been under Tyre, and to have furnished  
her with mariners (see Ezek. xxvii. 8). It  
went over to Shalmaneser, king of Assyria,  
but seems under him, and afterwards under  
the Chaldzeans and Persians, to have had tributary kings of its own (Jer. xxv. 22; xxvii.  
3). The Sidonians furnished the best ships  
in Xerxes’ navy. Under Artaxerxes Ochus  
Sidon freed itself, but was by him, after a  
severe siege, taken and destroyed. It was  
rebuilt, and soon after went over to  
Alexander, keeping its own vassal kings.  
After his death it was alternately under  
Syrian and Egyptian rule, till it fell  
under the Romans. The present Saida is  
west of ancient Sidon, and is a port of  
some commerce, but insecure, from the  
sanding up of the harbour.

**The friends**  
here mentioned were probably Christian  
brethren (see ch. xi. 12, where the Gospel  
is said to have been preached in Phœnicia ;  
and ch, xxi. 3, where we find brethren at  
*Tyre*); but it is usual in that case for  
*brethren* or *disciples* to be specified: compare ch. xxi. 4, 7. The **refreshing himself** (literally, **getting attention paid him**)  
was perhaps to obtain from them that  
outfit for the voyage which, on account of  
the official precision of his custody at  
Cæsarea, he could not there be provided  
with.

**4. we sailed under**] i.e. ‘*in the  
lee of*,’ Cyprus. “When a ship is forced  
out of her course by a contrary wind, so  
that an island is interposed between the  
wind and the ship, she is said to *sail under*  
the island.” Wetstein; who also says, “If  
the wind had been favourable, they would  
have put out to sea, and left Cyprus on  
the right, as in Acts xxi. 3, but now  
they are forced to coast along Cilicia, between Cyprus and Asia.” They kept under  
shelter of Cyprus, i. e. between Cyprus  
and Cilicia, so **having sailed the whole  
length** of the sea off Cilicia and Pamphylia,  
they came to Myra. See the account of  
the reverse voyage, ch. xxi. 3, where, the  
wind being nearly in the same quarter, the  
direct course was taken, and they left  
Cyprus at a distance on their left, in going  
to Tyre. On this it may be well to quote  
(from Smith) the testimony of M. de Pagés,  
a French navigator, who, on his voyage  
from Syria to Marseilles, informs us that after  
making Cyprus, “the winds from the west,  
and consequently contrary, which prevail  
in these places during the summer, *forced  
us to run to the north*. We made for the  
coast of Caramania (Cilicia), in order to  
meet the northerly winds, *which we found  
accordingly.*”

**5. Myra**] It was, says  
Strabo, on a high hill, about three miles  
from the sea. The neighbourhood is full  
of magnificent ruins; see Sir C. Fellows’s  
Lycia, ch. ix. The name still remains.  
The various readings merely shew that the  
copyists were unacquainted with the place.

**6.**] The Alexandrian ship may have  
been laden with corn for Rome; but this  
cannot be inferred from ver. 38, for the  
ship had been *lightened before*, ver. 18.—On her size, see below, ver. 37.—Most  
probably this ship had been prevented  
taking the direct course to Italy, which  
was by the south of Crete, by the prevailing  
westerly winds. Under such circumstances,  
says Mr. Smith (p. 32), “ships, particularly  
those of the ancients, unprovided with a  
compass, and ill calculated to work to windward, would naturally stand to the N. till  
they made the land of Asia Minor, which  
is peculiarly favourable for such a mode of  
navigation, because the coast is bold and  
safe, and the elevation of the mountains  
makes it visible at a great distance; it  
abounds in harbours, while the sinuosities  
of its shores and the westerly current would  
enable them, if the wind was at all off the  
land, to work to windward, at least as far  
as Cnidus, where these advantages ceased.  
Myra lies due N. from Alexandria, and its  
bay is well calculated to shelter a wind-  
bound ship. The Alexandrian ship was  
not, therefore, out of her course at Myra,  
even if she had no call to touch there for  
the purposes of commerce.

**7. when we  
had sailed slowly**] It is evident that the  
ship was encountering an adverse wind.  
The distance from Myra to Cnidus is only