11—15. THE ACTS, 761   
   
 13 And on the sabbath we went out of the ™ city by a river   
 side, where prayer was wont to be made ; and we sat down,   
   
 and spake unto the women which resorted thither. M And   
 a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the   
 city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, ” heard us : whose   
 ™ heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things ™Zvk =.   
   
 which were spoken of Paul. 15 And when she was bap-   
   
 tized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye   
 have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my   
   
   
 ™ read, with all our oldest authorities, gate.   
 2 render, was listening.   
   
 the Roman law was strictly observed, and There seem to have been few, if any, Jews   
 the Latin language was used on their coins in Philippi: this open air assembly con-   
 and inscriptions. They were governed by sisting merely of women attached to the   
 their own senate and magistrates (Duwn- Jewish faith. We hear of no opposi   
 viri, two in number, as consuls at Rome : arising Jews. There appears (xv!   
 see below, ver. 20), not by the governor to have been no synagogue. b   
 of the province. The land on which seller of purple] The guild of dyers at   
 they stood was tributary, as being pro- Thyatira have left inscriptions, still   
 vincial, nnless from tribute by the isting, shewing the accuracy of our nar-   
 special favour of the Italian right, or rative. The celebrity of the dyeing   
 ownership of the soil. This Philippi pos- of the neighbourhood is as old as Homer.   
 sessed, in common with many other co- Thyatira was a city of the province of   
 loniz and favoured provincial towns. The Asia. Thus although forbidden to preach   
 population of such places came in process the word in Asia, their first convert at   
 of time to be of a mixed character: but Philippi is an Asiatic. which wor-   
 only the descendants of the original co- shipped God] A proselyte; see ch. xviii.   
 lonists by Roman wives, or women of a 7, 13. She was listening,—when,   
 people possessing the citizenship, were in opening her heart, the act of God took   
 Roman citizens. Hence new supplies of place. “The heart of man is of itself   
 colonists were often necessary. shut,” says Bengel, “but it is God’s   
 in that city,—as distinguished from the work to open it.” It appears rather   
 suburban place of prayer, to which they to have been a conversation (notice   
 afterwards, on the Sabbath, went out of above, we spoke—not “we spoke the   
 the gate. 18.] a (or, the) river word”) than a set discourse: the things   
 side: viz. the small stream Gangités, or which Paul was saying. 15. she   
 Gangas: not, as Meyer and De Wette, was baptized, and her household] It   
 the Strymon, the nearest point of which may be that no inference for infant-bap-   
 was many miles distant. The name Kre- tism is hence deducible. The practice,   
 nidés, formerly borne by the city, was however, does not rest on iuference, but on   
 derived from the fountains of this stream. the continuity and identity of the covenant   
 —From many sources we learn, that it of grace to Jew and Christian, the sign   
 was the practice of the Jews to hold their ouly of admission beg altered. The   
 assemblies for prayer near water, whether Apostles, as Jews, have proposed to   
 of the sea, or of rivers: probably on ac- administer baptism to the ebildren, and   
 count of the frequent washings customary Jewish or proselyte converts would, as   
 among them. Sce the citations in my matter preposterons views acceded to tho   
 Greek Test. where prayer was wont proposal; would that the practice thus by   
 to be made] literally, where a meeting universal consent, tacitly in th nn-   
 for prayer was accustomed to be. It is tolie Chnrch. pervaded the universal church,   
 possible to understand the substantive hardly ye have any reason be doubted.   
 here rendered prayer, of a building devoted e modern   
 to the purposes of prayer. But that will   
 not suit the verb, was wont to be. It   
 may be understood a meeting for prayer:   
 and this will agree with the circumstances.