PHILEMON.

1 to obey in every good work; to speak evil of no man; not to vituperate, but to be peaceable, well behaved; showing courtesy to all men. For we ourselves also were once thoughtless, disobedient, unsettled, slaving for lusts and various pleasures, passing our lives in vice and depravity, hateful and hating each other. But when the kindness and philanthropy of God our Saviour appeared—not as the result of what we had accomplished in works of righteousness, but as the effect of His own mercy—He saved us, by a laver of regeneration and restoration of a spirit of holiness, which He richly poured out upon us through our Saviour Jesus Christ; so that being made righteous by that gift we might become by hope inheritors of eternal life.

2 This matter is true; and I desire you to constantly insist upon these things, so that the believers in God may stand forth as being anxious for a noble life—that is noble and profitable to men. But prohibit foolish discussions, and genealogies, and quarrels, and legal contentions; for they are profitless and vain. Depose a pretentious man after advising him once or twice; perceiving that such men dodge and sin although self-convicted.

When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, make haste to come to me in Nicopolis; for I have decided to winter there.

Provide at once for Zenas the lawyer, and Apollos, so that nothing may be wanting to them; and, further, let our people learn to advance in noble habits, so that they may not be indifferent towards those who are in want.

All my companions send regards to you.

Regards to all who love us in faith.

May blessing be with you all!

(The Epistle to Titus, the first appointed overseer of Crete, was written from Nicopolis of Macedonia, about the year 67 A.D.)

EPISODE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO PHILEMON.

1 PAUL, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and the brother Timothy, to our friend and fellow-worker Philemon, and to the dear Apphia, and to our fellow-soldier Archippus, and to the congregation in your house: Blessing and peace to you from our Father God, and Lord Jesus Christ.

2 When I give thanks to my God, I always make mention of you in my prayers; for I hear of your love, and the faith which you have to the Lord Jesus and to all the holy, so that your energetic unity in the Faith may advance into a recognition of every benefit there is for us in Christ. For I had pleasure and consolation from your friendship; and, brother, the feelings of the holy are comforted by you.

3 Although I might have complete freedom in Christ to demand an unusual thing of you, I would rather beg it for love—I am your old Paul, now also a prisoner for Christ Jesus. I beg of you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my captivity—he who was once useless to you, but now useful both to you and me—whom I have sent back. And now receive him, for he is my darling; whom I would like to have retained with me, so that instead of you, he might serve me in the bondage of the gospel. But without your consent I wished to do nothing; so that your benevolence might not be from necessity, but out of free will. Perhaps, for this reason indeed, he was removed from you for a short time, so that you might have him back for ever; no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a dear brother—especially so to me—but how much more to you, both in body and in the Lord! If, therefore, you have any sympathy with me, receive him as myself.

4 I beg of you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my captivity—he who was once useless to you, but now useful both to you and me—whom I have sent back. And now receive him, for he is my darling; whom I would like to have retained with me, so that instead of you, he might serve me in the bondage of the gospel. But without your consent I wished to do nothing; so that your benevolence might not be from necessity, but out of free will. Perhaps, for this reason indeed, he was removed from you for a short time, so that you might have him back for ever; no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a dear brother—especially so to me—but how much more to you, both in body and in the Lord! If, therefore, you have any sympathy with me, receive him as myself.

5 But if he has wronged or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, 19
have written with my own hand, I will repay it. Yet I need not tell you that you also owe your own self to me.

20 No, brother, make me happy in the Lord spontaneously; comfort my feelings in Christ.

21 I have written to you, confident of your acquiescence: for I know that you will do more than I ask. And therefore, also, prepare me a lodging; for I hope by your prayers to be welcomed by you.

Epaphras, my fellow-soldier in Christ Jesus, and my fellow-workers, Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, send regards to you.

The blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

(Written to Philemon, from Rome, about 62 or 63 A.D., and conveyed through Onesimus, a domestic.)

THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO THE HEBREWS.

The Pre-eminent Majesty and Honour of the Lord Jesus Christ by Reason of His Atonement.

1 GOD, having of old spoken to our forefathers in many portions and many forms, by the prophets, at last in these times has spoken to us by a Son; Whom He appointed Inheritor of all; and through Whom He made the ages; Who—being the effulgence of His grandeur, and the representative of His essence, supporting all things by His powerful Decree—having made a purification from sins, seated Himself in right of the Majesty on high; thus becoming by so much superior to the Messengers, inasmuch as He inherited a more distinguished Power than they. For when did He ever say to any of the Messengers?

You are My Son,
To-day I have begotten You?1

And again,
I will be a Father to Him,
And He shall be a Son to Me.2

But respecting the Son:

Great Prince, Your throne is for ever and ever;
And the sceptre of justice is the sceptre of Your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness, and hated lawlessness;
Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with a delightful oil above Your associates.1

And, You, Lord, have founded to the earth of old,
And the skies are the work of Your hands;
They shall be destroyed, but 11 You will remain;
And all shall grow old as a garment,
And You shall fold them as a 12 cloak,
And they shall be changed:
But You are the same,
And Your years will not be eclipsed.2

And when did He say to any of the