

crime on the Roman Catholics, so now they charged it on the inoffensive Christians. Those who knew best had their dark suspicions of the half insane emperor, Nero, and he, for his own sake, was only too glad to encourage the slander against the Christian community. So the year after Paul's trial a Christian was about as safe in Rome as a mad dog. A fierce persecution arose. They were tortured and crucified. That devilish emperor covered living men and women with tar and burned them as torches to illuminate the gardens. The Roman historian Tacitus tells us that a great number of Christians perished.

However, that was a year ahead, and meantime Paul was far away from Rome closing up his life work. Now, more than ever, we miss that lost notebook of St. Luke. For, surely it had an interesting story of the old man's last years. Outside his own letters we have only vague tradition to guide us. But, fortunately for us, his three last letters remain, the Pastoral Epistles, as they are called, to Timothy and Titus. No one can read them without seeing that they belong to this period.

Beyond the hints in these letters we cannot trace his movements. We may fairly suppose that he followed his intention expressed in his recent letter to Philemon, that he visited Colossæ and stayed with Philemon and met young Onesimus again, that he made a great final visitation of the churches which he had founded and confirmed their organization for the years when he should be gone. There is some evidence that he sailed by the Marseilles shipping line and founded Christian churches as far west as Spain. But we know very little about these closing years of his