

times. The French steamers, for instance, stop at Jaffa, Beirouth (Beirut) and Cyprus every two weeks. Nearly the same do the Austrian and Russian steamers, and other steamers irregularly. The native ships have much business along the coast, where no steamers stop, and for some kinds of goods which the steamers do not handle. Traffic among the native sailing ships is very important. The sailors in them are very skillful and experienced. Some ships which do not hold more than four thousand bushels very often traverse from one end of the Mediterranean to the other, summer and winter. They take wheat, oil, fruits, silk-cocoons and wool from Syria to Naples, Marseilles, Odessa and Trieste. They bring back many manufactured articles from all these ports. The sailors in these ships do not study navigation in schools; they have no maps, they have no instruments to measure the distance, and very few captains possess a compass. They know the route and the way to go by their own experience. They trust their memories and their minuteness of observation to which they have trained themselves. They know the direction during the day from the sun, and by the moon and stars they know it at night. Sometimes these are obscured under clouds;

then they depend upon their own intelligence and experience. Sometimes they make the voyage successfully for long periods of time; and sometimes they experience great hardships and misfortune in storms, as was the case with the ship on which Paul was. In winter the wind sometimes tears the sails and breaks the mast, and leaves the ship helpless. Very often the gale is so severe that it carries the ship out of its course in spite of all the efforts of captain and crew. Frequently these terrible conditions end in the ship being wrecked on a rock or an island. The natives say of the Mediterranean that "the wind quarrels with the water, and the ships pay the penalty." In winter storms are frequent on this sea; but in summer it is very quiet most of the time. The portions surrounding the lower part of the Italian peninsula are the roughest and most troublous of any. I remember that during my travels in that place, three times in my life, which were all in summer, I found that it was stormy and the sea was rough, although in other portions of the Mediterranean through which I sailed a few hours previous, the water was smooth and calm. And many of my friends and acquaintances complained about the roughness of the sea at this point.—*S. S. World.*

### QUESTIONS FOR STUDY.

Under whose care did Paul sail to Italy? What former companion in suffering sailed in the same ship? (ch. 19: 29; 20: 4; Col. 4: 10; Phil. 24) What kindness did the centurion show to Paul? At what port did they change ship? Trace their route on the map? Where did the captain wish to lay up for the winter? Read description of a storm in Ps. 107: 25-27.

13-16. From what port did they sail? Why did they keep near in shore? From what direction did the gale burst upon them? What is such a wind called now? Under the shelter of what island did they run?

17. What difficulty did they have with the small boat? How did they strengthen the ship? What danger did they fear? How did they prepare to weather the storm?

18. How did they lighten the ship? What does this sacrifice of cargo to save life suggest regarding something of more value than life? (Matt. 16: 26; Luke 16: 8) How did Paul value earthly honors and possessions? (Phil.

3: 7, 8) What lesson may we learn from this verse regarding our treatment of hinderances in serving Christ? (Heb. 12: 1)

19. What further sacrifice did they make? What other ship in the same waters was lightened in a similar way? (Jonah 1: 5) What is said of the value one sets upon his own life? (Job 2: 4) What does Christ say is worth more than life? (Mark 8: 35; Luke 9: 24, 25)

20. How did the absence of sun and stars increase their peril?

21. Why did Paul remind them of his previous advice?

22. What good news did Paul tell them?

23. From whom did he receive the news? On what previous occasions had Paul received special revelations? (ch. 9: 4; 22: 17-21; 16: 9; 18: 9-16; 23: 11) Is there any promise of special spiritual knowledge to those who fear God? (Ps. 25: 14; Prov. 3: 32; Amor. 3: 7; John 7: 17; Eph. 1: 9, 18)

24. Why could not Paul's life be lost on