754 THE ACTS. XV.   
   
   
 x1 Thess. 9. not them, which from among the Gentiles ‘are P ¢urned to   
 God: © but that we write unto them, ¥ that they abstain   
 x. from pollutions of idols, and \* from fornication, and from   
 things strangled, \*and from blood. 2! For Moses 4 0f'¥ old   
 , time hath in every city them that preach him, ” being   
 “read in the synagogues every sabbath day. %2 Then   
 pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church,   
 to Ssend chosen men of their own company to Antioch with   
 % Paul and Barnabas; namely, ° Judas surnamed Barsabas,   
 and Silas, chief men among the brethren: \*and they   
 wrote letters by them [t after this manner]; The apostles   
   
   
   
   
 P render, turning. 4 vender, from of.   
 ¥ fiterally, ancient generations.   
 § render, choose out men of their own company, and send them.   
 t omit.   
   
 xvi. 25, 26; Eph. iii. 6, &e. 19.] not, heard these Mosaic prohibitions read, as   
 as A. V. ‘are turned,’ but are turning :— had been from generations past, in   
 the converts daily gathered into the church. agogues, it would be well for them   
 20.] The pollutions of idols are the id all such conduct and habits as.   
 things polluted by being offered to idols, would give unnecessary offence. On the   
 about which there was munch doubt and reading of the law, &c., in the synagogues,   
 contention in the early church :-see Exod. see ch, xiii. note. 22. Barsatas}   
 xxiv. 15, and 1 Cor. viii. x. 19. Tn most of our old authori   
 fornication] It may seem strange that a than that (ver. 32) he was a ‘prophet’   
 positive sin should be made the subject (see ch. xiii. 1), Wolf and Grotius hold   
 of these enactments which mostly regard him to have been the brother of Joseph   
 things in themselves indifferent, but ren- Barsabas, ch. i. 23. Silas] otherwise   
 dered otherwise by expediency and charity Silvanus: the former name is found in the   
 to others. In consequence we have the Acts, the latter in the Epp. of Paul, He   
 following attempts to evade the simple also was a ‘prophet’ (ver. 32). He ac-   
 rendering of the word: (1) Some explain companied Paul on his second missionary   
 it of spiritual fornication in eatiug things journey through Asia Minor and Macedonia   
 offered to idols: (2) others, of the com- (ver. 40—ch. xvii. 10),—remained behind   
 mittal of actual fornication at the rites in in Berea (xvii. and joined Paul again   
 idol temples, &c. See further in my Greek in Corinth (xviii. 5; 1 Thess.i. 1; 2 Thess.   
 ‘Test. But the solution will best be found i. 1), where he preached with Paul and   
 in the fact, that fornication was univer- Timotheus (2 Cor. i. 19). Whether the   
 sally in the Gentile world regarded on the Silvanus (1 Pet. v. 12), by whom the first   
 same footing with the other things men- Epistle of Peter was earried to churches   
 tioned, as indifferent, and is classed here of Asia Minor, was the same person, is al-   
 as Gentiles would be accustomed to hear together uncertain. Tradition distinguishes   
 of it, among those things which they Silas from Silvanns, making the former   
 allowed themselves, but which the Jews ishop of Corinth, the latter of Thessa-   
 regarded as forbidden. The moral abomi- lonica. On the hypothesis which indentities   
 nation of the practice is not here in ques- Silas with Luke, and makes him the author   
 tion, but is abundantly set forth by our of the Acts, see Introduction to Acts, § 1.   
 Lord and his Apostles in other places. 11, b,c. I may repeat here, that in my   
 things strangled ] as containing the blood, mind the description of Silas here as one   
 —see Levit. xvii. 13, 14. blood} in ot the “chief men among the brethren,” of   
 any shape: sce Gen. ix. 4; Levit. xvii. 13, itself, when coutrasted with the   
 14; Deut. xii. 24. Some of the fathers, preface to Luke’s gospel, would sutlice to   
 and others, interpret the word of homicide, refute the notion. It has been also sup-   
 which is refuted by the context. 21.) posed that Silas (because it may signify   
 Living as the Gentile converts would be third in Hebrew) is the sume name with Ler-   
 in the presence of Jewish Christiaus, who