

to Cnidus, and thence along the coast of Crete to Fair Havens, probably the seaport of Lasea. Here it became a question whether they ought to remain for the winter or seek some other port. Paul advised them to remain, but the ship-owner decided to make for Phenice, a harbor about forty miles farther to the west. This they accordingly did, taking advantage of a favorable wind, with every prospect of speedily reaching the desired harbor. V. 14. *Not long after*—after they had set sail. *It*—the ship. *Tempestuous wind*—a violent whirling wind, a typhoon, now known to seamen by the name of a Levanter. *Euroclydon*—compounded of *Eurus*, the south-east wind, and *Clydon*, a wave—that is, a wave-making south-easter. V. 15. *Caught*—seized by the wind. *Bear up*—literally, look at the wind. An eye was usually painted in the bow of an ancient ship. *Let her drive*—literally, giving up; we were driven. V. 16. *Clauda*—a small island about twenty-five miles south of Phenice, now Gozzo. *To come by the boat*—to hoist it on board. V. 17. *Used helps*—took measures to strengthen the ship. *Undergirding*—passing strong cables around the hull. *Quicksands*—probably the Syrte-Major, on the coast of Africa, much dreaded by ancient mariners. *Strake sail*—rather, lowered the gear. The fair-weather sails and spars were taken down, and a storm-sail was set. *Were driven*—drifted before the storm. V. 18. *Lightened*—by throwing overboard part of the cargo. V. 19. *Tackling*—the heavy rigging, such as the main yard, ropes and spars. V. 20. *Neither sun nor stars*—the only guides of ancient mariners. V. 21. *Abstinence*—from the incessant labor, peril, and mental anxiety to which they were exposed. *Have hearkened*—he reminds them of the correctness of his former advice, not in reproach, but to induce them now to listen. V. 23. *The angel*—an angel. *Am...serve*—to whom and whose cause I am entirely devoted. V. 24. *Fear not*—be not alarmed. See Acts 18:9. *Brought before Caesar*—stand in the presence of, implying, of course, escape from the present danger. *Given thee all them*—two hundred and seventy-six souls saved for the sake of one man—a strong proof of God's approbation of Paul. V. 25. *Wherefore*—because of this divine assurance. V. 26. *Certain island*—Malta. See Acts 28:1.

HOW DO WE HERE LEARN.—1. That peril and danger overtake all alike? 2. That danger and death should have no terrors for the Christian? 3. That the wicked are often preserved on account of God's people?

DEC. 2.]

[ACTS 27 : 33 44.]

## THE DELIVERANCE.

GOLDEN TEXT.—“*He bringeth them unto their desired haven.*”—Ps. 107 : 30.

The fourteenth night after they left Fair Havens, about midnight, the sailors, supposing they were nearing land, took soundings; and finding the depth of the water rapidly decreased, they concluded that they must be close upon the shore. Fearing they should be cast upon the rocks, they let go four anchors from the stern and waited for the day. After a while some of them lowered the boat, under pretence of laying out other anchors from the bow, but in reality to effect their escape. But Paul saw through their design, and declared unless they remained none could hope to be saved. Whereupon the soldiers cut the rope and let the boat off into the sea. V. 33. *Day was coming*—at daybreak. *Meat*—food. *Tarried*—waiting some lull of the storm. *Taken nothing*—no regular meal. V. 34. *Pray you*—exhort, entreat. *Not a hair fall*—a proverbial expression denoting that they would be preserved safe. 1 Kings 1:52; 1 Sam. 14:45. V. 35. *Gave thanks*—in the usual manner of a pious Jew. V. 36. *All of good cheer*—Paul's courage is imparted to the others. V. 37. *In all*—This includes all who were on board, Paul and the rest, whether crew or passengers. V. 38. *Cast out the wheat*—the remainder of the cargo. V. 39. *Knew not the land*—did not recognize it as one already known to them. *Discovered*—observed, perceived. *Creek with a shore*—a small inlet, cove or bay having a beach, and therefore suitable for landing. *Thrust in*—run it ashore. V. 40. *Taken up*—literally, having cut away the anchors they let them (the anchors) fall into the sea. *Mainsail*—more probably the foresail. *Made toward*—by steering; held their course. V. 41. *A place*—the northern shore of St. Paul's Bay, as it is still called. *Two seas met*—the tide running down from each side of the tongue of land (see v. 39) and meeting at this point. V. 42. *Counsel*—plan, purpose. *To kill*—it was a capital offence for a Roman guard to let a prisoner escape. V. 43. *To save Paul*—from kindness and regard for him. Thus, for his sake, the lives of all were saved, according to the promise given in v. 24. *Cast themselves first*—not to hinder or be hindered by those who could not swim. V. 44. *All safe*—thus the three parts of Paul's prediction were accomplished: 1. They were wrecked upon an island; 2. The ship was lost; 3. The lives of all were saved. v. 22. Thus the promise of faith was fulfilled.