wind, we gave way, and scudded. Running then under the shelter of an island called Clauda, we were able to secure the boat with some difficulty; and when they had hoisted it, they proceeded to strengthen the ship by vam-braces. Afraid, also, that they would be caught in the Syrtis,<sup>1</sup> lowering the top-masts, they thus drifted along. And battling as they were with the storm, they began on the following day to throw the cargo overboard; and on the third day, with their own hands, they threw out the furniture from the ship. Then when neither sun nor stars were to be seen for several days, and the storm still raged around with fury, we abandoned all hope of being saved. Being also upon the verge of starvation, Paul, taking his stand among them, said:

"You ought, men, to have been persuaded by me, and not to have sailed from Crete, to incur this damage and misery. Still, on the other hand, I even now advise you to take courage; for there will be no loss of life among you, but merely of the ship; because an angel from that God, Whose I am, and Whom I serve, this very night stood beside me, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul! It is necessary for you to appear before the Emperor; yes, and God has presented to you all those who sail with you.' Therefore, mates, cheer up! because I believe God, that the result will be just as He has told me. It is necessary for us, however, to be wrecked upon some island."

About midnight of the fourteenth night, during which we had been tossed about in the Adria, the sailors imagined that they were approaching land of some kind; and sounding, they found a depth of twenty fathoms. And sounding again a little later, they found fifteen fathoms. Afraid, then, that we should be stranded upon rocks, they cast four anchors from the stern, and longed for day-break. Then, as the sailors were intending to forsake the ship, and were in the act of lowering the boat into the sea, under the pretence of carrying anchors from the prow, Paul said to the Captain and to the soldiers, "Unless

<sup>1</sup> A dangerous range of quicksands off Tripoli, in North Africa.—F. F.

these remain in the ship, you cannot be saved."

- 32 The soldiers accordingly cut the ropes of the boat, allowing her to drift  
 33 off. Then, until the day should come, Paul invited all of them to take some food, remarking, "This is to-day the fourteenth day you have been in anxiety without regular rations, none  
 34 having been served out. I invite you, therefore, to serve out food; because that will contribute to your safety: for not a single hair shall perish from one of your heads."  
 35 Having said this, and taking a biscuit, he gave thanks to God in the presence of all, and breaking it, he  
 36 began to eat. Their courage then reviving, they also provided a meal for themselves. And we were, all told,  
 37 two hundred and seventy-six lives in the ship. Being then satisfied with the meal, they proceeded to lighten the ship by throwing the wheat overboard.  
 38 When the day dawned, however, they could not distinguish the land; but observing a bay with a sandy shore, they consulted whether it would be possible to beach the vessel upon  
 40 it. So letting the anchors go in the sea, loosening at the same time the lashings of the rudders, and hoisting the foresail to the breeze, they made  
 41 for the shore. But, whirling into the breakers, the ship grounded; and the stem having bilged, stuck fast, while the stern was washed over by the breakers.  
 42 The soldiers then resolved to kill the prisoners, being afraid that they  
 43 would escape by swimming. But the Captain, anxious to save Paul, prohibited their intention, and gave orders that those who were able to swim should first throw themselves over-  
 44 board to reach the shore; and that the rest should follow, some on planks, and some on fragments from the ship. And thus all escaped safely to the land.

#### In Malta.

- 28 Having then escaped, we learned that the island was named Melita.  
 2 And the foreigners treated us with no ordinary kindness; for, lighting a fire, they attended to all of us in difficulty through the drenching rain, and the  
 3 cold. Paul then collected a bundle of sticks, and having heaped them upon the fire, a viper escaping from the heat, caught hold of his hand.  
 4 The foreigners then seeing the reptile

hanging from his hand, remarked to one another, "There is no doubt that this man is a murderer; who, although he has escaped the sea, still Justice will not allow him to live!"

Shaking off the reptile into the fire, 5 however, he took no harm. And ex- 6 pecting that he would swell up, or suddenly drop down dead, they waited in suspense for a considerable time; but observing nothing unusual happen to him, they then changed their minds, and declared him to be a god.

Now in the neighbourhood of that 7 spot was situated the estate of the chief of the island, a man named Publius, who welcomed us, and entertained us for three days with great kindness. And it so happened that 8 the father of Publius was lying prostrated with an attack of fever and dysentery. Paul accordingly went in to him, and praying, placed his hands upon him, and cured him. But when 9 this was done, the others in the island who were afflicted with diseases also came and were cured. They also hon- 10oured us in many ways; and on our departure, they provided for us on board everything that we needed.

#### Arrival at Rome.

Three months having elapsed, we 11 then embarked in an Alexandrian vessel, which had wintered in the island, the name of which was the Twin Brothers. Landing then at 12 Syracuse, we remained there for three days; but sailing round from there in 13 a contrary wind, we arrived at Rhegium. Lying there for one day, a southern wind sprang up; so sailing on the second day, we arrived at Puteoli. Here we found brethren, 14 who prevailed upon us to stay with them for seven days. We then proceeded to Rome. There, too, the 15 brethren, having heard about us, came out to meet us as far as the Market of Appius, and the Three Taverns; and Paul, having seen them, thanked God, and took heart.

But when we arrived in Rome, the 16 Captain delivered the prisoners to the Commander-in-chief; but Paul was permitted to live by himself, with the soldier attending him, outside the garrison.

#### An Interview with the Judeans.

Three days afterwards, he invited 17 the principal men among the Judeans;

and when they had assembled, he said to them :

“Men, brothers, although I have done nothing in opposition to the people, or to the customs of our forefathers, I have nevertheless been committed as a prisoner from Jerusalem to the hands of the Romans; who, after examination, desired to discharge me, because they found me guilty of no capital crime. But when the Judeans opposed it, I was obliged to appeal to the Emperor; not, however, because I had any charge to bring against my nation. This therefore is the reason why I have invited you to see me and converse together; because it is for the sake of the Hope of Israel that I am branded with this chain.”

21 “We neither received from Judea letters concerning you,” they answered him, “nor have any of the brethren arriving reported or spoken anything bad about you. But we would like to hear from yourself what you really think; for, respecting this sect, we well know that it is everywhere condemned.”

23 Having accordingly appointed a day with him, a good many of them visited him at his lodgings; to whom he explained the evidence of the Kingdom of God, and persuaded them about Jesus, both from the law of Moses and the prophets, from morning until evening. And some, indeed, were persuaded by his reasoning, and they believed; but others not in accord with one another went away; Paul uttering one remark :

“That the Holy Spirit certainly spoke well to your forefathers through Isaiah the prophet, saying :

GO YOU TO THIS PEOPLE, AND SAY :  
HEARING, YOU SHALL LISTEN, AND  
SHALL NEVER UNDERSTAND ;  
AND SEEING, YOU SHALL SEE, AND  
NEVER PERCEIVE :

FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE 27  
HAS BECOME CORRUPT ;

THE HEARING OF THEIR EARS HAS  
BECOME DULL ;

WHILE THEY HAVE SHUT THEIR  
EYES :

LEST THEY SHOULD PERCEIVE  
WITH THEIR EYES,

HEAR WITH THEIR EARS,  
UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART,

AND SHOULD TURN BACK,  
AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.<sup>1</sup>

“Let it therefore be known to you 28  
that this salvation from God has been  
sent to the heathen; and they will 29  
hear it.”<sup>2</sup>

For two whole years afterwards he 30  
remained in his own hired residence,  
welcoming all who went to him, pro-  
claiming the Kingdom of God, and  
teaching concerning the Lord Jesus  
Christ with unlimited freedom. \* \* \* \*

<sup>1</sup> Isa. vi. 9, 10.

<sup>2</sup> All the most ancient MSS. omit verse 29.

<sup>3</sup> NOTE.—This eloquent history of a part of St. Paul's life, written by his cousin and Physician, St. Luke, under his own supervision, was left unfinished, probably by his execution and martyrdom. By this we have lost the record of his Évangélization of Western Europe,—which would have been the most interesting part to us.—F. F.