rigging.

**with our own hands** is  
used as shewing the urgency of the  
danger—when the seamen would with  
their own hands, cast away what otherwise  
was needful to the ship and themselves.

**20.**] The sun and stars were the  
only guides of the ancients when out of  
sight of land. The expression, **all hope  
was taken away**, seems, as Mr. Smith has  
noticed, to betoken that a greater evil  
than the mere force of the storm (which  
perhaps had some little abated:—**no small  
tempest** seems to imply that it still indeed  
raged, but not as before) was afflicting  
them, viz. *the leaky state of the ship*,  
which increased upon them, as is shewn  
by their successive lightenings of her.

**21. after long abstinence**] “What caused  
the abstinence? A ship with nearly 300  
people on board, on a voyage of some length,  
must have more than a fortnight’s provisions  
(and see ver. 38): and it is not enough  
to say with Kuinoel, that ‘their continual  
labour and fear of danger had caused them  
not to think of their food.’ ‘Much abstinence’ is one of the most frequent concomitants of heavy gales. The impossibility of cooking, or the destruction of  
provisions from leakage, are the principal  
causes which produce it.’ Smith, p. 75:  
who quotes instances. But doubtless  
anxiety and mental distress had a considerable share in it.

**should have  
been spared this harm and loss**] literally,  
**should have turned to your own account  
this harm and loss**. This may perhaps  
be what our translators meant by *gained:*  
but it is by no means clear.

**23.**] Paul  
characterizes himself as dedicated to and  
the servant of God, to give solemnity and  
bespeak credit for his announcement. At  
such a time, the servants of God are highly  
esteemed.

**24. all them that sail with  
thee**] Bengel remarks, that “Paul is in the  
sight of God the chief man in the ship and  
the director of its course.”

**26. we  
must be cast...**] Spoken prophetically,  
as also ver. 31: not perhaps from actual  
revelation imparted in the vision, but by a  
power imparted to Paul himself of penetrating the future at this crisis, and announcing the Divine counsel.

**27. the  
fourteenth night**] The reckoning of days  
counts from their leaving Fair Haven:  
see vv. 18, 19.

**in Adria**] Adria, in  
the wider sense, embraces not only the  
Venetian Gulf, but the sea to the south of  
Greece:—so Ptolemy, “The Peloponnesus  
is bounded on the W. and S. by the Adriatic Sea: and again, Sicily is bounded  
on the N. by the Sea of Adria.” In fact,  
he bounds Italy on the S., Sicily on the E.,  
Greece on the S. and W., and Crete on the  
W. by this Sea, which notices sufficiently  
indicate its dimensions. So also Pausanias,  
speaking of the straits of Messina, accounts  
for their tempestuous character by the  
meeting of the Tyrrhenian and the Adriatic