PHILIPPIANS. II. 26—30.   
   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED. AUTHORIZED VERSION.   
 2. your apostle, and \* minister to my senger, and he that minis-   
 \* need: 2% t since he was longing after tered to my wants. 26 For   
 you all, and was full of heaviness, he longed after you all, and   
 beeause ye had heard that he was was full of heaviness, be-   
 sick. °7 For indeed he was sick cause that ye had heard   
 nigh unto death: yet God had that he had been sick.   
 merey on him; and not on him °7 For indeed he was sick   
 only, but on me also, that I might nigh unto death: but God   
 not have sorrow upon sorrow, °% J had mercy on him; and   
 sent him therefore the more anxi- not on him only, but on me   
 also, lest I should have   
 sorrow upon sorrow, 7% I   
 sent him therefore the more   
 ously, that, when ye see him, ye carefully, that, when ye see   
 may rejoice again, and that I may him again, ye may rejoice,   
 and that I may be the less   
 be the less sorrowful. 29 Receive sorrowful. 79 Receive him   
 him therefore in the Lord with all therefore in the Lord with   
 eigor.xvis. gladness; and "hold sueh men in all gladness ; and hold such   
 1 hess.v.12. 80 because for the work in reputation: 3 because   
 toniteety honour: Christ] he came nigh unto for the work of Christ he   
 was nigh unto death, not   
 one death, hazarding his life \*that he regarding his life, to sup-   
 read by might supply what was lacking on ply your lack of service   
 note, 7 P toward me.   
 x1 Cort your part in your ministration to-   
 ward me.   
   
   
 the powers of darkness, in which the stress is on the request to receive him.   
 ministers of Christ are the leaders: see There certainly seems to be something   
 besides ref., 2 Tim. ii. bat your) behind respecting Epaphroditus, of which   
 —the contrast is to my above. we are not informed. If extreme affection   
 apostle—not in the ordinary sense of had been the sole ground of his being ful?   
 apostle, in Rom. xi. 13,—but as in 2 Cor. of heaviness, no such exhortation as this   
 viii. (where see note). 26.] Reason would have heen needed. 80.) for   
 for the necessity. The past tense, imper- the work [of Christ], viz. of the Gospel,   
 fect, was longing would become true when or of Christ (probably the original text   
 they received the letter. His longing was had only, for the work) ;—part of which it   
 then actually present: an English letter- was, to sustain the minister of the Gospel,   
 writer would have said, “is longing.” he came nigh unto death he in-   
 full of heaviness] Whether there was any curred so serious and nearly fatal a sick-   
 special reason, more than affection, ness:—not to be understood, as Chrysos-   
 made Epaphroditus anxious to return on tom and others do, of danger incurred by   
 account of this, we cannot say. 27. the hostility of the authorities. that   
 sorrow upon sorrow] i.e. if to his bonds he might fill up (1 Cor. xvi. 17) your   
 had been added the loss of his friend,— deficiency (viz. on account of absence)   
 “sorrow coming upon sorrow.” The second in the ministration to me (this ministra-   
 sorrow refers to his own distress in his tion was the contribution of money, which   
 imprisonment, so often implied in this had been sent by Epaphroditus. The only   
 Epistle: see Introd. § iii. 5. 28.) deficiency in this kind service was, their   
 The that I may be the less sorrowful is inability, through absence, to minister it   
 one of the Apostle’s delicate touches of to the Apostle themselves: and this Epa-   
 affection. If they rejoiced in seeing Epa- phroditus filled up, and in so doing risked   
 phroditus, Ais ow7 trouble would be thereby his life the way above hinted at, i.e.   
 lessened. 29.] therefore, as accom- bably by too constant and watchful attend-   
 plishing the purpose just expressed. The ance on the Apostle. So that there is no