

—Envy or jealousy was the same evil passion as inspired the enemies of Christ (Matt. 27. 28). "Lewd" originally meant "pertaining to the laity," then "wicked" without reference to any particular vice. This was its meaning when the Bible was translated. The Greek word for "the baser sort" means "loungeurs around the market place." We find their modern representatives about saloons and street corners, worthless characters ready for any mischief (I. Thess. 2: 14). Jason was the Greek form of Joseph. He was the host of Paul, and was probably a christian Jew and a relation of Paul (Rom. 16: 21).

6. And when they found them not they drew (R. V. dragged) Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also. They treated them roughly and violently. Their words were an exaggeration, but they show what an influence christianity had already gained.

7. Whom Jason hath received; and these all do contrary to the decrees of Cæsar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus. This was the old and hypocritical charge against Christ himself (Luke 23: 2). What truth was there in it? (John 18: 36, 37; 6: 15).

8. And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things. Pilate was affected in the same way (John 19: 12). They feared to do right lest there should be a riot and the Roman authorities call them to account for it.

9. And when they had taken security of Jason, and the others, they let them go. They bound them over to make no disturbance of the peace, probably by requiring them to deposit a sum of money which would be forfeited if there was any more rioting. They fined the wrong parties.

10. And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea; who, coming thither, went into the synagogue of the Jews. Berea was about 60 miles from Thessalonica. They did not wish their enemies to follow them.

11. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received

the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures (R. V. examining the Scriptures) daily, whether those things were so. "Noble" means, usually, well-born, but refers here to nobility of character. They were candid and truth-loving. They were not afraid of any doctrine because it was new; they were anxious only to find out whether it was in the Bible or not.

12. Therefore many of them believed; also of honorable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few (R. V. also of the Greek women of honorable estate. These were heathen ladies of high rank (Acts 13: 50).

## ORIENTALISMS.

*The chief women.* The gospel has been a great lever in freeing women and raising them to be the equal of man; yet before New Testament times woman did not always occupy the low state she now fills in the East among Muslims. In the Old Testament are many examples of women occupying important and honorable positions. In Philippi women were very free; and in S. Paul's Epistle to the Philippians, the only break in his expression of love and gratitude, is to entreat two women to be at one, probably two ladies trying for chief place. Among the Babylonians and Assyrians women had very great liberty, and many rights. The wife was in a large measure the equal of her husband; she could hold and bequeath property; she could engage in business and testify in courts of law. The women of all classes had these rights in the eye of the law, but practically the women of the higher ranks were shut away from the world, much as in the East to-day. In the king's palace there was a special building at one corner, set apart for the harem. Among the many inscriptions in the British Museum are some interesting business documents showing the place of women. One, of the date 2015 B. C., records the loan of four measures of corn; another, 542 B. C., records how a daughter-in-law had sheltered a slave whom her father-in-law had freed and was unable to support, and who is to be hers and to be bequeathed to her daughter. From 583 B. C. comes a rather interesting document. A man and his wife join in buying a house, and on their joint note, or security, borrowed money to pay for it. The husband seems to have died before every-