VIIL. 1, 2. THE ACTS.   
 699   
   
 witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man’s feet,   
 whose name was Saul. 59 And they stoned Stephen,   
 spirit. upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, ‘ receive my ¢¢h'.14,   
 60 And he £kneeled down, and cried with a loud xxiii.   
 voice, \* Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.   
 And when \* x   
 he had said this, he fell asleep. hM   
   
 VIII. 1 And # Saul was consenting unto his death. adi   
 And hat that time there was a great persecution against   
 the church which was at Jerusalem ; and » they were all pen. x10.   
 scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judwa and   
   
 Samaria, except the apostles. 2 And devout men carried   
   
 & better, praying : it is literally, invoking: no word such as “God” is   
   
 expressed.   
 b fiterally, in that day.   
   
 this kind. But here no sentence is re- this sin to their charge] This again was   
 corded: and perhaps the very violence and somewhat similar (though not exactly, see   
 fanatical character of the execution might note there) to our Lord’s prayer, y, ke   
 constitute it, not an encroachment on the xxiii. he fell asleep] Not a Chris-   
 power of the Procurator, as it would have tian expression only: there are Jewish ex-   
 been if strictly form of law, but a mere amples: and we have some even in Greek   
 outbreak, and as such it might be allowed heathen poetry. But it became the usual   
 to pass unnoticed. That they observed the Christian term for death. Its use here,   
 forms of their own law, in the place and when the circumstances, and the actors in   
 manner of the stoning, is no objection to them, are remembered, is singularly touch-   
 this view. the witnesses] See Deut. ing, from the contrast.   
 xvii. 7, it is enacted that the hands Cuav. VIII. 1—4.] Prrszcurion or   
 of the witnesses were to he first on the THE CHURCH BY SAUL, CONSEQUENT ON \*   
 criminal to put him to death, and after- THE DEATH OF STEPHEN. 1, con-   
 ward the hands of all the people. senting] The same Greek word is ren-   
 they laid down their clothes] They disen- dered “allow” in Luke xi. 48: “have   
 cumbered themselves of their loose outer pleasure” in Rom, i. 32. Compare St.   
 garments, that they might be light and Paul’s own confession, ch. xxvi. 9—11.   
 unimpeded in the throwing of the stones. From this time, the narrative takes up   
 They laid them at Saul’s feet that he might Saul, and, at with considerable inter-   
 keep them in safety. Such notices are ruptions (ch. viii. xi. xii.), after ch.   
 deeply interesting, when we recollect by xiit. entirely, follows his history.   
 whom they were in all probability in that day, can hardly mean, as some would   
 inserted. See ch. xxii. 20, and note on render it, on that very day, viz. when   
 ch. xxvi. 10 :—from which it appears that Stephen was stoned. For what follows,   
 Saul can certainly not have been less than “they were all scattered abroad” .. . can-   
 thirty at this time. He was a member of not have happened on the same day, but.   
 the Sanhedrim, and soon after was de- would take some little time. We have the   
 spatched on an important mission with same expression used indefinitely, Luke vi.   
 their authority. 59.] All attempts to John xiv. 20; xvi. 23,26. In Luke   
 escape from this being a direct prayer to 31, it has direct reference to a day   
 the Saviour are vain, as I have shewn in just mentioned. all] Not perhaps   
 my Greek Testament. receive my literally,—or some of them soon returned:   
 spirit] The same prayer in substance had see ch. ix. 26—30. - It may describe the   
 been made by our Lord on the Cross (Luke general dispersion, without meaning that   
 xxiii. 46) to Father. To Him was now every individual fled. Samaria | Con-   
 committed the key of David. Similarly, nected with ver. 4: this word is not with-   
 the young man Saul, in after years: “I out importance, as introducing the next   
 am persuaded that he is able to keep that step in the dissemination of the Gospel,   
 which I have committed to him against according to our Lord’s command in ch. i.   
 that day.” 2 Tim. i, 12. 60. lay not except the apostles] Perhaps,