

strength of Him, who ruleth all things. At last nature asserted its rights, and Paul, with a prayer still on his lips, fell fast asleep. He dreamed that he saw his mother, she seemed beautiful, and radiant with light and glory. Stretching out his arms he cried :

“ O Mother ! take me to you.” But she only smiled and looked more radiant ; then raising her eyes, it seemed as though she were praying.—It was all so real that, as Paul afterwards remarked, he could hardly believe it was a mere dream.

Suddenly, a loud crash was heard !—Paul awoke with a start. That beautiful vision had vanished, and he was alone.—By the glimmer of the sanctuary lamp, he could see a man stealthily approaching the Altar; for a moment he was so bewildered that he could not remember where he was, or what had happened. Then, like a flash, the whole situation dawned upon him. He was on his feet in a moment.

The man had reached the Altar railing. Paul trembled in every limb.

“ It is a robber,” he said to himself. Then forgetting his youth and weakness, and thinking only of the crime about to be perpetrated, he darted forth with the courage of a martyr, crying :

“ O, stop ! stop ! do not, I beseech you, lay a finger on the Tabernacle ! ”

For a moment there was a death-like silence.

—The man, turning, saw in the flickering lamp-light, that it was a frail child who stood before him ; his looks were dark and threatening, but Paul, nothing daunted, continued : “ I will give you these, they are very valuable all precious stones.” And Paul, who would not part with the chaplet to keep himself and Aunt from starving, willingly offered them to save his God from profanation, and to prevent the man from committing a horrible crime.

Without a word, the ruffian snatched the glistening gems, and then dealt the brave child a heavy blow with a stick that he had in his hand. Paul uttered a low cry and fell to the ground.

.....
“ Where am I ? ” murmured a feeble voice, and Paul