moderately learned man gained among the  
ignorant monks of his day. **13.] But  
we** (opposed to those spoken of in last  
verse) **will not** (ever: will never allow  
ourselves to) **boast without measure** (that  
is, as they do who compare themselves  
with themselves, and measure themselves  
by themselves,—for there is no standard  
for, no limit to, a man’s good opinion of  
himself), **but according to the measure of  
the rule** (i... ‘the measure *pointed out by*the rule’) **which God apportioned to us  
as a measure to reach even unto you.**

**14.]** Further explanation of *reaching even unto you.* **For we are not  
stretching ourselves beyond [our bounds],  
as** (we should be doing) **if we did not  
reach to you: for even as far as unto you  
did we come in the gospel of Christ** (the  
element in which our advance was made:  
‘the *gospel*,’ i.e. ‘the *promulgation of  
the gospel*’).

**15.]** Carrying out the  
thought of ver. 14.

**not boasting  
without measure in other men’s labours**  
(the element of the boasting); **but having  
a hope, as your faith increaseth, to be  
enlarged among you according to our  
rule** (i.e. *our apportionment of apostolic  
work,* for we seek not to stretch ourselves  
(beyond it) **unto great abundance** (‘so as  
to abound more than we now do,’ viz.  
as ver. 16 explains),

**16.] so as**  
(with a view) **to preach the gospel in the  
regions beyond you, not** (with a view) **to  
boast ourselves within another man’s  
line** (measuring *line*: according to the  
metaphor so common among us, ‘in his  
line’—i.e. ‘within the line which ‘Providence has marked out for him’) **with  
regard to** (or, ‘to the extent of: ‘to  
extend our boasting to’) **things ready made  
to our hand.**

**17.]** *He sets forth to  
them,* in contrast to this boasting themselves in another’s line, which was the  
practice of his adversaries, *wherein the  
only legitimate boasting must consist:*viz. *in the Lord*, the Source of all grace  
and strength and success in the ministry;