

was ended, most of them said "The deacon is right, and the doctrine of Arius is contrary to the Word of God." Then Arius was put out of the Church, and the ministers went home again, all speaking of the bold and eloquent young deacon of Alexandria, who loved the Lord Jesus, and whom God had raised up to be a defender of the faith.

Eusebius and the others friends of Arius were very angry with Athanasius for getting them put out of the Church. The year after the Council, Alexander died, and Athanasius was made bishop in his place. You may be sure that he would not allow any one to preach Arianism near him. Nine more years passed away, and during all this time his enemies were busy against him. At last they said that he had killed a bishop called Arsenius, and had cut off the dead man's hand. So the Emperor called a Council at Tyre to see if this was true. Athanasius did not know what to do, for certainly Arsenius had disappeared, and nobody seemed to know what had become of him. But he put his trust in God, and went to Tyre. His enemies brought the hand into the Council and said, "This is the hand of Arsenius, which Athanasius cut off." Athanasius said it was not true, but no one would believe him, for nearly all the ministers in the Council had had their minds poisoned against him by the followers of Arius. While they were preparing to condemn him, Archelaus, the governor of Tyre, came to Athanasius and said, "Be of good comfort, all will be well." Then Athanasius prayed to God again to help him. Soon Archelaus returned with some soldiers, who led in a man wearing a long cloak; and Paul, the bishop of Tyre, cried out, as he came in, "This is Arsenius!" And so it was. He had been hiding in the city, waiting, I suppose, to see Athanasius condemned and perhaps put to death for killing him. Then Athanasius said to his accusers, "Is this Arsenius?" and they had to reply, "Yes, it is indeed he."

"Is this his hand which you have laid before the council?"

They replied that it was. Athanasius drew aside one fold of the long cloak and showed Arsenius's right hand, and afterwards he drew aside the other fold and showed his left hand. Then he said to the council, "Arsenius, as you see, is found to have two hands; let my accusers show the place whence the third was cut off." In spite of this, the enemies of Athanasius would not leave him alone; and the next year they prevailed on the Emperor to banish him far off to the city of Treves in Gaul. But that same year Arius died a sudden and awful death, and, before the next was ended, Constantine appeared before God's judgment seat.

It would take me a long time to tell, and you to read, of all the persecutions and banishments of Athanasius. He suffered them all because of his loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ. If he had been willing to abate ever so little of the glory of the Saviour, the emperors that succeeded Constantine would have made a great man of him; but God made him a greater man than any or all of the kings of the earth were able to do. Twenty years of persecution passed away, during which he had been allowed now and then to remain in peace for a little time among his people, who always celebrated his return from exile with great rejoicings. Then the emperor Constantius, the third son of Constantine, who was an Arian, sent an army against him. His people were assembled with him in a church in Alexandria, although it was night, to worship God. Some, who were outside as sentinels on the watch, came into the assembly and told Athanasius that a general and five thousand men, armed with swords and clubs, bows and arrows, were coming to take him prisoner and put him to death, according to the Emperor's orders. Athanasius sat still on his seat, and told one of the deacons to read