

cluded beyond doubt that this was what God wanted them to do.

11. Therefore loosing (R. V. Setting sail, therefore) from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis. Samothracia was an island in the Aegean Sea, and Neapolis was the port of Philippi, which lay about ten miles inland on the river Gangites. The distance across was about 65 miles.

12. And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony (R. V. a city of Macedonia, the first of the district, a Roman colony); and we were in that city abiding certain days. Philippi was named after the father of Alexander the Great, who founded it. A Roman colony was considered a part of Rome itself, and its citizens enjoyed all the rights of those living in the city on the banks of the Tiber.

13. And on the Sabbath we went out of the city by a river side where prayer was wont to be made (R. V. where we supposed there was a place of prayer), and we sat down and spake unto the women which resorted thither (R. V. which were come together). There was no synagogue, but the Apostle judged that if there were any Jews in the town they would, on the Sabbath day, seek a quiet spot by the river for worship. Sitting was the usual attitude of oriental teachers (Acts 3: 14; Luke 4: 20; Matt. 5: 1).

14. And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us, whose heart the Lord opened that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. Thyatira was a town in Lydia. It was celebrated for its purple dyes as far back as the time of Homer. Lydia was not a Jewess by birth, but a proselyte, a convert from heathenism. The sinful heart is closed to Christ; only the Holy Spirit can open it (Prov. 16: 1; Jer. 31: 3, 35; Ezek. 11: 19; I. Cor. 3: 6, 7).

15. And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and

abide there. And she constrained us. Whether Lydia had any children we do not know, but it was the custom of the apostles to baptize the whole family of a convert (verse 33; 11: 14; 18: 8; I. Cor. 1: 16; II. Tim. 4: 19). "If" means "since," "Since ye have judged me faithful by baptizing me" (Luke 24: 29).

ORIENTALISMS.

By Rev. R. G. MURISON, M. A., B. D.

A vision appeared. God has frequently revealed His purpose to His people by visions, but it is striking that the deepest truths were never revealed in this manner; and in the most important Prophets, as in the Psalms, visions rarely occur. A diseased state of mind will readily cause hallucinations, and visions, real or pretended, have always been much used by schemers and false religions to evidence their teaching. We see this in the Roman Church, where many peculiar teachings were evidenced by visions. Mohammed had also many visions. From the Assyrian inscriptions we find Assurbanipal to have been greatly favored. On one of his expeditions his army was stopped by an impetuous torrent, and his soldiers feared to cross, but in the night Ishtar appeared to the soldiers and encouraged them. On another occasion Gyges, king of Lydia, whom Assurbanipal had never known of, was advised in a vision to go and submit to the Assyrian, and he would conquer all his enemies, all of which he did.

A Roman colony. A Roman colony was not like what we now call a colony. The inhabitants did not settle as they pleased, but were sent out by authority from Rome, marching to their destination like an army, with banners, and they reproduced, where they settled, a close resemblance of Roman rule and life. They were planted on the frontiers of the Empire for protection, and as a check upon the provincial magistrates. The names of those who went were still enrolled in the lists of the tribes of Rome. Latin was their language, and they used the Roman coinage and had their chief magistrate appointed from the mother city. Thus were they very closely united with Rome and entirely free from any intrusion on the part of the Governors of the Provinces.—(Prof. Lumby.)

A seller of purple. The purple color proper