

of the Saviour, and history of the Acts of Apostles.

From his use of the personal pronoun *we*, in the xvi chap. of Acts and onwards, it would appear that after the rupture between Paul and Barnabas on account of Mark, Luke accompanied Paul on several of his missionary tours. It is probable that he remained with him and ministered to him, during his imprisonment in Cæsarea, and there is no doubt, that he accompanied him to Rome, and continued with him during his imprisonment in that city. Repeatedly does Paul mention him with great affection, in his letters written from Rome. Thus in his Epistle to the Colossians, we find him saying, Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. And when Demas had forsaken him, having loved this present world, and Crescens had gone to Galatia, and Titus Dalmatia, we find the aged Apostle, writing to Timothy—"Only Luke is with me."

It is exceedingly probable that, if the Gospel of Luke was not written during Paul's imprisonment in Cæsarea, the materials for it were collected during his residence in that city; where, both from leisure and his proximity to the scenes of our Saviour's history, he would have the most ample opportunities for doing so. It is certain that he was in Judea at that time, and what so likely as that he would employ his leisure in collecting information for his history, amidst the very scenes where the great events, which he describes, occurred. According to ancient accounts, whose accuracy there is no reason to question, the Virgin Mary was alive at that time. And well may we suppose that Luke would court her acquaintance, and receive from her own lips, the sublime account of the miraculous conception of the Lord Christ. From her too, he would no doubt receive his account of the interesting

circumstances, regarding the birth, the infancy, and boyhood of the blessed Jesus, which are omitted by the other Evangelists. If either of the parents of the Baptist were then living, them doubtless he would endeavour to see, that he might receive from their own lips, the account of the wonderful circumstances connected with the birth of their son. But if, by this time, they were both dead, which is probable, the Virgin would no doubt supply him with those interesting details regarding the birth of John the Baptist, which so appropriately introduced the history of the Saviour. It appears probable, to say the least of it, that Luke's gospel was written at a pretty early date, not later than the time of Paul's imprisonment in Cæsarea; from the fact, that at the time, when the second epistle to the Corinthians was written, the gospel of Luke seems to have been well known, and highly valued throughout the Churches; for there can be little doubt that it is of Luke that Paul speaks, when he says, that he had sent with Titus, the brother whose praise in the gospel was throughout all the churches.

But, at all events, it is clear that the gospel of Luke was published under the auspices, and with the sanction of Paul.—So much has this been felt to be the case, that it has been alleged by some, that when Paul says in Rom. ii. 16,—“In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel,” he means the gospel of Luke, which he thus claims as substantially his own. However this may be, the gospel of Luke appeared with the full sanction of Paul; and hence was immediately received, as of divine authority, by the universal Church of God.

[TO BE CONTINUED IN OUR NEXT.]

Christ dwells in that heart most eminently that hath emptied itself of itself.