

Father Burke.
A minister of Erin,
Her laurel-wreath bearing,
Came chanting the anthem of Erin's renown,
He told of grand deeds,
And he placed on her brow an immaculate crown.

FABIOLA;

THE CHURCH OF THE CATACOMBS.

Of the slave we know enough for the present,
Corvinus was son, as we have said, to Tertullus,
originally prefect of the Praetorium. This office,
unknown to the republic, and of imperial creation,

And what was that?
Why, that Fulvius had discovered a great con-
spiracy against Diocletian; and from the wink of
the old man's awful eye, I understand he had hatched
it first; and he has been sent with strong recom-
mendations to Rome to be employed in the same
line."
But I have no ability either to make or to dis-
cover conspiracies, then I may have to punish them."
One way, however, is easy.

You cannot meet the eye of a poor soldier like
me, the least of Christ's servants; how then will
you stand the angry glance of the Lord whom you
stand to deny before men (but cannot in your
heart deny), on that terrible day, when He, in
return, will deny you before Him, like good and
faithful servants, as to-morrow ye might have done,
you shall have to come into His presence after
having crawled through a few more years of infancy,
disowned by the Church, despised by its enemies,
and what is worse, gnawed by a maddening worm,
and victims of a sleepless remorse?
Censor, oh, in pity cease, young man, whoever
thou art, exclaimed Tranquillius, the father of
the youths. "Speak not thus severely to my sons;
it was, I assure you, to their mother's tears and to
my entreaties that they had begun to yield, and not
to the tortures which they had endured with such
fortitude. Why should I leave their wretched
parents to misery and sorrow? does your religion
command this, and do you call it holy?"

What was it?
When you were contending with Polycarp,
about going into Campania, or remaining in Rome,
you promised that if you stayed you would be most
cautious, and not expose yourself to unnecessary
risks; then you added, that there was one purpose
in your mind which would effectually restrain you;
but that when that was accomplished you would
find it difficult to check your longing ardour to give
your life for Christ."
And why, Paneratus, do you desire so much to
know the foolish thought of mine?
Because I own I am really curious to learn what
can be the object, high enough to check in you the
ardour, after what I know you consider to be the
very highest of a Christian's aim.

CHAPTER XI.
A TALK WITH THE READER.
We will take advantage of the holiday which
Rome is enjoying, sending out its inhabitants to the
neighbouring hills, or to the whole line of sea-coast
from Genoa to Pastum, for amusement on land and
water; and, in a merely didactic way, endeavor to
communicate to our reader some information which
may throw light on what we have already written,
and prepare him for what will follow.

CHAPTER X.
OTHER MEETINGS.
When the two youths returned to the room by
which they had entered the apartment, they found
the expected company assembled. A frugal repast
was laid out on a table, principally as a blind to any
intruder who might have been desirous to enter.
The assembly was large and varied, containing clergy,
nobles and laymen. The purpose of the
meeting was to concert proper measures, in conse-
quence of something which had lately occurred in
the palace.

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