

Felix may have had mercenary motives in all this.

24. And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. Felix did not always reside at Cæsarea. After the first hearing of Paul's case he had gone away for a time, but on his return he sent for the Apostle to question him on his doctrine. Perhaps those words about the resurrection of the just and unjust had made him uneasy.—(Lumby) Drusilla was a daughter of the Agrippa whose death is recorded in Acts 11: 23. She was therefore a sister of the Agrippa and Berenice of our next lesson. With her son Felix she perished in the famous eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, in A. D. 79.

25. And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled (R. V. was terrified, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee. Paul suited his exposition of christianity to the audience he was addressing. These themes were precisely the ones which would touch the governor's conscience to the quick. As for righteousness, Tacitus, the Roman historian, tells us, that relying upon the influence of his brother at court, he acted as if he had a license to commit every crime with impunity. In respect of temperance—properly, self-control, including chastity—the presence of Drusilla was an evidence of his disregard of the plainest precepts of the moral law. To such a man, who knew himself to be

profligate, avaricious, cruel and unjust, the judgment to come was a topic that might well terrify him. But this was the terror of superstitious cowardice, not of spiritual conviction. The convenient season never came. *To-day* alone holds the promise of salvation in its outstretched hand. *To-morrow* may have none.

ORIENTALISMS.

The Way.—In the New Testament, the disciples never called themselves Christians, but use a variety of names to designate themselves and their religion. This name is frequently used in the Koran to denote the Mohammedan religion.

Felix.—Procurators were sometimes Roman Knights, and sometimes the freed men of the Emperor. Felix was one of the latter class and according to Suetonius, whose remarks are confirmed by Tacitus, in his history, was for some particular reason, a great favorite of the emperor's, but nevertheless, he was a wretched governor and a very wicked man. Tacitus says that his recklessness and licentiousness had made him notorious.

Drusilla his own wife: This woman was a daughter of Herod Agrippa I. and was distinguished for her beauty. She had been married to Azizus, the king of Amessa, Felix became acquainted with her and with the assistance of a Jewish sorcerer named Simon of Cyprus, induced her to forsake her husband, and marry him. As one says, the audience of Paul consisted of a Roman libertine and a profligate Jewish princess.

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY.

How did Paul set one part of the council against the other? Who again rescued him? What conspiracy was discovered? Where was Paul sent? To whom was he sent? How long was it before the trial was resumed? What orator spoke for the accusers?

11. Why was Paul pleased to have Felix for his judge? How long was it since his arrival at Jerusalem? How many of these days was he in custody? What feast did Paul attend? What special act of worship was he engaged in when the tumult was started? (ch. 21: 26).

12. Paul again and again asserts his innocence (ch. 25: 8; 28: 17). Had Stephen

engaged in disputes? (ch. 6: 9-11). Would Paul have been blameworthy had he done so?

13. What proof did the Jewish law require before any man could be condemned? (Deut. 17: 6, 7).

14. What is meant by "The way"? (ch. 9: 2; 16: 17; 18: 25; 19: 9, 23; 20: 4; 24: 22). Where did the term "christian" originate? (ch. 11: 26). What is meant by "heresy"? Instances of the use of the term in a good sense—ch. 5: 17; 15: 5; 26: 5; 28: 22—In a bad sense—1 Cor 11: 19; Gal. 5: 20; 2 Pet. 2: 1. Was Paul proud of his godly ancestors? (2 Tim. 1: 3). What does Paul claim for his doctrine? Did Christ