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A WONDERFUL ESCAPE FROM DEATH.

CATLIN, the celebrated American traveler, was once voyaging with a few companions on a river in South America. One day they tied their boat to the shore, and began to prepare their mid-day meal. One of the party, weary with hunting, lay down on the grass, and soon fell asleep. Creeping softly from the woods a panther was seen near the spot. The creature began to touch the sleeper with his paws. At this moment Catlin, seeing the danger of his companion, hurried to the boat for his rifle. The head of the panther was behind the body of the sleeping man. Catlin whistled gently, and the panther looked up. In a moment the sound of the rifle was heard, and the panther was stretched lifeless by the side of his intended prey. Imagine the surprise of the sleeper when, awakened by the sound, he saw how narrowly he had escaped from the jaws of death. Catlin was the instrument in God's hand of saving the life of his friend, who, on bended knees in that

wild American forest, returned thanks to God for his escape from death.

"Sovereign Ruler of the skies,
Ever gracious, ever wise,
All my times are in thy hand,
All events at thy command.

"Plagues and death around me fly—
Till he bids, I cannot die;
Not a single shaft can hit,
Till the God of love sees fit."

For the Sunday-School Advocate.

THE MARTYR'S DREAM.

FROM THE GERMAN, BY J. F. L.

ABOUT two hundred and three years after Christ there lived in North Africa a very holy Christian woman by the name of Perpetua. The heathen governor determined to destroy the infant Church in his territory, and threw her with several others into a dismal prison. She had strong faith in

prayer, and her good life had turned many to Christ. She lay some time in prison without knowing whether she would finally be released or only taken out to be put to death. But she prepared for the worst, and lived in happy communion with her Saviour, so that her dungeon became to her as pleasant as a palace.

We give in her own words the following incident of her prison experience: "Then," says she, "my brother came to me and said, 'Thou art greatly favored, so much so that thou mayest venture to pray for a vision in which it shall be shown thee whether thou art going to suffer death or be set at liberty.'

"Then I, who had been accustomed to have glad communion with God and to receive from him great favors, gave him the assurance that I would answer him the next morning. Then I prayed the Lord and he gave me the following vision: I saw a ladder of wonderful length, which reached to heaven, and was so narrow that only one person at a time could climb it. On the sides of the ladder at every step were fastened iron instruments, swords, spears, hatches, and knives, so that whoever ascended it carelessly, or without looking straight upward all the time, was sure to wound and tear himself on the iron snarcs. Under the ladder there lay a huge ugly dragon, which lay in wait for those coming to the ladder and tried to frighten them away. Just before me, friend Satarus was climbing upward, and when he was very high up he turned and said:

"Perpetua, I am waiting for thee, but beware that the dragon injure thee not."

"And I answered, 'He will not harm me; I walk in the name of the Lord Jesus.' And exactly under the ladder, just as I got to it, the dragon raised slowly his head as if to frighten me, and as I set my foot on the first step I trod on his head and ascended in safety.

"Then I saw a garden of measureless extent, in the midst of which sat a gray-haired man of large stature, in the habit of a shepherd, busily engaged in milking his sheep; and around him I saw many thousand men in snow-white garments. And raising his head he looked upon me and said:

"It is well that thou hast come, my child."

"Then he gave me a portion of milk, which I received and drank, and as I drank it all those standing by exclaimed, 'Amen!' At the sound of this word I awoke, and the sweet taste was still in my mouth.

"In the morning I related this dream to my brother, and we well knew that death would soon come upon us, so that we ceased to fix our hope on earthly things."

Perpetua had seen in the spirit a picture of her triumph over evil and of her withstanding her last sufferings, and now, according to the promise, "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb," had richly enjoyed a supper in heaven and been informed of her speedy release from earth.

And, in fact, bitter persecutions did soon break