

whom she feared and loved. To this Judge, "whom no king can corrupt," to whom the whole Roman empire was less important than the honor of the little girl who was his special ward, she now appealed for justice and protection. Symphronius at first tried, by gentle means, to induce Agnes to sacrifice to the gods and marry his son. Twice, three times, did he summon her before him, after giving her time for reflection, and use every means of persuasion, intermingling flattery with threats, the intercession of friends with the menaces of the law. But in vain. The judge, at length, lost patience. He could be kind no longer without being suspected of disloyalty to the gods himself. He ordered her to sacrifice to Vesta, the patroness of the so-called vestal virgins. She refused to worship what she called a deaf-and-dumb idol, a vain bit of stone. This defiance roused the bigotry and the false patriotism of the Roman judge. His paganism made him both cruel and brutal. Now, what was his sentence? "Let me not name it to you, you chaste stars." Hang down your heads in shame for human depravity, ye Christians! and ye men of the world, blush for one of the most horrible crimes ever committed by one of your sex. What was the