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JUBILEE BOOK, CONTAINING

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THE LAST DAYS OF OR

A SISTER OF FABIOLA.

AFTER THE MANNER OF THE FRENCH.

CHAPTER XIII.—THE FALSEHOOD AND TEMPTATION. (Continued.)

"Jubal," he inquired, scanning his features with an air of mistrust, while his brows lowered, an indication of an approaching burst of anger, "methinks you care little as to the fate of gods. I see it in your listless attention, when I am treating of

bas was not a Christian when she married him." "Yes, but she laid it down as a condition that he should become one. He promised her that he would, and even confirmed his asservations with an oath. Perhaps, you have forgotten the incidents of his death. The old shepherd can tell you how he favored the sect, and how he died in the arms of one of its accursed ministers."

"I cannot say that I am yet convinced. Who has said that Vivia rejected me because I was not a Christian ?"

"She herself. These are her words: 'Jubal is a noble young man, of a highly cultivated mind and generous disposition; his birth is illustrious and the wealth of the family is considerable; but with his bad habits and the indifferent companions with whom he is constantly brought into contact, there is very littl + hope of converting him to our religion. Its discipline would be too strict for him, and the observance of its precepts too onerous. But I will never choose any one but a Christian to be my husband.' Mark these last words, Jubal : 'None but a Christian.' Now are you satisfied ?"

The old man lied. He knew Jubal's impetuous character, and he anticipated for this invention of his own a furious outburst of anger against the Christians. But he was mistaken, and he was not a little surprised to see the young man place his hand quietly to his brow and remain for a considerable time in a pensive attitude. Olympian felt somewhat abashed, but thinking to awaken him from his reverie, he again addressed him in an assumed tone of firmness, blended with a tincture of wounded

pride : "Do you think that it comports with my dignity to repeat emphatically what I do not know to be

true ? "I suspect you not. Do not mistake me," replied Jubal, turning round and casting at him a penetrating look; but I am thinking of what a change your words have wrought in the depths of my heart. Vivia did not then despise me, it was only my relig-ion. I spoke rudely to her and wounded her quick sensibilities, but still I find she did not reject me for this. Noble heart ! oh how is it that I have not known her until this moment? I would not have then hated her, and, perhaps, at her side I should have found that happiness which I have vainly sought for in those frivolous and transient

affections which have wasted the years of my youth." "Would you have embraced that abominable faith to please Vivia? What are you saying Jubal? Would you subject yourself to the contemptuous scowl of the entire population of Carthage, simply to obtain the hand of a fickle-minded wretch who has turned her back upon our immortal gods ?"

"Don't speak to me of gods," cried Jubal, jump ing to his feet, while his eyes flashed with rage, "they are miserable phantoms of a diseased brain-

the subjective shaping of external operations of nature. I tell you, over and over again, I do not believe in them-for me, the grave is an eternal adieu."

The old man seemed overcome, and ready to yield to the overwhelming vociferations of the passionate Jubal. He waited patiently until his excitement had subsided before he ventured to speak. At you, if you will only curb your impetuous temper." length, when the young man was seated and disposed to listen, he began :

of placing a dagger in the hands of Afer and commanding him to imbrue it in the blood of Vivia. He endeavored to compose himself, and recover calmness of mind. When the power of utterance returned, he approached near to the priest, and placing his hand on the table to steady his nerves, he looked him in the face with an unwavering gaze:

"Take care not to repeat to others those words which you have just uttered. You shall not do it with impunity. Mark my words !"

The priest trembled for he knew the disposition of Jubal which led him to sacrifice anything or commit the worst of crimes to satisfy the cravings of revenge,

"You mistake me, Jubal. I am your friend and you take me for your enemy."

"I tell you openly, without disguise, that I believe-I believe-. Well, I respect your grey bairs, but let me tell you that there can be no concert of action between us, for, old man, I detest you! Yes! yes! by the gods above us"-

"Hold ! you forget my dignity and the respect which is due to my person. You are powerful, it is true, but remember there is an authority above you, which will bring you to an account for an insult offered to the highest vicar of the gods in the city that he was under the influence of anger.

"Let us put an end to this disgraceful subject. I will leave you to your own reflections, but one thing I will say before quitting our room. If you threat-en Vivia, or cause one hair of her head to be touched your head will answer for it. You know Jubal, he s determinate."

Olympian said nothing, but bit his lip in silent anger. He felt profoundly mortified that Jubal should have discovered his real intentions. He had not given him credit for such acute penetration, but he desired. His firmness, courage and pride, had the evil was done and his influential friend lost to all passed away, and he was now like a mighty tree the side of persecution. But it was too much for in the forest stripped of its foliage, and bent to the the priest to brock the imperious words of the ground under the blast of a tempest. Ho caused young libertine without venturing to reply. Courage returned, and he rose to his feet. "No, you will not save your Vivia. I swear it in

the name of the immortal gods. I myself will demand her blood !"

"The last words that would have escaped those withered lips had I my poignard, base deceiver ! thou incarnation of hypocrisy ! Woe be to that man "Rash youth ! What could you do to save her if

I raised my voice? Besides she would disdain your powerless protection, for I know she hates you at this very moment."

"No! Is is false ! Her heart is too pure to harbor resentment."

" Do not deceive yourself. There is an impassible gulf separating you from each other, and if you want to know what it is I will tell you-it is blood! You know not that she is fully aware of the details of

the murder of her husband—that he fell by the hand of your slave. Jubal, listen | you are in a difficult position," continued the old man, lowering his voice

revenge, arose in the mind of Jubal. He thought | and do not forget to expose the indifference of the Senate and the apathy of our magistrates, who remain unmoved despite the severe edicts which have emanated from the palace of the Cæsars."

"I do not like to do it, old man, but I suppose must. Well, taking that for granted, what next? "The remains of Jarbas will soon be conveyed to

the city with unusual pomp. Our object must be to check this proposed demonstration on the plea that honors should not be paid to a Ch^{*}istian. Ac-cordingly, that blind decision of the Senate must not be carried into execution, but on the contrary, openly opposed by the sovereign vote of the people made sovereign at least in the case of criminal folly on the part of the rulers."

"What! Insult the ashes of noble Jarbas? Impossible! Besides, I should deeply offend Vivia, and you promised to protect her."

"Jubal, you cannot appreciate the value of my silence on the subject of your complicity with his death, nor can you see what service I can be to you in using my influence to counteract the evidence of the slave against you. Leave aside this false delicacy, this childish sensibility, which is only fit for women or men whose foolishuess has degraded them below their weakness. I do not desire that Vivia should be corporally punished, but I desire that she feel the sting of profound humiliation, in order that of Carthage. Take care young man!" and the con-vulsive movement of his aged face indicated clearly of her husband, but, on the contrary, learn to look to herself for her own defense. Once she becomes really aware of her own dependence and feels the solitude of her isolated position, she will become more tractable and easier of approach. Therefore, if you love Vivia, and wish to obtain her hand, you must adopt the means which I suggest. You must humble her pride."

Thus he encouraged the inordinate passion of the young man for Vivia, so as to attach him more firmly to his interest. Jubal promised him all that Sylvain to repair to the house of Olympian, liberated Afer, and sent him to the woods, and trembled with fear as he received the haughty commands of one whom he hated as much as he dreaded.

"Come to-morrow, Jubal, and we will mature our plans. Come at this hour."

"I will not fail. Adieu ! and as he descended the great marble steps before the grand door of the episcopal house, he muttered to himself:

" The infamous wretch has got me in his power What if I employ the dagger of Afera second time? But, no ! the danger is too great-it would be too hazardous for the moment. We will see, however what the morning brings."

CHAPTER XIV.—CHRISTIANS TO THE LIONS.

As long as the Emperor Severus had competitors to contend against him for the possession of the Empire, his policy towards the Christians was mild and couciliatory. He knew their fidelity and he accordingly looked upon them as powerful auxiliaries in maintaining peace. His army contained a large proportion of Christian soldiers, nor had he ever any reason to regret the decision by which such a

Such was the language of Jubal in the different houses of pleasure which he frequented. Corresponding sentiments were expressed by thousands

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through the city over whom Olympian wielded infinence and many a sacrilegious imprecation rent the air, and many a toast was drunk swearing eternal hatred to Christ.

The shepherd of the Mountains rejoiced that the hour was near when his vengeance would be quenched in the blood of Vivia. He lost no time among the slaves in his endeavors to bring on that general persecution to which the object of his hatred should fall a victim. He even insinuated the prospect of a universal emancipation, as the result of their magnanimous endeavors to suppress an evil which corroded the vitals of the nation and checked its prosperity.

Firmilian was Governor of the Province of Carthage. He was a man of peaceable disposition and averse to anything like popular excitement, persuaded that nothing good could come of it even though the ends proposed were just and laudable. He refused to publish this edict in a formal manner and it was in vain that the High Priest recalled to his mind the duty of obedience.

In the principal square of the City of Carthage, arose the magnificent monument of Juno, the Queen of the gods. The entire Province was placed under her protection. A crown of precious diamonds reposed upon her head and by their natural reflection, formed around her brow an aureola of light. She held in her right hand a golden sceptre, the symbol of divinity, in her left a vessel in ministure, beautifully sculptured from bright colored marble and bearing the inscription "Carthage, the Queen of the The statue was of ancient date. The Roseas." mans found it when they came to take possession of the country, nor did they desecrate it lest they might rouse the anger of that proud and unforgiving godess. It was held in great veneration by the people of the town. At night a sentinel marched to and fro in front of the sacred monument.

During the present period of excitement the soldier was found one morning stretched lifeless upon the ground and weltering in a pool of blood. The a'arm was given and soon the square was filled with crowds declaring vengeance against those who had insulted the godess of the City. It was declared that no other but the Christians could have perpetrated such a sacrilegious act. The fury of the cople was beyond description, and the crics of "death to the Christians," echoed through the streets and public places of the town. Who were the culprits? It mattered not; the whole sect should perish. Bands of farious desperadoes marched through the city displaying their poignard and crying out for the blood of the enemics of Juno. Others again, after the manner of popular agitators, harangaed the crowds that gathered round them, and detailed to them in glowing language, the horrors of the "impious sect," and called upon the people to execute the mandate of the Emperor against all who refused to sacrifice in their temples. The Governor was called a coward, and a base traitor to the country, and threats and insults were launched against him as he appeared in front of his house to quell the tumult. Just at this time flames of fire were seen to rise from a certain quarter of the city, and clouds of smoke ascended spirally casting a blood red reflection for miles around. It was the temple. Its rich porticoes, which were regarded as the master-pieces of art, were caught in its fearful embrace, and its thick and lofty columns of white marble, trembled under the irresistible pressure of the flames and fell one after another, with a crash that resembled the noise and violence of an earthquake. The frescoes that adorned the walls of the interior had crumbled to dust, and the delicate sculptury that filled the surrounding niches, presented nothing but a hideous mass of chaired and blackened ruins. But when the vast and gorgeous dome caught the fearful element, the scene was as sublime as it was terrific to witness. Fiery tongues of flame shot upwards casting sparks like the cruptions of some volcano, and throwing a lurid glare, far upon the waters of the Mediterranean. From time to time the deafening crash of falling beams and debris of masonry resounded through the astounded city, and carried terror and consternation to the hearts of all who reverenced the sacred edifice as the dwelling place of the immortal gods. The fire now began to slak-en its pace for it had no more combustible mater al upon which to spend its rage. A few hours after and that once gorgeous temple to which the inhabitants of Carthage looked up as the pride of their city, was no more than a shapeless heap of broken statues and pillars, lying here and there through vast and splendid ruins. This incendiary took place just twenty-four hours after the sacrilege committed on the statue of Juno and could not but cause the people to suspect that both had been the result of a conspiracy. Chance could not have produced such a wonderful coincidence. But who could have been guilty of such a crime? The public voice responded, "no other but the Christians." The minds of the people were accordingly still nore embittered against them and they were now forced to hide themselves in the secret chambers of their houses or in the dark recesses of the earth. But where was Vivia and Tertullian? The former was praying undisturbed for the repose of her husband's soul. The latter was quietly writing his famous treatise "contra Gentiles."

this all important subject."

" Do you doubt my loyalty to my country," responded Jubal, scarcely able to restrain his indignation at the suspicion which had been cast upon his sincerity. He knew the suspicions rested upon some foundation, but that did not matter.

Not directly to your country. I spoke of the gods. But, know young man, that the sentiments of patriotism and religion are identified, and that you cannot fail in the one without acting in opposition to the other."

"Cease this jargon, old man !" cried Jubal, carried away by the impetus of his passion. "If you want to know the truth, listen : If Jupiter is your god, and wants to wreak his vengeance upon his rival Christ, let him cast forth his thunderbolts until heaven is emptied. But, what have I got to do with that? I am busy with other transactions of equal importance. My dagger has reached the heart of Jarbas, and now the second element in the programme is to obtain possession of the hand of Vivia. Once that she is mine; I will conquer her pride, and take revenge for the wanton insult which she has inflicted upon me. If I cannot succeed in this, then I will soon send her to the shades to rejoin her husband. But, if you desire my friendship, If you desire to live in harmony with me, leave aside this ridiculous dispute about religion. Let the gods defend themselves. They are all-powerful, and can do it better than either of us."

The aged priest cast his eyes to the ground with the air of one who was suffering from painful disappointment. And, in fact, it was so, for he had depended upon Jubal as his most effective weapon in the contest which he was endeavoring to excite.

"Young man I" he said, at length, raising his eyes and casting at him a firm and steady glance, when years rhall have taught you wisdom you will think otherwise than you do now. , But, if you are indifferent to the interests of our ancient, faith, you ought not to neglect your own personal interest. The proud Vivis, whom I hate with a hatred only equal to your own, has deeply offended you. She has disdained connection with you or your ancestral name | But do you know the real motive which she had in treating you with such haughty contempt ? Because her heart was already given to another."

"Perhaps you are right. This might easily occur in the case of a young patrician whose only quality true, is not all.; She had another motive, and I have, the assurance that my knowledge on this

point is correct." have ?" asked Jubal hurriedly, while his brows were

wrinkled with intense suspense. "T will conceal nothing from you." Listen, she boasted of it herself—that the reason why she re-

"You assert what cannot be. It is engraved in characters of fire upon the heart of man that there is a being above all who is omnipotent and supreme.

A life of crime may sometimes stifle the voice of this rational conscience, but it is only a temporary derangement of the intellect, and Nature when left to itself will escape from this abnormal condition. So there are two alternatives before you, and one of them you must necessarily choose : Either you must worship the gods or else become a follower of that

Jewish malefactor whom they call Christ. "To choose the lot of such a noble creature as Vivia, does not appear at first sight to be any great crime. Besides she is remarked for having an uncommon elevation of mind as well as possessing all the accomplishments which can adorn the female character. It is strange indeed that she should perceive no folly in embracing the new faith. Ah l youth and inexperience | how easily do those tender minds fail under the demoniac influence of Tertul lian !" replied the priest, shaking his head with ominous significance.

" Say nothing against Tertullian. He taught me rhetoric in the schools, and there was no one but admired his sublime genius. It was a valuable conquest for the Christians when they received him in their midst."

"You have wandered indeed from the paths of wisdom, young man, and it will not astonish me to hear of you-bidding an eternal farewell to those gay companions"-

" Cease these cowardly imprecations against those who are not present to justify themselves. Excuse this apparent want of respect, but when I hear the representative of the gods expressing himself in a manner little suited to the dignity of his office, I cannot but speak openly and tell him of his error." And Jubal paced up and down the room in one of his usual fits of excitement. The old priest felt you ask of me?" humbled by this reproach, and already a reply was The young ma on his lips when he reflected that the best way to serve his interests was to yield for the present to his proud and influential friend.

"But, what of Vivia ?"he demanded with a slight curl of contempt upon his lips. "I thought you had

sworn to shedcher, blood?" "That is passed." My hatred is extinct. Those was her peculiar, tact in covering her corruption words which you declared she had said of me, have with the mantle of heroic virtue. But this, if it is changed my feelings in her regard. Now I love her -yes, love her with a love worthy of her. I am no longer her enemy.

Ah!ab! The lamb should not be near the wolf.

Ahil do you remember??? Olympian had now touched the right cord, for its vibrations moved every nerve of his body ... He stood still, while his clenched hands and dark eyes showed the vehemence of that movement that was going on coasted of it herself that the reason why she re-pelled your advances was because you were not a Ohristian is the depths of his soul. This lips trembled convul-in the depths of his soul. This lips trembled convul-sively, and deep groans (escaped, from his heaving in the depths of his soul. This lips trembled convul-sively, and deep groans (escaped, from his heaving in the depths of his soul. This lips trembled convul-sively, and deep groans (escaped, from his heaving in the depths of his soul. This lips trembled convul-sively, and deep groans (escaped, from his heaving in the depths of his soul. This lips trembled convul-sively, and deep groans (escaped, from his heaving or the time that its openly; but she had secretly of the interview. It was a complete, victory. He was sure of it, and such being the case, he could now her mother has been. Christian for a long time past of the contamplated is an time that was going on the tree encures of the another her most deadly Timpossible 1 She hereaft was not a "Christian at the output of the interview. It was accomplate twice. The output the output of the interview. It was accomplate twice. The output the output of the interview. It was accomplate twice. The output the output of the interview. It was accomplate twice. The output the output of the interview. It was accomplate twice. The output the output of the interview. It was accomplate twice. The output the output of the interview. It was accomplate twice. The output of the interview. It was accomplate twice. The output of the interview. It was accomplate twice. The output of the interview. It was accomplate twice. The output of t

He watched the effect of his words upon the

rapidly changing countenance of Jubal, and tried to brave and valiant element was added to the national read in the movement of his eyes the secret of his thoughts. The young man continued to remain silent, with his arms folded across his breast, pondering over the idea of eternal separation between him and Vivia, and of the perilous position in which he would be placed by any untimely revelation on the part of Afer.

"Besides," resumed the priest, " what slave can resist the torments usually inflicted upon those whom the law desires to force to an open avowal of a suspected crime? He may betry you, Jubalthat slave of yours, and your protestations of innocence, will have little weight against the conclusive evidence which can be adduced to prove your guilt. The influence of your name, and the high ank of your ancient family, will not protect you against the severity of justice, for, remember that there is a question not of the murder of any obscure individual, but of a great General, to whom the Senate had confided its army and the guardianship of its national frame, Again: look to the present agitated state of Carthage. Is it not stirred to its depths by

this horrible assassination ? Do they not already cry out that the murderer and his accomplices must suffer the penalties of the law? Now, I can be of service to you, as I before remarked, and, moreover, I will be, provided you listen to my counsels."

"Well! well! but let me hear from your lips that Vivia shall not be injured, but, on the contrary protected against the fury of an excited mob," replied Jubal, in a tone of voice which clearly marked that his firmness had given way to the most fearful apprehensions.

"You love her, then ?"

"I do more than my life."

"Well, Jubal, it depends upon you to save her." "How? Speak! I consent. What is it that

The young man was conquered, and was brought with profound humiliation to the feet of Olympian. The hopes of the latter were now realised beyond expectation. He could now press him into his service, and make him a docile instrument in his hands. But, was Vivia really to be saved ? He would flatter him with this idea until he should have no further use for him, and then she should be led to the altar of sacrifice, along with all those who, like her, bore the stigma of, apostacy upon their brow. If any one could have seen the perfidious smile of the old priest as he promised that the life of the young patrician should be saved, he would have learnt to doubt the sincerity of his words. "You asked me for my conditions. In the first place, I want the old shepherd, Sylvain, to come here and remain in my household. I have a reason for it. It is not necessary that I should enter into

details. As for Afer, you can keep him to yourself. Sylvain will do all I want." "You can have him, assuredly, if he will come. I have no claim upon him. He's not my slave" "Well, never mind, I will see to that; but what I want principally is that you spare no effort to ex-

force. But the death of Niger and Albinus removed all danger of rivals and this together with the victories which his legions gained over the rebellious colonies, enabled him to grasp the crown with a steadier hand and rule over his people with more security. His reign now became less favorable to the Christians. Was it that he believed in the cal. umnies invented by the pagans against them ? Was he so ardently attached to the worship of the gods that dreaded the progress of the Gospel ? or was he anxious to add new prestige to his name, by crushing that religion which had hitherto braved the power of Rome and withstood the violence of four great persecutions ? In the tenth year of his reign, he issued an imperial mandate against the Christ ians. It was the signal for the fifth persecution. It was a severe trial for the Church, but sustained by the invisible hand of God it was equal to the pressure, something like those huge pyramids which yet stand firmly upon the soil of Egypt though floods have passed over them in numberless su cession. Alexandria was the centre of pagan superstition and the orders of the Emperor were rigorously obeyed. This great city saw many of its devoted sons fall victims to the popular fury. Here the father of Orizen together with Potamiene, of whom mention has been made before, openly confessed the faith and received the palm of martyrdom.

At Carthage there were many, who though they condemned the Christian faith, were nevertheless opposed to persecute those who professed it, and were it not for the ceaseless efforts of Olympian and Jubal, the edict of Severns might have been consigned to the archives unheeded. They neglected no occasion to excite the minds of the people by calling on the Senate to obey the commands of the august Emperor, and by exposing what they considered to be the secrets of those night assemblies which they held for the purposes of worship. They were represented as being guilty of all the crimes that were looked upon as such by the people of that age. They pretended to have a horror of shedding blood, it was said, still they gorged the fiesh of infants at their midnight orgies; and though the blood of these innocent victims was still warm they also approached to drink it whilst they eat their palpitating members.* The lions of the for-est were less cruel for they were guided only by instinct, while they were endowed with reason. If such an evil was allowed to exist or increase in the land, it would be worse than that inhabited by the savage Numidians. Besides the gods saw all this and who could say that they would not punish those who were remiss in suppressing the religion of one who had declared thimself their rival ? The cry therefore of Ohristians to the lions, should find a re-echo in the breast of every man that is true to the gods and to his country. They should therefore rise in arms to make war upon superstition and implety and dethrone that pretended. God

(TO BE CONTINUED IN OUR NEXT.)

The Household.

Lo, Monday is the "washing day," As all good housewives know, Memorable of dinners hashed And clothes as white as snow: And Tneeday is the "ironing day" . Mid cold or fog or heat; And Wednesday is the "sewing day," To see that clothes are neat ; And Thursday is a leizure day, And Friday, brooms begin To sweep away the household dirt,