XXVUI. 1—3. THE ACTS. $33   
   
 42 And the soldiers’ counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest   
 any of them should swim out, and eseape. \* But the   
 centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their pur-   
 pose; and commanded that they which eould swim should   
 cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land: 4and   
 the rest, some on boards, and some on ° broken pieces of   
 the ship. And so it came to pass, ° that they escaped all ¢ ‘+.   
   
   
 safe to land.   
   
 XXVIII. }And when they were escaped, then they   
 knew that \*the island was ealled Melita. 2 And the ach. xxvit.20,   
   
 >p Jarbarous people shewed us no 4ittle kindness: for they » tom.i.   
 kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the 1 Cor. Me   
 present rain, and because of the cold. 3 And when Paul   
 had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire,   
   
   
 © Jiterally, on. some of the things from the ship.   
 P render, as in ver. 4, Rom. i. 14, 1 Cor. xiv. 11, Col. iii. barbarians.   
 4 render, common.   
   
   
 44, some of the things from the ship] pro- is said to be a colony of the Pheenicians.   
 bably, as A. V., broken pieces of the ship : received us] not to their fire, but   
 —some of the parts of the ship: the others to hospitality. the present rain]   
 mentioned being whole planks, perhaps of which commonly follows on great tempests.   
 the decks. XXVIII. 1, Melita] The the cold] This is decisive against   
 whole course of the narrative has gone to the Sirocco, which is a hot and sultry   
 shew that this can be no other than Matta. wind, even so late as the month of No-   
 The idea that it isnot Mara, but Meleda, vember, and moreover seldom lasts more   
 an island off the [lyrian coast in the Gulf than three days. 3. when Paul had   
 of Venice, seems to be first found in Con- gathered a bundle of sticks] “ We tind the   
 stantine Porphyrogenitus. It has been Apostle doing the office of a prisoner,   
 adopted by our own countrymen, Bryant: serving the wants of others.” Bengel.   
 and Dr. Falconer, and abroad by some From the cirenmstance of the concealed   
 commentators. It rests principally on viper, these sticks were probably heaps   
 three mistakes:—1. the meaning of the of neglected wood gathered in the forest.   
 name Adria (see above on ch. xxvii. 27),— The difficulty is, that there are now   
 2. the fancy that there are no poisonous no venomous serpents in Malta. But as   
 serpents in Malta (ver. 3),—3. the notion Mr. Smith observes, “no person who has   
 that the Maltese would not have been called studied the changes which the operations   
 Barbarians.—The idea itself, com- of man have produced on the animals of   
 pared with the facts, preposterous enough. any country, will be surprised thnt a par-   
 Its supporters are obliged to place Fair tienlar species of reptiles have dis-   
 Havens on the north side of Crete,—and appeared from Malta. My friend the Rev.   
 to suppose the wind to have been the hot Mr. Landsborough, in his interesting   
 Sirocco (comp. ver. 2).—Further notices of cursions in Arran, has repeatedly not   
 this question, and of the state of Malta at the gradual ppearanee of the viper   
 the time, will be found in the notes on the from the island since it has hecome more   
 following verses. 2. the barbarians] frequented. Perhaps there is nowhere a   
 A term implying very much what our word surface of equal extent in so artificial a   
 natives does, when speaking of any little- state as that of is at the present day,   
 known or new place. They were not Greck —and nowhere has the abor forest   
 colonists, therefore they were barbs been more completely cleared. We need   
 (Rom. i, 14). If it be necessary not therefore be surprised that, with the   
 to vindicate the term, see the two citations disappearance of the woods, the noxious   
 given in my Greek Test. where the Phoe- reptiles which infested them shonld also   
 uicians are called barbarians, aud Malta have disappeared” (pp. 111, 112). St.