

esteem during the three months of their wintering, the kind-hearted "barbarians" refurnished them liberally for their voyage when they again embarked for Rome. All were sharers in the gratitude awakened by Paul's deeds of mercy. One good man brings a blessing to many others.

11. And after three months we departed (R. V., set sail) in a ship of Alexandria, which had wintered in the isle, whose sign was Cast'or and Pol'lux (R. V., The Twin Brothers). Navigation opened about the middle of February. This vessel had succeeded in doing at *Valetta* what it was attempted to do with Paul's vessel at Phenice. The sign (Latin "*tutela*") or "figure-head," which stood for the name of the vessel, was a representation of the twin deities Castor and Pollux, called in Greek *Dioscuri*, and in Latin *Gemini*. They were the special patrons of mariners, and are represented in one of the signs of the zodiac.

12. And landing (R. V., touching) at Syrac'use, we tarried there three days. This was the capital of Sicily, about 80 miles north of Malta. They probably waited for a favorable wind to carry them through the straits of Messina.

13. And from thence we fetched a compass (R. V., made a circuit), and came to Rhegium: and after one day the south wind blew (R. V., sprang up), and we came the next day to Puteoli. The antiquated phrase "fetched a compass" is found in 2 Sam. 5: 23; 2 Kings 3: 9. It means that they tacked against the wind until they reached Rhegium. Here they halted until a favorable wind for passing through the dangerous strait sprang up. The south wind would carry them swiftly to Puteoli on the bay of Naples, from which the Appian way led to Rome. In the apostles' time this was the principal port of Rome, and to it most of the grain vessels came.

14. Where we found brethren, and

were desired (R. V., entreated) to tarry with them seven days: and so we went toward Rome (R. V., came to Rome). There was already a christian church here, perhaps founded by some who were at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. The brethren doubtless wished Paul to remain with them at least over the Lord's Day and "break bread" with them, as at Troas (20: 6, 7). Again the centurion favors Paul, as he did at Sidon, permitting him to "refresh himself" with his friends (27: 3).

15. And from thence, when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Ap'pi-i Fo'rum (R. V., The Market of Appius), and the Three Taverns: whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage. The former place was 43 miles and the latter 33 from Rome. The seven days would suffice to give the whole church notice of Paul's arrival. The Epistle written to them from Corinth some three years before this gives us in its last chapter the names of some who may have met Paul on this occasion. This reception was very grateful to Paul, who was very much attached to his friends (Acts 18: 5; 2 Cor. 2: 13; 7: 6; Rom. 1: 11, 12; 15: 32).

16. And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard (this clause is omitted in the R. V.): but Paul was suffered to dwell (R. V., abide) by himself with a soldier that kept (R. V., guarded) him. It was one of the duties of the prefect of the Praetorian guard to receive and take charge of all prisoners from the provinces. Originally there were two prefects, but just about this time the Emperor Claudius placed one Burrus Afranius in sole command. Luke here is carefully accurate in using the singular number. The frequent change of sentry enabled Paul to spread christianity among the soldiers of the imperial guard (Phil. 1: 12, 13).

## QUESTIONS FOR STUDY.

How long was the ship tossed in the tempest? What precautions were taken against running ashore in the night? What did the sailors attempt to do? Who prevented them? How did Paul encourage them all and show

his faith in God? Why did they lighten the ship? What did the soldiers propose to do with the prisoners? How were they dissuaded? Describe how they ran the vessel ashore. How did they all get safely to land?