

verted to Christianity. God Himself encouraged St. Paul to persevere. God promised him His Divine protection, and assured him that He had "much people in the city." At last the Jews, in a body, rose and seized St. Paul. They dragged him before Gallio, the Proconsul. Their accusation implied two charges. 1st. That by teaching that Jesus was Christ and God, St. Paul was violating the law of Moses, and introducing false worship. 2nd. That in and by doing this he was breaking the Roman law. The Roman law forbade the introduction of new objects of worship, without a special decree of the Senate. No doubt the Jews were much enraged with the Apostle for opening the door of the Church to the Gentiles. They put their charge very cunningly. They hoped that the Proconsul would take the matter up, and by summary death or imprisonment get rid of this, to them, hateful preacher of new doctrines. They were disappointed. The Proconsul was not disposed to go beyond his strict authority. The Roman power had as yet issued no proclamation against Christians. Persecutions were yet to come. The Romans, if they thought at all of the Christians, confused them with Jews. Gallio had no wish to mix himself up with these, as he thought, wordy squabbles between two di-