NOTES AND STUDIES 77

APOCALYPSE xviii 15, 17.

Apocalypse xviii 15 ὁ ἐμπορὸς τοῦτων . . . 17 καὶ πᾶς κυβερνήτης καὶ πᾶς ὁ ἐπὶ τὸ πλοίον πλέων καὶ ναῦται καὶ ὅσοι τὴν θάλασσαν ἐργάζονται . . . νυ. ΙΙ, ὁ ἐπὶ τῶν πλοίων ὁ ὅμιλος (vel ὁ . . . πλέων). ὁ ἐπὶ πόλιν 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 ὁ ἐπὶ τῶν πλοίων ὁ ὅμιλος 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 λιμάνα—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, πρωφέρεις.

Any lexicon will tell us sufficient of this last officer (usually called πρωφάτης) for our purpose; and Artemidorus (i 37) tells us that the second mate was the τοίχαρχος, and perhaps the ἐχαρέως (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 κόπαις κωπωτήρα καλοῦσιν. Schol. Thuc. iv 12 παρεξ-ειρεσία ἐστιν 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) ἕως μὲν γὰρ εἶχεν οὐκ ἐλάττω δώδεκα πηχῶν κατὰ πρύμναν τε καὶ κατὰ πρῶραν καὶ πᾶς.
τόπος αυτῆς κηρογραφίας καταπετοίκυλτο... ἀνεπλήρου δὲ τὰ προσδεόμενα τῆς νεώς μέρη—the last being the word preferred by Hesychius in his glosses.

My conclusion is then that ἐπὶ, τοπ-, and πλοῖον 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 ἠξοντιάν ἡχεῖν ἐπὶ τῇ), τόπον and τόπον, 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 οἰακιζόμενον μικρὰ τις σπιλάδος ἐπιδρομὴ κατεβάπτουσε, περισχεδεμένης τῆς κυβερνήσεως πρὸς τὰς τῶν πολλῶν ἀντιθέτων ἐπιβολάς, ἀλλάτε ἄλλου πρὸς τὸν οἰκεῖον σκοτῶν 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.

A. D. Knox.