

## *LESSON L.*

### THE LAST IMPRISONMENT OF ST. PAUL.

#### **The Changed Attitude of Rome.**

We trace St. Paul's footsteps from Ephesus, where Alexander, the coppersmith, did him much evil, to Miletus where Trophimus is left sick, and from Corinth where Erastus remains, to Troas where he lodges in the house of Carpus (2 Tim. iv. 13-14). Here the trace ceases, for it was probably either at Troas or at Nicopolis that he was arrested and given over as a leader of a sect which was suddenly thought to be threatening Rome and must be stamped out at all costs. This sudden change of attitude upon the part of Rome was due to general consternation at the result of the fire which, though now held to have been the work of Nero himself, at the time, owing to his insinuations, was charged upon the Christians; and it is generally thought that Paul, as a leading Christian, was brought to Rome to answer for the part he might have taken in instigating the work of destruction. This last journey to Rome is one of the most pathetic episodes, either in sacred or secular history. Paul was apparently arrested whilst travelling with Timothy and forcibly parted from him, leaving him in an agony of grief (2 Tim. i. 4), for Timothy knew only too well that he was being parted from him for ever.

#### **The Second Epistle to Timothy.**

It is strange to stand within the walls of the Mamertine prison and to think that the man who strove, at greater