16—27. THE ACTS.   
   
 “pray ¢ God, \*if perhaps the thought of thine heart f way be \*Par.tr,   
 forgiven thee. 23 Vor I perceive that thou art in tthe gall ‘eb ‘Tim,   
 of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.   
 answered Simon, and said, " Pray ye to the Lord for me, Then. »Gen.3\*.   
 none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.   
 °5 8 And they, when they had testified and preached the   
 word of the Lord, } returned to Jerusalem, and ipreached   
 the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.   
   
 26k Aad   
   
 the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise,   
 and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from   
 Jerusalem unto Gaza, !which is desert. 27 And he arose   
   
 © read, the Lord. f render, shall.   
 & render, So then.   
   
 h read, were returning . .. . and preaching &e.   
 i Hterally, evangelizing many villages. k render, But an.   
 1 fiteraily, this [way] is desert.   
   
 seeking after the gospel, but seeks it with me becoming another man in thoughts and   
 unworthy ends in view, 22. if per- aims.   
 haps] The uncertainty refers, not to the 25—40.] Conversion of THE AirHI0-   
 doubt whether Simon would repent or not PIAN EUNUCH BY PuILIP’s TEACHING.   
 (sce below): but as to whether or not his 25.] So then indicates eed note on   
 sin may not have come under the awful ver. 4) that the paragraph should begin   
 category of those unpardonable ones spe- here, not at ver. 26 as commonly.   
 cificd by our Lord, Matt. xii. 31, which villages of the Samaritans] It is interest-   
 words this sentence seems to have a tacit ing to recall Luke ix. 52, where on their   
 reference. Peter does not pronounce his entering into a village of the Samaritans,   
 sin to have been such, but throws in this the same John wishes to call fire from   
 doubt, to increase the motive to repent, heaven, and consume them. The gradual   
 and the earnestness of his repentance. sowing of the seed further and further   
 This verse is important, taken in connexion from Jerusalem is advancing: not only   
 with John xx. 23, as shewing how com- is this eunuch to carry it toa far distant   
 pletely the Apostles themselves referred Jand, but Philip is sent to a desert road,   
 the forgiveness of sins to, and left it in, away from town or village, to seek him.   
 the sovereign power of God, and not to The imperfect tenses, “were returning   
 their own delegated power of absolution. ge.,” are significant. They were on their   
 23.] For gives the reason, not why way back to Jerusalem, and were evange-   
 it would be difficult forgiveness to take lizing the Samaritan villages, when the   
 place, but why he had such extreme need angel spake to Philip. 26.] An angel,   
 of repentance and prayer, as being tied visibly appearing : not in a dream,—which   
 and bound by the chain of sin. the is not, as some suppose, implied by the   
 gall of bitterness] See Deut. xxix. 18; command to arise. The ministration of   
 Lam. iii, gall which is the very angels introduces and brings about several   
 seat and essence of bitterness’—a very occurrences in the beginning of the church,   
 gall of bitterness. The poison of serpents see ch. v.19; x. 35 xii. 7 (xxvii. The   
 was considered to be seated in their gall: appearance seems to have taken place in   
 so “the gall of asps is within him,” Job Samaria, after the departure of Peter and   
 xx. Lt, 24.] Simon speaks here much John. He would reach the place appointed   
 words, “that Exod. (viii. 28; things which by a shorter way than through Jerusalem :   
 ye who yet ened his heart afterw re- he would probably follow the high road (of   
 It is observable also that he wishes merely the itineraries, map in Conybeare and   
 for the averting of the punishment. of the Howson’s St. Paul) as far as Gophna, and   
 thence strike the country south-west-   
 ward to join, at some point to which he   
 would be guided, the road leading from Je-   
 rusalem to Gaza, Gaza] The south-