married, and each time to persons of royal  
birth; Suetonius calls him “*the husband  
of three queens.*”

**25.**] It is remarkable that Tacitus uses of Felix the expression, “he thought himself licensed to  
commit all crimes with impunity.” The  
fear of Felix appears to have operated  
merely in his *sending away* Paul: no impression for *good* was made on him.

**26.**] The Julian law enacted that no one  
should receive any consideration for throwing a man into prison, for putting him  
into bonds, or releasing him, or for a  
condemnation or an acquittal. Mr. Humphry observes, that Albinus, who succeeded  
Festus, so much encouraged this kind of  
bribery, that no malefactors remained in  
prison, except those who did not offer  
money for their liberation. St. Paul did  
not resort to this mode of shortening his  
tedious and unjust imprisonment, and  
Tertullian quotes his conduct in this  
respect against those who were disposed  
to purchase escape from persecution: a  
practice which prevailed and became  
great evil in the time of Cyprian.

**27. two years**] viz. of Paul’s imprisonment.

**Porcius Festus**] Festus appears to have succeeded Felix in the summer or autumn of the year 60 A.D.: but  
the question is one of much chronological  
difficulty. He found the province wasted  
and harassed by bands of robbers and  
*sicarii* (assassins), and the people the prey  
of false prophets. He died, after being  
procurator a very short time,—from one to  
two years. Josephus contrasts him, as a  
putter down of robbers, favourably with  
his successor Albinus. It was a natural  
*wish* of Felix at this time to confer *obligations* on the Jews, who were sending to  
complain of him at Rome.

**left Paul  
bound**] There was no *change* in the method  
of custody, see note on ver. 23. He left  
him in the ‘*military custody*’ in which  
he was.

**XXV. 1. the province**] The  
term is properly used of *a province*, whether  
imperial or senatorial (see note on ch. xiii.  
7),—but is here loosely applied to Judæa,  
which was only a procuratorship, *attached  
to the province* of Syria.

**2. the high  
priest**] The High Priest now was Ishmael  
the son of Phabi. See chronological table  
in the Introduction.

The term **chief of  
the Jews** is more general than “*elders*,”  
though most of the chief *men* must have  
been members of the Sanhedrim. Festus,  
relating this application, ver. 15, calls them  
“*elders*.”

**3.**] **favour** is explained to  
mean *condemnation*, ver. 15.

**laying  
wait**] They were *making*, *contriving*, tho  
ambush already. The country was at this  
time, as may be seen abundantly in Josephus,  
full of *sicarii* (assassins): who were hired