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A fourth journey (for D. E. H.).

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A Fourth Journey

(To D.E.H.)

Not only Saul
but a fellow traveler
also was struck down
on a road to Damascus.
Bearing a scar of silence
this third companion
journeyed with the master missionary
over rugged terrain
and restless seas
to Colossae, Ephesus, Philippi, Corinth. . .
His scribe was his pen,
his partner, parchment;
his epistles
(far more than thirteen)
served as charts and maps,
guiding the pilgrim-traveler
through hazards of sea and land.
Surrounded by clamor and debate
of the synagogue,
from his quiet corner
he taught the law,
defended the faith,
propounded the mysteries,
and preached the gospel
of grace.
Even after a third journey
he could not say with his mentor,
"I have finished the course,"
for still he has journeys to make.
Stretching his sails daily,
with compass set
and sextant fixed
on celestial markers,
he sets a course
across deep
(and often treacherous) seas,
sailing for Rome
and points westward.

Wilfred Martens

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