8—19. THE ACTS. 753   
   
 hearken unto me: !#\*Symeon hath deelared how God at sver.7.   
 the first did visit the Gentiles, to take ont of them a   
   
 people for his name. 1% And to this agree the words of   
 the prophets; as it is written, 16\* After this I will return, ‘4°   
 and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is   
 fallen down ; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and   
   
 I will set it up: Wthat the residue of men might seek   
 after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name   
   
 is called, saith the Lord, owho doeth all these things.   
 18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of   
 the world. 19 Wherefore " my sentence is, that we trouble \*\* v-\*   
   
 © for the whole of this, read, who maketh these things known.   
   
 writers of the New Test., the representative His reign over all nations. During the   
 of the strictest adherence to and loftiest process of this restitution those nations,   
 appreciation of the pure standard of legal the effect of the rebuilding, seek the   
 morality. All that the law was, from its Lord,—to whomsoever the gospel should   
 intrinsic holiness, justice, and goodness be preached. There is here neither asser-   
 (Rom. vii. 12), capable of being to Ch tion nor negation of the national restoration   
 tians, ke would be sure to attribute to it. of the Jews. Be this as it may (and [   
 And therefore when his judgment, as well firmly believe in the literal   
 as that of Peter, is given in favour of the of all the prophecies respecting them as a   
 freedom of the Gentiles, the disputers, nation), it is obvious, on any deep view of   
 of the Pharisaic party, are silenced. There prophetic interpretation, that the glorious   
 does not seem to be in the following speech things which shall have @ fulfihnent in the   
 any decision ex cathedra, either in the literal Israel, have their complete and   
 words, “ ‘hearken unto me,” or in “my sen- more worthy fulfilment in the spiritual   
 tence is” (ver. 19): the decision lay in the theoeracy, of which the Son of David is   
 weightiness, partly no doubt of the person the head. 17. upon whom my name   
 speaking, but principally of the imatter is called] Notice the same expression in   
 spoken by him. 14. Symeon] James the Epistle of James, ch. ii. 7. 18.]   
 eharacteristically uses this Jewish fonn of The variation of reading here is remark-   
 the name: so also Peter himself, 2 Pet. i. able. The text which I have given is in   
 1 (original; and margin, A. V.). The all probability the original, the words   
 name occurs Gen. xxix. 38, L} Luke inserted in the common text have been   
 ii, 25; iii, ch. xili. Rev, vii. the intended as a help out of the difficulty.   
 name Simon, elsewhere used in the N. T. Not only are they wanting in several   
 for Peter, is found (Shimon) in 1 Chron. MSS., but they bear the sure mark of spu-   
 . 20. for his name] for the service, riousness,—manifold variations in the MSS.   
 he making known, of His Name. where they do ocenr. The sense, and ac-   
 a people, answering to the people, so well count of the text seem to be this: the   
 known as His by covenant betore. Apostle paraphrases the words who maketh   
 16—18.] The citation from Amos is made fall] these things of the LXX, adding   
 frecly from the LXX: differing widely in known from the beginning of the world,   
 the latter part from our present Hebrew and intending to express ‘saith the Lord,   
 text, which see in the A.V. at the place. who from the beginning revealed these   
 Of this we may at least be sure, James, things,’ viz. by the prophet just cited.   
 even if (as I believe) he spoke in Greek, The addition has been made to fill up the   
 and quoted as here given, would not him- apparently elliptical “known from the be-   
 self (nor would the Pharisees present have ginning of the world,” which not being   
 allowed it) have quoted any rendering, found in the passage of Amos, was regarded.   
 especially where the stress of his as a sentence by itself. These last words   
 lay in it, at variance with the original may perhaps be an allusion to the mystery   
 Hebrew.—The prophecy regards that glo- of the admission of the Gentiles into the   
 rions restitution the kingdom to (the Son church, which was now being revealed   
 ot) David, which should be begun by the i} ly, and had been from of old   
 incarnation of the Lord, and perfected by announced by the prophets : compare Rom.