

and Gentiles. At last they got him. Some informer laid a charge against him. "Alexander, the copper-smith, shewed against me much evil by his accusation,"<sup>1</sup> he writes before his death. Perhaps it was he. We do not know and it does not matter. He could not have escaped anyway. So they arrested him, perhaps at Nicopolis, where he meant to spend the winter, perhaps at Troas in the house of Carpus, where, in the hurry of departure, he left his old travelling cloak and his books and parchments, of which we shall hear again. It seems probable that to escape an unfair trial in the Provinces he again used his privilege of appealing to Cæsar. At any rate he was taken to Rome again to be tried.

## VII

It was a lonely journey to Rome this time—not like the last. One and another of his friends either had been sent on missions or else had deserted him in his trouble. Luke remained with him.

And when he got to Rome there was no group of friends to meet him as before. It was as much as their lives were worth to be seen with him now. Dear old Aquila and Priscilla had fled to Ephesus. Most of the others had escaped somewhere from Rome. Demas forsook him. The men of Asia Minor, when they came to Rome on business, no longer called to see him. "They have all turned away from me," he says. One brave friend from Ephesus stands out in fine contrast. We gather that he was dead when Paul wrote about him. "The Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, he was not ashamed of my chains but when he was in Rome he sought me diligently and found me. May the Lord grant him mercy in the Great Day."

<sup>1</sup> The Greek verb here expresses this thought.