

NOTES AND COMMENTS

According to Eusebius, Bishop of Caesarea (AD 313-338), “*some of the Apostles passed over to the British Isles.*” This is most probable inasmuch as Paul was desirous to preach the Gospel to those to whom the name of Christ was not known, lest, as he says, “I should build upon another man’s foundation.” And having journeyed so near to Britain as Spain and Gaul, it is highly reasonable to suppose he would wish to cross over to these Islands, particularly if he had heard that there were men of his own nation settled there. There can be no question that Paul had heard of the “Tin Islands,” as the Romans had already conquered the greater part of Britain, and the Apostle would meet with many at Rome and elsewhere who had been there, either as traders or with the Roman army.

Theodoret, Bishop of Cyzicus, in Syria, supposes that after Paul had spent two years in Rome, he visited the islands of the sea, and he actually numbers some of the inhabitants of Gaul and Britain among the countrymen of the tentmaker.

Raphinus is the Roman name for Sandwich, in Kent. In the time of the Saxon Heptarchy there was still standing in Sandwich an old house called “The House of the Apostles.” This is regarded as strong evidence that some of the Apostles visited Sandwich.

The Apostle went and stood on Mount Lud, or Ludgate Hill, at that time, no doubt, more worthy of being called a mount than now. It has evidently been levelled for building the Cathedral and its predecessors, and the low-lying ground around levelled up.

In the remarkable prediction of verse 10 he declares that “nations shall come up to worship on the mount that testifieth of the patience and long-suffering of a servant of the Lord.” No one can fail to see that this prediction has had a striking fulfilment; the magnificent edifice which stands on the site of Mount Lud bears the Apostle’s name, and has been the meeting place for men of other nations who have come to worship before the Lord.

POINTS IN FAVOUR OF THE GENUINENESS OF THE MANUSCRIPT

- (a) It has all the appearance of being of ancient date.
- (b) It is written in Greek, and in the style of the Acts.
- (c) The places and peoples mentioned are called by their ancient or Roman names.
- (d) Its tone is dignified and spiritual.
- (e) Its scriptural brevity.
- (f) The remarkable character of its prophetic expressions.
- (g) Its being preserved in the Archives of Constantinople.
- (h) Its pure gospel character and generous conception of the Divine purpose and plan.

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THE LONG LOST CHAPTER OF THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

CONTAINING THE ACCOUNT OF PAUL’S JOURNEY IN

SPAIN AND BRITAIN

ALSO A REMARKABLE PREDICTION OF BRITAIN’S
GLORIOUS INHERITANCE

Translated by

C. S. SONNINI

FROM AN ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT FOUND IN THE
ARCHIVES OF CONSTANTINOPLE, PRESENTED TO HIM BY THE
SULTAN ABDOUL ACHMET

With Notes And Comments

T. G. COLE

This document purports to be the concluding portion of the “Acts of the Apostles,” and gives an account of Paul’s journeyings after his two years’ enforced residence in Rome in his own hired house. It is written in the style of the Acts and reads like a continuation of it ending with the ‘Amen’ missing from chapter 28.

It was found interleaved in a copy of “Sonnini’s Travels in Turkey and Greece,” and purchased at the sale of the library and effects of the late Right Hon. Sir John Newport, Bart., in Ireland, whose family arms were engraved on the cover of the book, and in whose possession it had been for more than thirty years, with a copy of the firman of the Sultan of Turkey, granting to C. S. Sonnini permission to travel in all parts of the Ottoman dominions. The document was translated by C. S. Sonnini from an original Greek manuscript found in the Archives of Constantinople, and presented to him by the Sultan Abdoul Achmet. The following is the contents of the title page of Sonnini’s work, in which the English translation of the document was found: “Travels in Turkey and Greece undertaken by order of Louis XVI, and with the authority of the Ottoman Court, by C. S. Sonnini, member of several scientific or literary societies, of the Society of Agriculture of Paris, and of the Observers of Men. ‘Mores multorum videt et ubes.’—HOR., London: Printed for T. N. Longman and O. Rees, Paternoster Row, 1801.”

The following is the English translation of the Manuscript, *the authenticity of which cannot be vouched for.*

COPY OF “SONNINI MANUSCRIPT”

Verse 1. And Paul, full of the blessings of Christ, and abounding in the spirit, departed out of Rome, determining to go into Spain, for he had a long time purposed to journey thitherward, and was minded also to go from thence into Britain.

Verse 2. For he had heard in Phoenicia that certain of the children of Israel, about the time of the Assyrian captivity, had escaped by sea to “the isles afar off,” as spoken by the prophet, and called by the Romans, Britain.

Verse 3. And the Lord commanded the gospel to be preached far hence to the Gentiles, and to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.¹

Verse 4. And no man hindered Paul; for he testified boldly of Jesus before the tribunes and among the people; and he took with him certain of the brethren which abode with him at Rome, and they took shipping at Ostium, and having the winds fair were brought safely into an haven of Spain.

Verse 5. And much people were gathered together from the towns and villages and the hill country; for they had heard of the conversion of the apostle, and the many miracles which he had wrought.

Verse 6. And Paul preached mightily in Spain, and great multitudes believed and were converted, for they perceived he was an apostle sent from God.

Verse 7. And they departed out of Spain, and Paul and his company finding a ship in Armorica sailing unto Britain, they went therein, and passing along the South coast they reached a port called Raphinus.

Verse 8. Now when it was noised abroad that the apostle had landed on their coast, great multitudes of the inhabitants met him, and they treated Paul courteously, and he entered in at the east gate of their city, and lodged in the house of an Hebrew and one of his own nation.²

Verse 9. And on the morrow he came and stood upon Mount Lud;³ and the people thronged at the gate, and assembled in the Broadway, and he preached Christ unto them, and many believed the word and the testimony of Jesus.

Verse 10. And at even the Holy Ghost fell upon Paul, and he prophesied, saying, *Behold in the last days the God of Peace shall dwell in the cities, and the inhabitants thereof shall be numbered; and in the seventh numbering of the people,⁴ their eyes shall be opened, and the glory of their inheritance shine forth before them. And nations shall come up to worship on the Mount that testifieth of the patience and long suffering of a servant of the Lord.*

Verse 11. And in the latter days new tidings of the Gospel shall issue forth out of Jerusalem, and the hearts of the people shall rejoice, and behold, fountains shall be opened, and there shall be no more plague.

Verse 12. In those days there shall be wars and rumours of wars; and a king shall rise up, and his sword shall be for the healing of the nations, and his peacemaking shall abide, and the glory of his kingdom a wonder among princes.

¹ Acts 22:21; 9:15.

² Acts 28:7.

³ Ludgate Hill and Broadway, where St. Paul's Cathedral is built in London.

⁴ The 7th Census of the United Kingdom was in 1861 and the decade that followed witnessed a great expansion of the knowledge that Israel was in the British Isles. The 21st (3x7) Census took place in 2011.

Verse 13. And it came to pass that certain of the Druids came unto Paul privately, and showed by their rites and ceremonies they were descended from the Jews which escaped from bondage in the land of Egypt, and the apostle believed these things, and he gave them the kiss of peace.

Verse 14. And Paul abode in his lodgings three months, confirming in the faith and preaching Christ continually.

Verse 15. And after these things Paul and his brethren departed from Raphinus, and sailed unto Atium in Gaul.

Verse 16. And Paul preached in the Roman garrisons and among the people, exhorting all men to repent and confess their sins.

Verse 17. And there came to him certain of the Belgae to enquire of him of the new doctrine, and of the man Jesus; and Paul opened his heart unto them, and told them all things that had befallen him, how be it that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; and they departed, pondering among themselves upon the things which they had heard.

Verse 18. And after much preaching and toil Paul and his fellow labourers passed into Helvetia, and came unto Mount Pontius Pilate, where he who condemned the Lord Jesus dashed himself down headlong, and so miserably perished.

Verse 19. And immediately a torrent gushed out of the mountain and washed his body broken to pieces into a lake.

Verse 20. And Paul stretched forth his hands upon the water and prayed unto the Lord, saying, O Lord God, give a sign unto all nations that here Pontius Pilate, which condemned thine only-begotten Son, plunged down headlong into the pit.

Verse 21. And while Paul was yet speaking, behold there came a great earthquake, and the face of the waters was changed, and the form of the lake like unto the Son of Man hanging in an agony upon the cross.

Verse 22. And a voice came out of heaven saying, Even Pilate hath escaped the wrath to come,⁵ for he washed his hands before the multitude at the blood-shedding of the Lord Jesus.⁶

Verse 23. When, therefore, Paul and those that were with him saw the earthquake, and heard the voice of the angel, they glorified God, and were mightily strengthened in the spirit.

Verse 24. And they journeyed and came to Mount Julius, where stood two pillars, one on the right hand and one on the left hand, erected by Caesar Augustus.

Verse 25. And Paul, filled with the Holy Ghost, stood up between the two pillars, saying, Men and brethren, these stones which ye see this day shall testify of my journey hence; and verily I say, they shall remain until the outpouring of the spirit upon all nations, neither shall the way be hindered throughout all generations.

Verse 26. And they went forth and came unto Illyricum,⁷ intending to go by Macedonia into Asia, and grace was found in all the churches; and they prospered and had peace. Amen.

⁵ Second Death—Revelation 21:8.

⁶ Matthew 27:24.

⁷ Romans 15:19.