

taking to effect my conversion!" With noble dignity Paul meets this sally, turning it so as to have the last word, and that one of singular weight and pathos.—Century Bible.

Faith and Hope—of these the apostle had spoken, and his closing words reveal a Love which sought not its own, was not easily provoked, and took no account of evil.—Knowing.—Stiffer.

Paul's closing words in the presence of Agrippa and Festus show his estimate of things. Instead of their crowns and robes and offices, he wishes they had his standing with God, humble though it seemed. Instead of their pleasures and joys, he wishes they had his. Instead of their showy, worldly life, with its transitory honor, he wishes they had his lowly life, the chains excepted.—Stiffer.

Paul had long desired to see Rome; now the whole Roman power was at his service to conduct him thither. The Roman authorities would find a ship, defray the cost, and see that the way was clear. With Festus it now lay to arrange those details. One thing, however, troubled him in connection with the case. In his official report, accompanying the prisoner, he must state the crime of which he was accused, and Festus knew of none.—Robertson.

Light from the East

AGRIPPA II.—Was the son of Herod Agrippa I. He was educated at Rome at a time when its court life touched the lowest depths of immorality. He was only seventeen in A.D. 44 when his father died, and the emperor was persuaded not to grant him the succession to his father's kingdom. Later he was appointed to succeed his uncle Herod as tetrarch of Chalcis, a position which carried with it the superintendency of the temple and the sacred treasury, and the right of nominating the high priest. This right he abused capriciously, rarely taking the fitness of the person appointed into consideration, and consequently he lived in constant strife with the priests. He raised a tower on the Herodian palace, from which he could look into the temple courts. Subsequently he received the tetrarchy of Philip, and to this Nero added considerable tracts of Galilee and Perea. Like all the Herods, he was an enthusiastic builder, and led a lordly life devoid of care. After in vain endeavoring to dissuade the Jews from revolting, he sided with the Romans all through the final struggle and downfall of his people. He was a scoffing man of the world, destitute of all interest in religion, and of his morals the very worst was believed, and with only too good reason, by his contemporaries.

TEACHING HINTS AND HELPS

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

For Bible Class Teachers

AN ANALYSIS

In verses 16-18 Paul recites the special and great commission he had received from Jesus on the way to Damascus. He then declares:

1. *The promptness with which he entered upon his mission.* The call was so manifestly from his Saviour, and so completely penetrated his heart, that he could not hesitate or delay a moment as to the path of duty, ch. 9: 6; Gal. 1: 16. All doubt was removed. The evidence was irresistible. He must act at once. "Wherefore, I was not disobedient" (Rev. Ver.). Happy are they who are thus fully

persuaded, who see no cause for halting between two opinions. They are the strong workers in the church.

2. *The outline of his past labors, v. 20.* (a) As missionary to the Jews he preached in very many of their synagogues, for example, at Damascus immediately after his conversion, ch. 9: 20, 24, 27; in Jerusalem, ch. 9: 26-29; and, after his second visit to Jerusalem with alms (ch. 11: 30), he passed "throughout all the coasts of Judæa." (b) As foreign missionary to the Gentiles, to which office he was appointed by the "prophets and teachers" at Antioch, ch. 13: 1-3, he uniformly offered the gospel first to the Jews, chs. 14: 1; 18: 4. He vehemently desired the salvation of his countrymen, Rom. 10: 1.