

and only condescend to notice them when they can vote at an election where they are candidates for office, and in the eyes of the Roman official the Nazarene or Ebionite was still more repulsive than even that of the Jew. Hence, it seems that this jailor, on learning of the charges preferred against his new tenants, and doubtlessly understanding that they were trying to propagate the faith of the crucified Nazarene who had suffered under Pontius Pilate, treated them with more than his wonted cruelty. But he had noticed that though wounded by the cruel lash of the lictors, with their garments saturated in their own blood, and breathing the foul atmosphere of the inner prison, and placed in the most uncomfortable position, that yet they prayed for their enemies, and sang hymns of joy, amid the most cheerless surroundings, to that Supreme Being, whose spirit was everywhere. Some of the feelings of his better nature must then have been aroused, and he began to doubt if such men, and the religion which they professed and taught, was not better than he had previously known. With such thought passing through his mind, and the voices of the Disciples of Jesus echoing in his ears, he fell into that slumber from which the earthquake awoke him. Thus a series of events rapidly prepared his mind to receive, and accept, the seeds of truth, which the heralds of the Gospel were anxious to impart, but we are not to imagine that the conversion of the Jailor, and his subsequent immersion took place in the rapid

manner that a careless reading of the narrative seems to imply. All true conversions are the results of time, and instruction, and the case before us is no exception to this infallible rule, but some minds are capable of perceiving and accepting vital truths, much sooner than others, and here the sacred historian only gives us the text of the disciple's discourse to the jailor and his family, with a rapid glance at the events that followed. And when it is recorded that in reply to the anxious inquiry of the jailor, the missionaries directed his attention to the Lord Jesus, it is also added, "And they speak the word of the Lord unto him, with all that were in his house," it is evident that a general outline of the gospel of the Kingdom, and the name, nature and mission of Jesus of Nazareth, was imparted to the jailor, and fully understood by him before he could be a fit and proper candidate for immersion, and before that important ordinance in the way of salvation was administered to him by the followers of Jesus. In order, then, to give him the necessary instruction, Paul must have referred him back to the writings of Moses and the Prophets, copies of which he doubtless had with him, and having, from these scriptures shown him what the good news regarding the Kingdom of God was, and their predictions relating to the coming Messiah, who he was to be, and what he was to do, he would proceed to show, doubtless from Matthew's Hebrew Gospel, and his own personal knowledge of the facts that the Jesus of Nazareth crucified at Jeru-