

APOCALYPSE xviii 15, 17.

Apocalypse xviii 15 οἱ ἔμποροι τούτων . . . 17 καὶ πᾶς κυβερνήτης καὶ πᾶς ὁ ἐπὶ τόπον πλέων καὶ ναῦται καὶ ὅσοι τὴν θάλασσαν ἐργάζονται . . . *υv. ll. ἐπὶ τῶν πλοίων ὁ ὄμιλος (vel ὁ . . . πλέων). ὁ ἐπὶ πόντον πλέων* Nestle ex conj.

THE first, the third, and the fourth of these classes of seamen are indicated clearly enough; and the fifth phrase, in contradistinction to the others, indicates clearly enough fishermen and the like, as a candid examination of Wetstein's citations will shew. With that great scholar systematic and unbiased illustration of the New Testament died; and I trust to shew by degrees that it died all too soon. Wetstein read ἐπὶ τῶν πλοίων ὁ ὄμιλος and threw in carelessly one illustration (out of hundreds he may have had) of τόπος = harbour—an illustration idly repeated, as usual, by subsequent editors. But it does not mean that; for one says εἰς λιμένα—ἐπὶ γῆν perhaps: for that is 'to an anchorage off' a shore.

Now any one who looks fairly at the phrase will see that in between the κυβερνήτης (practically 'captain') and ναῦται the crew, we need a mention of the rest of the hierarchy of a ship; and this conclusion, obvious at first sight, is greatly strengthened by the parallel the editors give us from Ezek. xxvii 28 f, where the prophet gives us κυβερνήται, κωπηλάται, ἐπιβάται, πρῳεῖς.

Any lexicon will tell us sufficient of this last officer (usually called πρῳράτης) for our purpose; and Artemidorus (i 37) tells us that the second mate was the τοίχαρχος, and perhaps the ἐσχαρεύς (Poll. i 95) was a third. Here we have the complement of the merchant crew.

Now all these officers are named from their station—the *part* of the ship assigned to them; and if such part could be designated by τόπος we might be on the road to an explanation of the meaning of this passage of the Apocalypse. But, as may be seen from the dictionaries, it means nothing of the kind.

Does it not? What then of the following: Poll. i 92 καὶ τὸν τόπον δὲ τὸν πρὸς ταῖς κώπαις κωπωτήρα καλοῦσιν. Schol. Thuc. iv 12 παρέξ-ερεσία ἐστὶν ὁ ἔξω τῆς εἰρεσίας τῆς νεὼς τόπος, and I doubt not that many examples might be found from the grammarians. Here is one from an Alexandrine author Kallixeinos (Ath. 204 a) ζῶα μὲν γὰρ εἶχεν οὐκ ἐλάττω δώδεκα πηχῶν κατὰ πρῦμναν τε καὶ κατὰ πρῶραν καὶ πᾶς

τόπος αὐτῆς κηρογραφία καταπεποίκιλτο . . . ἀνεπλήρου δὲ τὰ προσδεόμενα τῆς νεῶς μέρη—the last being the word preferred by Hesychius in his glosses.

My conclusion is then that ἐπί, τοπ-, and πλοίων are right, and the first means 'in charge of', the second 'a quarter (of a ship)'; the corruptions are then easily explained. Between τόπον (as ἐξουσίαν ἔχειν ἐπί τι), τόπου and τόπων, which are normal, I hesitate.

Σπιλάς.

To the list of instances which I gave in the JOURNAL (xiv 56, July 1913) where σπιλάς means storm, there is another to be added. It is in Theophylact. Simoc. p. 95 D (166 *Scr. Hist. Byz.*): βασιλείας γὰρ σκάφος πολλοῖς τοῖς πηδαλίοις οἰακίζόμενον μικρά τις σπιλάδος ἐπίδρομῆ κατεβάπτισε, περισχίζομένης τῆς κυβερνήσεως πρὸς τὰς τῶν πολλῶν ἀντιθέτους ἐπιβολάς, ἀλλότε ἄλλου πρὸς τὸν οἰκείον σκοπὸν ἐπειγομένου. Here, again, it is a squall not a rock which attacks; when they struck a rock they ran to pump out the water, or scrambled for the boats (Ach. Tat. iii 1 sqq.) or planks; the question Whither shall we steer? was mooted in a storm, and even the least experienced passenger had his view and was allowed to express it to the helmsman.

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