782 THE ACTS.   
 XIX,   
   
 dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews   
 a Mork xi.20.and Greeks. 14 And "God wrought ¢ special miracles by   
 ghee. 15,300 the hands of Paul: 1 °so that from his body were brought   
 20. “unto the sick handkerehiefs or aprons, and the diseases   
 departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.   
   
 > Matt. 27, 3 fP Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exoreists, 4 took   
 see Mark ix, upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the   
 name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus   
   
 whom Paul preacheth. 14 And there were seven sons of   
   
 one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.   
 15 And the evil spirit answered and 8 said, Jesus I know,   
 and Paul I know; but who are ye? 16 And the man in   
   
 whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame   
 h them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out   
   
 ® literally, common, f render, But.   
 & read, said unto them. h yead, them both.   
   
   
 tecost after that which he kept in Jerusa- foundation of His church. And Hetherefore   
 lem. See Introd. to 1 Cor. § 6. all endues him with this extraordinary power.   
 they which dwelt in Asia] Hyperbolical : But to argue by analogy from such a   
 —all had the opportunity, and probably case,—to suppose that because our Lord   
 some of every considerable town availed was able, and Peter, and Paul, and in   
 themselves of it. To this long teaching of Old Test. times Elisha, were enabled, to   
 St. Paul the seven churches of Asia owe exert this peculiar power, therefore the   
 their establishment. 11. no common mi- same will be possessed by the body or   
 racles] miracles of no ordinary kind. In relics of every real or supposed saint, is   
 what they differed from the usual displays the height of folly and fanaticism. The   
 of power by the Apostles, is presently true analogy tends directly the other way.   
 related: viz. that even garments taken In 20 cases but these do we find the power,   
 from him were endued with miraculous even in the apostolic days : and the general   
 power, 12.] Diseases, and possession cessation of all extraordinary gifts of the   
 by evil spirits, here plainly Spirit would lead us to the inference that @   
 from each other. ‘The rationalists, and JSortiori these, which were even then the   
 semi-rationalists, are much troubled to rarest, have ceased also. 13.] See   
 clear the faet related, that such hand- note on Matt. xii. 27, respecting Jewish   
 kerchiefs and aprons were instrumental exorcists. These men, seeing the success   
 in working the cures, from participation of Paul’s ageney in casting out devils,   
 in what they are pleased to call a popular adopt the name of Jesus in their own   
 notion founded in superstition and error. exorcisms. 14. chief of the priests}   
 But in this and similar narratives (see ch. The word must be used ina wide sense. He   
 vy. 15, note) Christian faith finds no diffi- may have been chief of the priests resident   
 culty whatever. All miraculous working is at Ephesus: or perhaps chief of one of the   
 an exertion of the direct power of the All- twenty-four courses, 15.) The nar-   
 powerful; a suspension by Him of His or- rative, from describing the nature of the   
 dinary laws: and whether He will use any attempt, passes to a single ease in it   
 instrument in doing this, or what instru- was tried, and in which (see below) two   
 ment, must depend altogether on His own only of the brothers were apparently con-   
 purpose in the miracle—the effect to be cerned, 16. them both] The weight   
 produced on the recipients, beholders, or of MSS. evidence for this reading is even   
 hearers. Without His special selection surpassed by its internal probability.   
 and enabling, ald instruments were vain; would be every reason, as seven have been   
 with these, all are capable. In the present before mentioned, for altering it: but no   
 case, as before in ch. 15, it was His pur- imaginable one for substituting it for that   
 pose to exalt His Apostle as the Herald of of the common text. Zwo only, it would   
 His gospel, and to lay Ephesus the strong scem, were thus employed on this particular