688 THE ACTS. VI. 10—15.   
   
 andrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing   
 ° uae xxi.15, Stephen. 10 And °they were not able to resist the   
 Fa eee wieder the spirit by which he spake. 11» Then they   
 eax suborned men, i which said, We have heard him speak   
 blasphemous words against Moses and [against] God.   
 10, 12 And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the   
 ‘xxvi.'59, seribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought   
 him to the council, !8and set up false witnesses, 1 which   
 said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words   
 against 1 this holy place, and the law: 14 for we have   
 heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall ' destroy   
 this place, and shall change the customs which Moses   
 ach. xxv. delivered us. 15 And all that sat in the council, looking   
 ¥ Dan. 26, stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of   
   
   
   
   
   
 an angel.   
   
 i render, to say. K omit,   
 1 Many ancient authorities read, the holy place.   
   
 the agent of the mischief. Here then we Asia, a large and’ important Roman pro-   
 have abundant reason for numbers of vince, including Mysia, Lydia, Caria, and   
 these Jews of libertine race having come Phrygia—known also as “ Asia this side   
 to Jerusalem, being among the rest, who of the Taurus.” 11.] Neander well   
 were ordered to quit Italy: and what. remarks that this false charge, coupled   
 place so likely a refuge for as Jerusa- with the character of Stephen’s apologetic   
 lem ?—Those who find a difficulty this speech, shews the real character of his   
 interpretation suppose them to have been arguments with his opponents :—that he   
 inhabitants of Libertum, a town in proper seems to have been the first who plainly   
 or proconsular Africa, from which we set forth the transitory nature of the law   
 find a bishop of Libertum sitting in the and temple, as compared with the per-   
 synod of Carthage in 411. But none of manence of the latter and better covenant,   
 their suppositions will bear examination, thus being in a remarkable manner the   
 and the best interpretation is the usual one forerunner of St. Paul. 12.] the   
 —that they were the descendants of Jewish people, first,—that by means of the popu-   
 freedmen at Rome, who had been expelled lar feeling they might act upon the elders   
 by Tiberius.—There js no difficulty their and scribes, the members of the Sanhe-   
 having had a synagogue of their own: for drim. came upon him] The same   
 there were 460 or 480 synagogues at Jeru- persons,—acting now by the authority of   
 salem, Cyrenians] See ch. ii. 10, the Sanhedrim ; Saul, among those from   
 note. Alexandrians] Two of the five Cilicia, being, is afterwards (ch. vit. 58)   
 regions of Alexandria were inhabited by implied, among the foremost,—came upon   
 Jews. Tt was also the seat of the learning him, end seized him. 13. false wit-   
 and philosophy of the Grecian Jews, which nesses] The falsehood of their witness con-   
 was now at its height. This metropolis sisted, as in the similar case of our Lord,   
 of the Hellenists would certainly have a in taking Stephen’s words out of their con-   
 synagogue in Jerusalem. 1 understand text, and misrepresenting what perhaps in   
 three distinct s to be meant, not- so many words he had actually said.   
 withstanding tiie somewhat equivoeal con- this holy place] The temple: see Matt.   
 struc tion, the words “which is called” xxiv. 15; ch. xxi. 28. Jit isa   
 only to apply to the unusual terin “ Liber- question with regard to this verse, Does it   
 tines.” Cilicia was at this time a relate any supernatural appearance, glori-   
 Roman province, the eapital heing the Sying the face of Stephen,—or merely a   
 free city of Tarsus, see note on ch. ix. 11. scribe the calm and holy aspect with which   
 —Asia,—not exactly as in ch. ii. 9, he stood before the conneil ? The majority   
 it is distinguished Phrygia,—here and of commentators suppose the latter: and   
 usually in the Acts implies proconsular certuinly the foregoing description of