

ted nations on the
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George, I may
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n a Commander

in one of his legions, when the dignity of a seat in the Council. In the twentieth year of his age he lost his maternal parent, and wholly dedicated himself to his military duties, in which he became eminently distinguished; but during the height of his reputation, the persecution of the Christians burst forth with increased violence and aggravated cruelty; upon which St. George withdrew himself from the service of the tyrant, whom he had the courage publicly to upbraid in the Senate with his barbarities; and openly distributed his vast fortune for the support of those, against whom the persecutors of Christianity, headed by the Emperor, were exerting their utmost malice. The Emperor, amazed and irritated at the daring boldness of St. George, seemed at first determined upon his destruction; but the many services rendered to him by that great man, induced him to suspend his vengeance, and he endeavoured by every means in his power to continue the hero in his service.—Alike unmoved by promises of aggrandizement, and unawed by threats St. George continued firm in his opposition to the tyrannies of the hardened Emperor; for which, after having several times endured the torture, he was ignominiously drawn through the city of Lydda and beheaded on the 23rd day of April, 290." From these facts, and others perhaps of a similar nature, which have not come down to us, and which in those days were considered very great and meritorious, the reputation of St. George became unbounded; every thing remarkable, particularly as regarded Christianity was associated with his name, but as it became so prevalent in after ages to represent any great event in symbols, or in exaggerated description, many particulars, as connected with his history, are now so involved in obscurity or even fable, that at this distance of time it is extremely difficult, if not impossible to arrive at the exact truth.—Of this character we must consider those subjects of popular belief, namely, (1) "that St. George slew a Dragon to preserve the daughter of a King, who otherwise would have been devoured by

(1) Brady runsum.