

which some echo must have reached us". Admitting all this, they would simply add that Luke, being not a trustworthy historian, incorrectly represents Paullus as having been converted. Thus the mistranslation of the statement in the *Acts* would be made into a charge against the trustworthiness of the writer.

One piece of evidence seems conclusive. Luke iv. 32 uses the same words about the people of Capernaum as about the Proconsul, "they were astonished at his teaching"; but they were not converted. The Proconsul was astonished at Paul's teaching; he admired it as a moral and intellectual display; he was delighted with the boldness and the power of these itinerant lecturers; but this spirit Luke does not regard as favourable to real conversion, and he adds the words, "he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord," to show the limitations of the case.

The other case is Acts xvii. 34: "certain men also clave unto him and believed, among whom was Dionysius the Areopagite, and Damaris," etc. In this case I believe that no Church was formed, and no baptism administered at the time. Doubtless the effect produced on a few persons was genuine and deep, but Paul did not then remain in Athens to follow it up. This we gather from a casual phrase of his in 1 Corinthians xvi. 15, which opens up a wide question, and cannot be treated in this place.