

sap. It is as if the ocean had said it had no room for the tide. It is as if the man said he had no room for his soul. It is as if life said that it had no room to live. Life is the thing we seek, and man finds it in the fulfilment of his life by Jesus Christ.—Phillips Brooks.

Thus oft it haps that when within  
Men shrink at sense of secret sin,  
A feather daunts the brave;  
A fool's wild speech confounds the wise,  
And greatest princes veil their eyes  
Before the meanest slave.

—Sir Walter Scott

The Roman historian Tacitus says of Felix, "Relying on the influence of his brother at court, the infamous Pallas, this man acted as if he had a licence to commit every crime with impunity."

Procrastination is the thief of time.  
Year after year it steals till all are fled,  
And to the mercies of a moment leaves  
The vast concerns of an eternal scene.

Young's, *Night Thoughts*

It seems a pity, that whilst our judges have risen altogether above suspicion in the matter of bribery, under our constitutional government many of our politicians and sup-

porters and a considerable number of electors have not risen above the morality of Felix; indeed some seem to have fallen considerably beneath it.—Professor James Ross.

### Light from the East

MONEY—Bribery flourishes under all despotisms, because there, through the favor of the monarch, individuals are intrusted with very great powers, which they wish to use, as long as they have them, for their own profit. And the desire for bribes seems to be interwoven with the very fibre of an Oriental's nature. It was quite common in ancient Israel, and is still more common among the Turkish officials of to-day. It is impossible to get any service from these without a gift. The practice was deeply rooted among the officials of Rome and among the candidates for office, although many stringent laws were enacted against it. Felix, who appears to worse advantage in secular history than even in the sacred narrative, is a good example. Originally a slave, he was finally appointed to the lucrative procuratorship of Judæa through the influence of favorites of the Emperor, and was constantly on the outlook to use his position, its judicial functions included, for his own profit.

### TEACHING HINTS AND HELPS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the school.

#### For Bible Class Teachers

##### AN ANALYSIS

This is the third occasion on which, within a few days, Paul defended himself and the doctrines of Christianity. First, before the mob in Jerusalem (ch. 22 : 1-23), then before the Sanhedrim (ch. 23 : 1-10), and now before Felix, the Roman governor.

The indictment of the high priest and elders against Paul was presented by Tertullus, a professional orator and advocate, who skillfully flattered Felix by emphasizing his "very worthy deeds," v. 2. It was true that Felix did rid the country of many murderous robbers, but equally true that he was guilty of the grossest vices. In Paul's defence four salient points demand attention :

1. *His personal reference to Felix as governor and judge.* (a) It contained no flattery, and contrasted strongly in this respect with the speech of his accuser. (b) It expressed a feeling of satisfaction in view of the fact that Felix had been many years a judge of the nation, and was, therefore, conversant with the customs of the Jews. (c) It set forth the prisoner's absolute confidence in the justice of his cause. He was not a man to court favor, or compromise truth for the sake of escaping peril and death. "If I be an offender," he said before Festus, "or have committed anything worthy of death, I refuse not to die," ch. 25 : 11. So now, all he asks is justice. "There is scarcely a more striking contrast in the records of oratory than that between the fulsome harangue of the hired advocate Tertullus and the manly simplicity of Paul's defence."