16—24. THE ACTS. 713   
 of God.   
 21 But all that heard him were amazed, and   
 said; "Is not this he that ! destroyed them which called on »ch-s}i-8   
 this name in Jerusalem, and ™ came hither for that intent, iL 23.   
   
 that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?   
 22 But Saul increased the more in strength, \*and con- xeb.xviii.28,   
 founded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that   
 this is 2 very Christ. 8 And after that many days were   
 fulfilled, ¥ the Jews took counsel to kill him: \*#7 but their yen.xxi,12:   
   
 laying await was known Sof Saul. And they watehed , 35255; 2   
   
   
 1 ender, destroyed in Jerusalem them that called on this name.   
 M render, had come. 2 yender, the.   
 © better, to, or by.   
   
 that Christ is the Son of God—instead of rid of Stephen, and behold they found an-   
 that which it now bears,—that Jesus is, other arguer more powerful than Stephen.”   
 the Son of God, i.e. that Jesus of Naza- 23. many days] Jn Damascus, see   
 reth, as @ matter of fact, is the Son of above on ver. 19. The whole time, from   
 God, i. e. the Messiah expected under that his conversion to his journey to Jerusalem,   
 appellation. 21,] had come hither, im- was three years, Gal. i. 18. took   
 plying the abandonment of the purpose. counsel to kill him] “The Jews again have   
 22.) I regard the expression Saul recourse to the logic of force. They no   
 increased the more in strength, as the longer seck for suborned men, and falso   
 only words beneath which can lie con- accusers and false witnesses.”” Chrysostom.   
 cealed the journey to Arabia, Paul men- 24,.] In 2 Cor. xi. 32, St. Paul   
 tions this journey (Gal. i. 17) with no ob- writes, “In Damascus the governor under   
 scure hint that to it was to be assigned the Arétas the king kept the city of the Da-   
 reception by him, in full measure, of the mascenes with a garrison, desirous to ap-   
 Gospel which he preached. And such a prehend me.” A somewhat difficult   
 reception would certainly give rise to the nological question arises respecting the   
 great accession of power here recorded. I subordination of Damascus to this Arétas.   
 am the more disposed to allot that journey The city, under Augustus and Tiberius,   
 this place, from the following considera- was attached to the province of Syria:   
 tions. The omission of any mention of it and we have coins of Damascus of both   
 here ean arise only from one of two causes: these emperors, and again of Nero and his   
 (1) whether Paul himself were the source successors. But we have none of Caligula   
 of the narrative, or some other narrator,— and Claudius; and the following cireum-   
 the intentional passing over of it, as be- stances seem to point to a change in the   
 longing more to his history (which rulership of Damascus at the death of   
 it was his express to relate in Gal. ‘Tiberius. There had been for some time   
 than to that of his ministry: (2) on the war between Aretas, king of Arabia Naba-   
 supposition of Paul not having been the tea (whose capital was Petra), and Herod   
 source of the narrative,—the narrator Antipas, on account of the divorce by   
 having not been aware of it. In either Herod of Aretas’ daughter at the instanco   
 case, this expression seems to me one very of Herodias, and on account of some   
 likely to have been used :—(1) if the omis- disputes about their frontiers. A battle   
 sion was intentional,—to record a remark- was fought, and Herod’s army entirely de-   
 able accession of power to Saul’s ministry, stroyed. On this Antipas, who was a   
 without particularizing whence or how it favourite with Tiberius, sent to Rome for   
 came: (2) if it was wnintentional,—as a help: and Vitellius, the governor of Syria,   
 simple record of that which was observed was commissioned to march against Aretas,   
 in him, but of which the course was to the and take him, dead or alive. While on his   
 narrator unknown. confounded the march, he heard at Jerusalem of the death   
 Jews which dwelt at Damascus] Chrysos- of Tiberius (March 16, a.p. 37), and no   
 tom strikingly says, “Being learned in their longer being able to carry out his in-   
 law, he stopped their mouths and suffered tended war, on account of the change   
 them not to speak : they thought that they of the supreme power from Tiberius to   
 had got rid of such arguments in getting Caligula, abandoned his march, and sert