

the aged prisoner could not have failed to hear frequent mention of the shameful and horrible events daily transpiring in that abode of blood and lust. He must have heard of the fatal ascendancy of the adulteress, Poppaea, whom the Jews now proudly claimed as a proselyte ; of the banishment and murder of the innocent Octavia, the lawful wife of the emperor before whose tribunal he was soon to stand. But he makes no mention of these historic events in his letter to the Philippians, written at about this time ; nor does he allude, except in the most casual manner, to the threatening aspect which his own affairs had assumed, owing to the death of the kind and honest Burrus and the accession to power of the infamous Tigellinus. "Wherefore, my beloved," he writes, "as you have always obeyed me, not as in my presence only, but how much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling ; for it is God that worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things for the sake of goodwill, without murmurings and disputings, that you may be blameless and guiltless, the sons of God without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom ye shine like stars in the world ; holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain neither labored in vain. Yea, and if my blood be poured forth, I rejoice for myself, and rejoice with you all. And do ye likewise rejoice both for yourselves and with me."