

In cheerful godliness; and yet thy heart
The lowest duties on itself did lay.

—Wordsworth on Milton

"Do not fret at the limitations and disabilities of your life. They constitute your opportunity. Storm and shipwreck, centurion and sea captain, soldier and fetter, Caesarea and Rome—all are part of the plan, all work together for good, all are achieving God's ideal, and making you what, in your best hours, you have asked to become."

"Roman Christians learned to go to Paul's room as to a shrine. Many a Christian teacher got his sword sharpened there."

At the beginning of the Acts, Luke recorded for us the "marching orders" given to the church on the day of the Ascension. . . . He has told how through persecution, suffering and death the followers of Jesus have won their conquests, and how they have left—like garrisons in a conquered territory—a countless array of little Christian churches, not only in Palestine, but scattered throughout Asia, Africa and Europe, to claim and hold the land for Christ. Now, in his last sentence, he shows us the standard raised and the garrison planted in the center of Imperial Rome—the apostle preaching the truth with all boldness, no man forbidding him. It is the victory of God's truth.

It is the triumph of the gospel of Christ. It is the fitting close of the Book of Acts.—Professor William Robertson.

Light from the East

APPEAL.—In the Roman provinces the supreme criminal jurisdiction was exercised by the governors, and to them the provincials were subject without appeal. But the Roman citizens in the province, although they were tried in the first instance, before the governor, were, under the Republic, protected from the abuse of his authority by the right which they had of stopping his proceedings against them by appealing to the tribunes, whose intervention at once transferred the cognizance of the cause to the courts at Rome. In Paul's time the emperor stood in the place of the tribunes, and constitutionally possessed the same right of intercession, as it was called, by which he could not only arrest the execution of the sentence of other magistrates, but could also hear causes over again, and reverse or alter the previous decisions at his pleasure. Thus the imperial tribunal became a supreme court of appeal for all inferior courts in Rome and in the provinces. All that the accused had to do was to pronounce the words, "I appeal," and it was allowed, except in some very exceptional cases.

TEACHING HINTS AND HELPS

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

For Bible Class Teachers

AN ANALYSIS

The danger and hardships of the apostle's journey to Rome were diminished as he approached the city. On arriving at Puteoli he found Christian brethren, with whom he remained seven days. Permission to do so must have been granted by the centurion, probably on account of his regard for Paul. From this seaport they would naturally proceed to Capua, about twelve miles, the nearest point on the Appian Way, along which they journeyed to Rome. The distance from Capua to Rome by this road was about one hundred and twenty miles.

At Appii Forum, a small town about forty

miles from Rome, and at the Three Taverns another obscure town ten miles nearer the Eternal City, Paul was warmly greeted by brethren who came to meet him. This greatly cheered his heart, and so "he thanked God and took courage," vs. 14, 15. We notice:

1. *His meeting with the chief of the Jews.* (a) Paul, along with the other prisoners, was delivered to the praetorian prefect; but he was allowed to dwell by himself and was free to receive all who came to him. He was, however, chained to a soldier, and likely to a different one in turn daily. Hence he speaks of his bonds in Christ being known in the pretorium, that is, the quarters of the praetorian guard, Phil. 1: 13 (Rev. Ver.). (b) After three days he called for, not the Christians, but the chief, that is,