730 THE ACTS. XI. 28—30.   
   
 28 And there stood up one of them named » Agabus, and   
 D ch. 10.   
 signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth   
 throughout all the world: @ which came to pass in the   
 days of Claudius Crsar. 29 Then the disciples, every man   
   
 aceording to his ability, determined to send ¢ relief unto   
 the brethren which dwelt in Judea; 394 which also they   
   
 did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Bamabas   
 and Saul.   
 XII. } Now about that time Herod the king f stretched   
   
 © render, which also.   
 f render, laid his hands upon certain of the church to vex them.   
   
   
 so ealled. 28. Agabus] The same send the relief. Baumgarten, in tracing   
 who prophesied Paul’s imprisonment in the gradual transition of the apostolic   
 Jerusalem, ch. xxi. 10 ff. From the form narrative from Jewish to Gentile Chris-   
 of his announcement ¢kere, we may infer tianity, calls this contribution, sent from   
 the manner in which he signified by the Antioch to Jerusalem, the first stretching   
 Spirit here. It was, “Thus saith the out of the hand by the Gentile world   
 Holy Ghost.” throughout all the across the ancient gulf which separated it   
 world] not, ‘all Judea,’ though in fact from Israel. The church at Jerusa-   
 it was so: the expression is probably a Jem was poor, probably in connexion with   
 hyperbolical one in ordinary use, and not the community of goods, which would soon   
 to be pressed as strictly implying that to have this effect see ch. ii. note.   
 which its literal meaning would extend. 30. the elders] These were the overseers   
 That it occurs in a prophecy is no objec- or presidents of the congregation,—an office   
 tion to this: the scope, not the wording borrowed from the synagogues, and esta-   
 of the prophecy is given. But see below. blished by the Apostles in the churches   
 in the days of Clavdius Cesar] In generally, see ch. xiv. 28. They are in the   
 the fourth year of Claudius, A.D. 44, there N. T. identical with bishops, see ch. xx.   
 was a famine in Judea and the neighbour- 17, 28; Titus i. 5,7; 1 Pet.y. 1, 2. So   
 ing countries, And three others are men- Theodoret on Phil. i. 1, “He calls the   
 tioned during his reign: one in Greece, elders, bishops: for at that time they had   
 and two in Rome, so that scarcity in the both names.” The title “episcopus,” as   
 days of Claudius Cwsar did extend through applied to one person superior to the elders,   
 the greater part of the Roman world, and answering to our ‘béskop,’ appears to   
 if it be thought unecessary to press the have heen unknown in the apostolic times.   
 words of the prophecy. The queen Helena —Respecting the chronology of this jour-   
 of Adiabene and her son Izates helped the ney to Jerusalem, see note on ch. xii. 25,   
 Jews with subsidies on the occasion (in and the table in the Introduction.   
 relating which, Josephus calls it “the Cuap- XII, 1—25.] PERsEcuTion oF   
 great famine ’), both of corn and money. THE CHURCH AT JERUSALEM BY HrRop   
 —I do not believe that the words ‘in AcripPaA. Martyrdom OF JAMES THE   
 the days of Claudius Cesar” imply that: BROTHER OF JOHN. IMPRISONMENT AND   
 the events just related were not also in MIRACULOUS DELIVERANCE OF PETER.   
 the reign of Claudius: but they are in- Deatu oF Herop ar Cmsarra. RETURN   
 serted to particularize the famine as being oF BARNABAS AND SavL FRoM JERU-   
 that well-known one, and only imply that SALEM TO ANTIOCH. 1, about that   
 the author was not writing under Claudius. time} Before the arrival of Barnabas and   
 29.] There is no need to suppose Sanlin Jerusalem, The famine in Judea   
 that the prophecy of Agabus preceded by broke out under Cuspius Fadus, and con-   
 any long time the outbreak of the famine: tinued under Tiberius Alexander, procu-   
 nor would it be any derogation from its rators of Judea. Now Cuspius Fadus was   
 prophetic character to suppose it even coin- sent to Judaa by Claudius on the death of   
 cident with its first beginnings; it was Agrippa (i.e. after Aug. 6, a.v. 44). The   
 the greatness and extent of the famine visit of and Saul must have taken   
 which was particularly revealed, and which place about the time of, or shortly after,   
 determined the Christians of Antioch to Agrippa’s death, Herod the king]