15—22. THE ACTS. 987   
 fathers, yet \* was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into ecb. 2.35.   
 the hands of the Romans. 18 Who, ! when they had ten.   
 examined me, would have let me go, because there was no ® Hai”   
 cause of death in me. 1° But when the Jews spake against   
 it, "I was constrained to appeal unto Cesar; not that J ma.xr.n.   
   
   
   
 had ought to accuse my nation of. 2 For this cause   
   
 therefore have I called for you, to see you, and to speak   
 with you: because that "for the hope of Israel I am   
 bound with °this chain. % And they said unto him, We oe. x» 6,7,   
 neither received letters out of Judwa concerning thee,   
 neither any of the brethren that came shewed or spake any   
 \*2 But we desire to hear of thee what thou im.   
 harm of thee. . 9.   
 10,   
 thinkest : for as concerning this & sect, we know that   
   
 & literally, heresy : see ch, xxiv. 5, 14; xxvi, 5.   
   
   
 and Aquila had returned when the Epistle should have arrived before him. For his   
 to the Romans was written, Rom. xvi. 3.— voyage followed soon after his appeal (ch.   
 St. Paul was naturally anxious to set xxv. 13; xxvii. 1), and was so late in the   
 right with the Jews at Rome—to explain year, that for the former reason it is as   
 the cause of his being sent there, in no unlikely that any deputation from them   
 message had been received by them con- should have left before him, as for the   
 cerning him from Judza,—and to do away latter, after him. Had any left within a   
 if possible the unfavourable prejudice few days, the same storm would have in all   
 which such letters, if would have probability detained them over the winter,   
 created respecting his character.—The fact and they could not certainly have made a   
 of his sending for them, and their coming much quicker voyage than Paul’s ship to   
 to him, seems to shew that he was not im- Puteoli. Still, casual, non-official   
 prisoned in the Praetorian camp, but was might have reached them, Paul shewed this   
 already in a private lodging. 18. anxiety. It appears, however, that none   
 would have (wished to) let me go] This had come. Ishausen’s view, that the   
 may have been at ch. xxv. 8. The possi- banishment of the Jews from Rome under   
 bility of such a release is asserted by Claudius had interrupted the relations   
 Agrippa, ch. xxvi. 32. 19.] ‘My between the Roman and Judwan Jews, is   
 appeal was a defensive and necessary step hardly probable: see on ver. 17. 22,   
 —not an offensive one, to complain of my this heresy] To which they perhaps in-   
 nation.” 20. For this cause] For the ferred that Paul belonged, from ver. 20:   
 reason just stated: because I have no hos- or they might have heard thus much   
 tile feeling to my nation. Then what fol- generally respecting him by rumour, though   
 lows adds another motive ; for not only so, they had received no special message.—   
 but I may well wish to see and speak with Their short notice of Christianity is per-   
 you, heing a prisoner for the hope of Israel haps the result of caution, seeing as they   
 (see ch. xxvi. 6, and notes). 21.) It did the favour shewn by the authorities   
 may seem strange that they had received towards Paul: or perhaps of dissimulation.   
 no tidingsconcerning him. But, as Meyer —Many Commentators have noticed the   
 well remarks, (1) before his appeal, the omission of all mention of the Christiaa   
 Jews in Judea had no definite reason to church at Rome, and of Paul’s connexion   
 communicate with the Jews in Rome re- with or work among them. And some   
 specting him, having no expectation that recently in Germany have called in   
 Paul, then a prisoner in Judea, and the the eredibility of Acts on this account.   
 object of their conspiracies there, would But without any reason: for the work of   
 ever go to Rome, or come into connexion Apostle among churches already founded is   
 with their brethren there. And (2) since not the subject of our and is seldom   
 his appeal, it would have been hardly pos- related hy Luke, without a special reason.   
 sible for them to have sent messengers wlio Of the three years at Lae ee ce xx. 31),   
 Vou. I. 3