COLOSSIANS. 45   
   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION. AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED.   
 sufferings for you, and fill} in my sufferings eon your behalf, e Eph.   
 up that which is behind of   
 the afflictions Christ in and fill up ‘what remaineth behind ‘3   
 my flesh for his body’s\of the afflictions of Christ in my &   
 sake, which is the church :| flesh for &his body’s sake, which is ¢epn.1.23.   
 25 whereof I am made a   
 minister avcording to the the church : 25 whereof I was made   
 dispensation of God which|@ minister, according to the stew-   
 is given to me for you, tolardship of God which was given 2p),#   
 Sulfil the word &F Geds!+ me for you, to fulfil the word of   
   
   
 note) which is under the heaven,—of the afflictions of Christ, in his flesh, and   
 which I Paul became a minister (as on behalf of His body. Not a pang, not a   
 Chrysostom remarks, “This enhances his tear isin vain. The Apostle, as standing   
 dignity and trustworthiness, as being put out prominent among this suffering body,   
 in charge with this Gospel thus widely predicates this of himself especially: the   
 spread, and so constituted the teacher of Jilling up, to which we all contribute, was   
 the world”). on his part so considerable, as to deserve   
 24 Transition from the mention of the name of a compensation itself, for   
 himself to his joy in his sufferings the the remarkable word implies, which we   
 Church, and (25—29) for the great object render fill uyp—I am contributing affic-   
 of his ministry :—all with a view to en- tions which one after another fill up the   
 hance the glory, and establish the para- defects. Notice that of the SUFFERINGS   
 mount claim of Christ.—I now (refers to of Christ not a word is said [see how-   
 what he heforetime became — extending ever 2 Cor. i. 5]: the context does not   
 what he is about to say down to the pre- concern, nor does the word afflictions ex-   
 sent time—emphatic, of time, not transi- press, those meritorious sufferings which   
 tional merely) rejoice in (as the state in He bore in His person once for all, the   
 which I am when I rejoice, and the ele- measure of which was for ever filled the   
 ment of my joy itself. Our own idiom one sufficient sacrifice, and satis-   
 recognizes the same compound reference) faction, on the cross; He is here regarded   
 my sufferings on your behalf (not, ‘as a as suffering with His suffering people,   
 substitute for you ;’ but strictly your bearing them in Himself, and being as in   
 advantage,’ that you may be confirmed in Isa. Ixiii. “afflicted in all their afflic-   
 the faith by [not my example merely], but tion.” On other suggested interpreta-   
 the glorification of Christ in my suffer- tions, see in my Greek Test.):   
 ings), and am filling up the deficiencies 25.) of which (in service of which, on   
 (plural, because the afflictions thought behoof of which) I (emphatic, resuming “ 7   
 of individually, not as a mass: those suf- Paul” above) became a minister, accord-   
 ferings which are wanting) of the afflic- ing to (so that my ministry is conducted   
 tions of Christ in my flesh (these in pursuance of, after the requirements   
 words, ‘in my flesh,’ belong to the verb and conditions of) the stewardship (see   
 am filling up, not to “the afflictions of on 1 Cor. ix. 17; iv. 1, also Eph. i.   
 Christ :” for if it were so, the clause, iii. 2: not, ‘dispensation: the simpler   
 “the afflictions of Christ in my body,” meaning here seems best, especially   
 would contain in itself that which the taken with the word given. “In the   
 whole clause asserts, and thus make it flat house of God, which is the Church, I am   
 and tautological) on behalf of His body, steward, as it were dispensing to the whole   
 which is the Church (the meaning being family, i.e. to individual Christians, the   
 this: all the tribulations of Christ’s body goods and the gifts of God my Lord.”   
 are Christ’s tribulations. Whatever the Cornelius a Lapide) of God (of which God   
 whole Church has to snffer, even to the is the source and chief) which was given   
 end, she suffers for her perfection in holi- (entrusted) me towards (so literally: i.e.,   
 ness and her completion in Him: and the with a view to or for) you (among other   
 tribulations of Christ will not be complete Gentiles; but as so often, the particular   
 till the pang shall have passed, and the reference of the occasion is brought out,   
 Jast tear have been shed. Every suffering and the general kept back), to (object and   
 saint of God in every age and position is aim of the giving of the stewardship)   
 in fact filling in his place and degree, fulfil the word of God (exactly as in