THE CATHOLIG RECORD

What were the contents of that let-

First, Doris informed Regulus that

" Then she positively accused my relat-

arrived they could scarcely restrain heir impatient steeds. Let us go i

And Vibius clapped his hands as a sig

And then ?'

anit.

Aurelia's nurse.

prece

crowd off

itter.

CHAPTER IV.

A SLAVE MARKET.

AURELIA; THE JEWS OF CAPENA GATE.

CHAPTER III.

WARD AND GUARDIAN.

The burning rays of a July sun filled with light the dark and narrow streets of Ancient Rome. The divine Aurelia, who surrounded by her maids, sat pensive in her arbitration for the dark of the strength of her cubicalum (bed-room), cast a languid glance on the bright sky, and addressing the attentive slaves who awaited her

commands,-"I want to go this afternoon," said she, in an imperious tone, "to Pompey's por-tico. Let my gnardiar, Vibius Crispus, be notified immediately, and let every-thing be in readiness at the eight hour of the day (4 o'clock, P. M.)"

the day (4 o'clock, P. M.)" It was no little matter, this going out of a matron of Aurelia's rank. When she left her house, where she usually led the silent and retired life of the gynecium, to appear in public, it must be with an escort proportionate to her high condi-tion.

tion. No sooner, then, was the order of the No sconer, then, was the order of the noble patrician transmitted, than her five hundred slaves were in commotion and Cicero's ancient house was made noisy with their preparations for so great an archit

But it is time we should say something event

But it is time we should say something of this Aurelia, whom Marcus Regulus never failed to designate as the divine Aurelia, a tile that may appear, perhaps, too honorific for a simple mortal. We shall take the same occasion to ex-plain why the Grand Vestal--the illustri-ous Cornelia, as Regulus styled her-happened to be in Aurelia's house in-stead of inhabiting the atrium regium, the sacred asylam of the Virgins of Vesta. Aurelia Flavia-Domitilia-for she bore

the sacred asylam of the virgins of vesta. Aurelia Flavia-Domitilia-for she bore these surnames in common with all the female members of the Flavia race-was the grandhices of the Emperor Vespasian. the grandhlees of the hup Sabinus, son of Her father was Flavius Sabinus, son of Sabinus Major, Vespasian's elder brother

and her mother, Julia, the daughter of Titus, so much beloved by the Romans. She was, therefore, the grandniece of Domitian, and also the niece of Flavius Clemens, her father's bother. We must Clemens, her lattice in these names belong also mention—for all these names belong to our narrative—that her cousin, Flavia Domitilla, had become her aunt, having to our narrantice become her aunt, having Domitilla, had become her aunt, having married Flavins Clemens, whose supposed conversion to the religion of Christ gave Regulus so much anxiety. Another cousin, bearing also the name of Flavia Domitilla, was likewise suspected of being Locase of Christian.

a Jewess or Christian. Our charming young heroine was, there-Our charming young beroine was, toefe-fore, doubly connected with the imperial family; and during the reign of Domitian, who claimed from all who addressed him the title of "Master" and "God" (Dominus et Dens noster), no one would have dare speak of a relative of the emperor, with

speak of a relative of the emperor, with-out using a title that admitted her parti-cipation in this much-feared divinity. Moreover, Domitian, whose only child had died in its infancy, had recently, by a public act, designated for his successors to the superior the two second for the successors the empire the two sons of Clemens, whose names he had changed into those of Vespasianus and Domitianus The education of these two young mer had been confined to the celebrated Quin tilian

The eldest, Vespasian, was to marry his young cousin, Aurelia, who would thus share with him, after Domitian's death, the throne of the universe. The Aurelia was, therefore, the greatdiving attine Aurena was, interesting and a group at the time our narrative commences, she had barely attained her fifteenth year. Her wealth was immense. Besides her house in Rome, and the five hundred slaves which Nome, and the nive hundred slaves which filled it, besides several magnificent villas situated in the finest sections of Italy, the divine Anrelia possessed, in ready money, the enormorons sum of two billions seven ended willions seventiated here invert

eundred millions sestertii, and her jewels were valued at forty millions sestertii.

served by history. The emperor had a curious habit of transfixing flies with the point of his style. On one occasion, some-body having asked Vibius if the emperor was also

"Certainly," replied the waggish old "Certainly, "replied the waggins old man, "there is not even a fly with him." Domitian was furious when he heard of this; but the astnte old courtier man-aged so well that he outlived his master's anger, and even retained his favor, since he remained the divine. Arrelia's more "Yours could not understand. He fe-ceived his ward's caresses like one who knows not what to do, or what to think, "My dear ward," he said at last, "your affection honors and touches me. But tell me, how could my words bring this charge?" he remained the divine Aurelia's guard

"My august ward has sent for her old guardian," he remarked, saluting her with mingled familiarity and respect. "Can I have the happiness of doing any-

thing for her?" "Yes, my dear guardian, I wish you to punisi

accompany me to Pompey's portico." "But," exclaimed Vibius, who had bad time to notice the sad expression of the time to notice the sad expression of the young girl's face, "there is something else, for, by Jupiter, I believe yon are weeping! Come, my dear ward, what is the matter with you? Speak, I beseech ter Celer visits Cornelia almost every day." "This is a grave matter for your friend, my dear ward. I begin to understand.

you! Your unworthy guardian may, perhaps, bring back a smile on that

"Then she positively accused my relat-ives, Flavins Clemens and the two Flavi-as Domitillas, of being Christians, and re-lated their attempts to convert me." "It is very lucky, dear ward," said Vibins, interrupting Aurelia, "that Dor-is's letter should have been intercepted. You are right she desarred death for "Oh! my dear Vibius, I am indeed "Oh! my dear Vibius, I am indeed very unhappy! The state of my poor Cornelia saddens me; and then—"

"I am very guilty. . . Read this

And she handed to Vibius a sheet of letter

papyrus such as was manufactured in Rome since Claudius's time, and which tome since Claudins's time, and which was as white as our best vellum. The letter was from Flavia Domitilla (not the Flavia wife of Clemens), and written on that very morning to her young cousin, Aurelia. It ran thus :--

Flavia Domitilla to Aurelia-Flavia-Domi-" Greeting

" Dear Cousin,-We have just now learned "Dear Cousin, —We have just now learned that you have caused your hair dresser, Doris, to be put to death. Undoubtedly the laws of Rome gave you this right: but you must be aware that few citizens avail themselves of it, unless, indeed, they are entirely pitiless ; and it is sad that a young girl of your age should be put on the same level with those cruel men.

Your uncle Clemens, and Flavia Domi-

"Your uncle Clemens, and Flavia Domi-tilla, your aunt, think that it is very unfor-timate that the betrothed of their son could be guilty of such an abuse of power. "According to our religion, it is a crime to take the life of a fellow-being; and our slaves, although they owe us obedience and respect, are our brothers, being the children of the same God. "See daar cousin, if such a religion is not

of the same God. "See, dear cousin, if such a religion is not greater and more beautiful than that which teaches the master to look upon those unfor-tunates as so many vile animals. "We pray to God that He may pardon and enlighten you."

Vibine Crispus, having read this letter, was seized with a fit of laughter. This Parasols to protect the face; large fans of peacock feathers; balls of crystal or ye was seized with a fit of laughter. This selfish and corrupt old man, one of the representatives of a decrepid and heart-less society, could find only a subject for mirth in those simple and dignified remarks.

However, as this irony might be con-

structed as a want of respect for his august ward, he apologized and asked— "Are these reproaches and singular counsels the cause of your sadness, divine Aurelia'

Yes, I must confess it, dear guardian I have been deeply moved by this letter the more so as I had already said to my

elf almost the same things! "So you think that a master has not over his slaves the right you have exer-

"No, Vibius. But the treatment was so cruel! It is true that I had not given such orders, and it is a misfortune if my so cruel ! this misfortune, I am charged with it. What will my cousin Vespasian think of

" Ah ! my dear and divine ward," said Vibius, smiling, and looking at the blushing young girl, "ah ! you are afraid

of appearing too harsh in the eyes of the ear betrothed, and of displeasing him Very well! at least this is a motive. And

tian, the divine Aurelia, permit me to offer her whatever may please her in this tavern?" said an individual who sudden With one bound, the divine Aurelia, her beautiful face bathed in tears, was in her beautiful face bathed in teach, was in her guardian's arms. "Oh! my guardian, oh ! my dear Vib-ius," sobbed the young girl, "what good your words have done me! Doris was an infamous wretch ! her death was just, and I have nothing to reproach myself approached the young girl. "Who are you?" asked Aurelia, some what haughtily. "I come from the countries of Aurora," realied the unterest of Aurora,"

replied the unknown, bowing respect fully, " with this man and these murr Vibius could not understand. He re

"Oh! Vibius, Doris had written to Re-gulus. Her letter was intercepted . . . Cornelia and Metellus Celer were so in-dignant at this that they ordered her mischwart."

cently bought a cap of myrrh for seventy talents ! it was larger than these two vases put together, but I must say that if vas not of such fine make, nor had it th three colors, so precious in the eyes of lov ers of the fine arts, and which are perfec

in these vases. "Then you will send this tavern ma "Then you will gend this tay in this to be the set of t

" Apollonius of Tayana, madam."

"What ! can you be this Apollonius who has filled Rome with reports of his prodigies ?"

You are right, she deserved death, for Regulas would have made a detestable use of that letter. But the emperor is "Yes, madam," replied the philos absent; I am informed of the facts, and pher, bowing again with still more defer-ence; " and I cannot admit that the emthere is nothing to fear until he returns ; we shall see, then, how to prevent the peror's niece should pay me for the very misfortness that may threaten. Dry your tears, divine Anrelia, and let me start for Pompey's portico. Youn Numidian horsemen are ready, and when unworthy present which I am but too happy to offer her."

happy to cffer her." "Very well," replied the proud young patrician girl, " but the emperor's nicce cannot be under obligations to Apollonius. The vases shall remain here, or they shall paid for, in money or otherwise.

nal to the escort. The young girl's sadness had vanished, and her face had assumed its wonted ser-An audience from the emperor, on his return.

This favor was so great that an enorm-When she appeared in the atrium, he ons price was paid for it. It could be ooked upon as a liberal compensation for he richest present. Aurelia hesitated a little. "You shall have your audience," she

When the appeared in the atrium, her graceful features velled in a diaphanous tissue of delicate fabric, and her flexible and her wide palla, every one was ready. Sixteen slaves surrounded the rich lit-ter with purple cushions. They were Ethiopians of the deepest black, clad in enow, white tunics and wore silver brace. said at last; " however, it is my pleasure that in exchange for these two murrhine vases, you shall accept from me two Cor-inthian cups, which will be sent to your snow-white tunics, and wore silver brace-lets on their wrists and ankles. Near hem stood the indispensable crowd of andmaids, receiving the instructions of

Apollonius bowed for the third time without making any reply. When he looked up, the divine Aurelia was already These women were provided with the me steps off. Two of her hand-maids amerous elegant trifles without which fashionable lady, in those days, could no have hazarded herself in the streets

some steps cil. 100 cil her haut-marks carried the murrhine vases. When she reached the perietyle, Aur-elia found her litter and her attendants. "Let us return by the way of the Villa publica," said she to Vibius; "I wish to see if the onyx and myrrh vases which are sold than an compare with mine."

low amber, which were rolled in the hands to prevent their sweating; tame see if the only and mynir value with mine." The Villa publica was an immense bazar, where Rome displayed all the treasures of her commercial wealth, and where, also, the shame of her pitiless civ-ilization could be seen in all its naked-ness snakes of a peculiar small species, and of icy coldness, which were used—living necklaces—to keep the throat cool, were

Aurelia's wishes were orders for Vib

cus, an unexpected sight attracted Aur-elia's attention, and she ordered her escort halt.

to hait. On a high platform erected in the centre of a tavern already known to us, stood a number of half-naked wretches, men and women, boys and girls, wearing a label or ticket tied to t

Parmenon, whom we seen in such in

The Forum and the Campus Martins dressing the crowd and praising his human merchandise. The wretch held a long whip, which he applied from time to were not only the centres of the political life of the Romans, but the spots where the greatest magnificences of the capital time to the shoulders of the slaves, who nevertheless bore the sting-ing cuts of the lash without even a groan of the world were accumulated. There were to be found its finest monument There and most sumptuous porticos; its wealth-iest temples and most elegant walks; its " Look at that! How docile they are!" nest temples and most elegant waiks; its most fashionable shops or tavenus; all the enjoyments and seductions offered to the idle and purposeless existence of its most illustrious citizens. Modern art never could imitate the cried Parmenon triumphantly. "A mas ter can chastise them at his pleasure No revolt, no fatiguing lamentat be feared. Come, citizens, buy, buy The libripens is not far, and eight thous and sesteril are no great sum." But no purchasers came out of the com-pact crowd, although from the black vonderful splendor of some of the edi-ices contained in the Campus Martius Among these marvels were the porticos or covered walks supported by pillars of young daughter of African to the fair Gaul, there was there an assortment of colors, ages and sexes, to suit the most fastidious. In covered warms of provide and the provide an Parmenon was despairing of effecting a single sale, when Aurelia's escort boomed in the distance. He concluded he largest and most pleasant of these talks, being connected with the Hecatthat some wealthy citizen was approach-ing, and his face became radiant with nostylon. It was the habitual resort of the aristo ratic society of Rome which thronged ally the wide space between the three undred pillars of red granite forming a " Bring out the slaves from the interor !" he exclaimed, addressing his asdouble range of galleries around the in-terior courts shaded by plane-trees, and embellished with statues and fountains. The interior of these galleries was orna sistant. The custom with slave-traders was to The custom with slave-traders was to expose to the public gazs the least valu-able slaves, whilst those of greater value, whom the perfection of their form or the tatents they possessed fitted for the high-est duties of body-servants, were cared for in an interior apartment, and only brought out on great occasions. mented with paintings from the great Greek masters; whilst on the exterior, marble seats, secured to the walls, afford ad the visitors facilities for rest and con out on great occasions. out on great occasions. At Parmenon's command, a new lot of slaves ascended the platform. A thrill of admiration went through the crowd. Here was a splendid collection. When Aurelia entered Pompey's portico, the crowd gave way with respect, and gazed upon her with curiosity mingled with interest and solicitude. Every one There was a spiendid collection. One young girl particularly attracted the admiring gaze of all. Her graceful form was protected by a few strips of coarse cloth, and her beautifal hair fell loose knew this young girl as the emperor's nearest relation, and no one was ignoran of the high destinies which awaited her. With a single glance Aurelia had scanned the immense multitude, and had over her shoulders, covering her to the ought in vain the only person she wished waist. Like her companions, she wore the

MAY 5, 1900;

FROM PETER TO LEO.

She who spoke these strange words-heard for the first time in Rome, and in a n Historical Retrospect-Peter's Reslave-market,-was an old woman, almos ognition by History

BY REV. ROBERT KANE, S. J.

slave-market,—was an old woman, almost an octogenarian, who crouched at the foot of the platform. She had cried "Cour-age," and yet she wept. The resignation of the soul cannot control the tortures of the heat The following elequent Lenten con ference was given recently by Rev Robert Kane, S. J., in the Church of St Rev. Cecilia had heard the three cries, her eyes searched the crowd, and she found a Francis Xavier, Dublin. The preachmile for the three persons who watched text was : "Thou art Peter" Matt. xvi., v. 18), and the special over her. She also remarked a man, who, spring phase of his subject : "Peter's Recog-nition by History." Father Kane ing forward from his place of concealment behind a pillar, whence he had observed, said :

behind a pillar, whence he had observed, with anxiety, the proceedings we have described, hastened to speak to Parme-non. It was Marcus Regulus. "Take care!" he said hurriedly to the slave-trader; "they want to get Cecilia away from you! Here is the divine Aurelia, the niece of the emperor, coming with her escort. You must induce her to stop and to buy the girl. A hundred thousand sesterii will not frighten her!" He stood by the Galilean shore a Man without a past and without a fu ture. More narrow and more steep than the hills which shut in His cottage at Nazareth, the stubborn cliffs of social tradition and the impassable peaks of political exclusiveness had, until His thirtieth year, walled up His thousand sestertii will not frighten her! thousand sesterin will not ingited her. Parmenon'seyes closed as if dazzled by the mere thought of so much gold. Then he drew himself up proudly and stepped forward. The wretch was intoxicated it considers identified and and life within the mental darkness and torpor of a village sneered at even by the county folk for the dullness of its people. No vibration of great ideas with avaricious joy and hope. It was at this moment Aurelia bade her could come to Him from Rome; no spark of intellect from Athens. The vorld's lore was closed to Him. The story of His own race He must have heard ; of its

UNFLINCHING AND CEASELESS STRUGGLE to remain alone amongst the nations, intaught, untouched, uninfluenced by the outside world. But no book had ever brought to Him from beyond His intellectual horizon the wisdom of philosopher, the song of poet, or the craft of statesman. "Is not this the Son of of statesman. "Is not this the Son of a carpenter?" men said ; and again : how knoweth this Man letters, having never learned ?" He was only a tradesman, unknown, and therefore without history ; untaught, and there-fore without promise. Was it a dream that He dreamt, as He stood by the Galilean shore? What? He, isolated bscure, without power, without wealth without honor, without education, without influence, He, unsided and alone, without help from the strong or varrant from the wise, proclaims that He has come to teach a doctrine which shall fulfil or supersede the Testament of the Jew and the Philosophy of the Yea ! He proclaims His own Jentile. Kingship over an empire which shall clasp in one wide hold all the nations of the earth, and which shall wax still stronger and statelier mid the decay and death of the ages, nor fail till time be done. With a bolaness that monopolized the history of the past, with a

courage that challenged the present, with an audacity that defied the future, He promulgated His claim to a Kingdom that should be stopped by no frontier in space, nor be outstripped by the steps of time ; a Kingdom that should be an universal brotherhood of men and

AN ETERNAL NATIONHOOD OF SOULS. two ideas equally antagonistic to the received notions of Gentile or of Jew; a kingdom which everyone who hears of it must enter ; a kingdom visible to all as a city on a mountain top; a Kingdom of which He is Himself to be not only Lord but ruler of thought, not only Master but motive of life ; all this promuigated while He Himself, the King, foretells His own betrayal, abandonment, and ignominious death. Nay, nay ! No human brain could have conceived an ideal so Divine. No mortal heart could give birth to love that was infinite. A dream that was impossible to man was not made fact by hand of clay. Nay, nay ! No mere man was He Who by His word changed the world. Jesus of Nazareth Nay, nay

was the Christ, the Son of the living

God. Between theory and fact there

is an abyss. But, in the words of Richter, Christ, "being the holiest among the mighty and the mightlest

among the holy, has lifted with His pierced hand empires off their hinges,

has turned the stream of centuries out

of its channel, and still governs the

ages." How did Christ set about the realization of His ideals? Here again

THE WONDER OF GOD'S WAYS

is manifest. To be the Rock on which

His Church should stand unshaken

ever by the powers of darkness ; to be

the holder of the keys of earth and

Heaven ; to be the king shepherd of

His shepherd princes: Christ, with Divine disregard of human prudence

and with Divine recklessness of human

help, chose a man that was ignorant,

duil, poor, uncouth, timid, impulsive,

promise was fulfilled. So Saint Mark

telis us : "To Simon He gave the name

of Rock." It was then Christ first es-

tabiished the college of His apostles

and gave them authority to teach.

Saint Matthew chronicles the occasion

thus : " The names of the twelve apos-

of the bearer's office and authority.

So was it with many, as with Abra-

ham, Sara, Oshue, and Jæus, the Word made Flesh. In the third year

of His ministry, the Sou of God ex-

plained to Peter the meaning and

John, I say to thee, thou art the Rock,

and upon this Rock I will build My

Church, and the gates of hell shall not

power of his name : " Simon,

his daily bread

Saint

son of

In the second year this

AY 5, 1900.

Heaven." And again: "I prayed for thee that thy Falth fail not, and thou, being once firmed, confirm thy brethren." that the word that we translate firm " is a term of architecture, ing to fit anything so firmly t cannot be shaken. It was a given after Peter's own faith ha secured by Christ's prayer. Af Resurrection a further fulfilment As Christ, Who is

THE ONE LIGHT OF THE WORL said to His Apoetles, the sharers mission : "Ye are the light world ;" and as Christ, Who is Cornerstone, made Simon the E which the Church is built ; so, Who is the one Shepherd of t Fold, that is to support of t Fold, that is to say, according meaning of the word, the one l the one Kingdom, after that i twice said to Peter : "Give foo twice said to Peter: "Give foo lambs," said: "Be thou Kin herd over My sheep." History that Divine decree. In the w St. Chrysostom: "In the Acts the promise of Christin the corride into execution." Acce carried into execution." Aga same great saint says: "T called the Acts of the Apostles they are the Acts of their Her truth, the first twelve chapte Acts, which are a history of t days of the Church, are a h Peter's name occui Peter. thirty times, the others rarely they are mentioned together name is always first; he is given the leading part and When the Apostles are mentio when the Apostes are menti-body, Peter aione is always always chief. "Peter w eleven ;" "Peter with the re Apostles ;" "Peter and the answering said." Peter of always answers and speaks When Simon, son of John, h away, the Apostle who was lived in the Peter who does Now, the history of Peter's throughout the ages is the a revelation, which while it the inward understanding o ful and the outward accur formularies, is itself the sam full in its meaning and fi message, identical always in acter and always changel truth. Hence the Church for dence of her teaching an warrant of her law, for

THE INDELIBLE STA set upon her social constit for the unbroken seal fixed ter of her rights, must Now, Christ did not found nor an aristocracy, nor a c al state nor a communism. His Church a Monarchy, wi its visible Head and unde So it was in Pet its King. Simon, and so it is in Peter XIII. That this was not tion of fraud or pride is e the holiness of the long li all of whom, for the first fi and thirty-six years- fit number-are recognized by as saints. Look back to fcotsteps throughout the Without Peter's sanction Council has ever been held Two very ancient histori and Sozomen, relate that always, from the first, in i has always been the one of matters of Faith, by ever the Christian world. Pe ways been acknowledged supreme charge even of vidual Church. Peter has the supreme Court of App in morals, in questions o or of Order, not only for Churches, but for the Peter has summoned bef nal not merely the ap their judges of whatever Peter has slwavs been we presentatives to exercise preme authority in the C East and West. Time w me to mention some f These I gather from the which the ignorance of ant writers accuses of ignoraut of the Primacy Primacy of Peter was until

ecklaces-to keep the throat cool, wei mong the inventions of fashion that or ady readers would have examined with the greatest curiosity and astonishment. Fifty Numidian horsemen, clad in briliant lacernas or military coats, were When they reached Flaminius's cirede and follow the litter, to keep the Aurelia baving taken her place on the soft cushions, Vibius gave the signal, and eight Ethiopians lifted the magnificent The distance from the Palatine to Pom-

The distance from the l'alatine to l'om-pey's portico was quite long, and the cor-tege was fully an hour going over it. Arrived at the entrance of the portico, Aurelia stepped out of her litter, and en-tered, followed by Vibius, her nurse and her female attendants. neck, and a white woollen cap or a crown of foliage on their heads. It was a slavenarket.

timate conversation with Marcus Regu-lus, paraded in front of the platform, ad-

It was at this moment Aurelia bade her escort stop. She saw Cecilia, read the label, and said to Vibius— "Guardian, I like the looks of this young girl. I wish to purchase her; ask that man what price he holds her at. She will replace Doris." Parmean had heard her words. With n had heard her words. With Parmer Parmenon had near vibine. one bound he was near Vibine. "From any other purchaser, I would want two hundred thousand sesterili; but to the divine Aurelia, the august nicce of to the divine from the temperer Domitian. I to the divine Automa, its the Emperor Domitian, I shall sell this slave for one hundred thou-sand sesteril. My lord, do you author ze the purchase?

Vibius was the model of guardians; he looked at his ward, and interpreting rightly her winning smile as a prayer,

rightly her winning smile as a prayer, the worthy senator yielded without ob-jection, and called for the libripens. A man carrying a pair of scales ap-proached immediately. This was the libripens, the indispensable accessory to all sales and mancipations. Aurelia stepped out of her litter, and Cecilia was ordered to come down from the platform.

Son, Who will be thy reward !"

the heart.

the platform.

The haughty mistress and her future slave exchanged one look—that of the noble lady was full of pride, that of the humble girl full of humble submissive

Aurelia held in her hand a brass coin symbol of the mancipation. With a firm step she advanced towards Cecilia; and, covering the girl's head with her hand, pronounced the consecrated formula: "I say this young girl is mine by the law o the Quirites, and that I have bought he with this money and these scales." At the same time, she touched the scales of the libripens with her coin, which she then handed to Parmenon as the fictitious price of Cecilia's mancipa-

The fellow who did not appreciate fictions, even when they were a legal form, asked the senator when he could get the

"Immediately," said Vibius; "send to my ward's steward." But, as the young patrician, taking possession of her new slave, was about re-entering in her litter, a strange scene curred

Another cortege, coming from the Ratumena gate and going to the temple of Juno-Regina, near Flaminius's circus, had surrounded Aurelia's escort during the formalities of the mancipation.

The noisy instruments which preceded had stopped suddenly upon recognizing the emperor's niece.

A young girl descended from a chariot drawn by two heifers with gilt horns. She wore the mysterious dress of the she wore the mysterious dress of the priestesses of Isis; a band of Corybantes and priests of Cybele, wearing the Phyr-gian tiara on their heads, accompanied her, making strange gestures, and sho

But Anrelia was an orphan

The years of childhood flow sadly when they are not embellished by a father's care or the love of a mother. This had been the young Aurelia's bitter experi-

However, her youthful sorrow had been soothed by the tender affection of a young gill near whom she passed her early years in the sanctnary of Vesta. This years in the sanctuary of Vesta. This young girl, connected with the most illustrions family of Rome, the family of the Scipios, the Syllas, the Cinnas, etc., was the Vestal Cornelia, with whose touching and mournful history we shall

aint the reader. The vestals, six in number, were chosen from among young girls between six and ten years of age, and remained during thirty years attached to the temple. During the first ten years they studied the rites and ceremonies; during the second period of ten years, they practised, and during the third they tanght. aring the third they taught. vestal who survived the trials of

s long service, and became the most ient, was styled the Grand-Vestal, or this -Maxima; she was distinguished Vestalia-Maxima; sile was distinguished from ber five companions by greater honors and higher prerogatives. But her responsibility increased with her eleva-tion, and she had often to bear alone the cruel punishments awarded for faults committed by other vestals. Such was the case with Cornelia; she

had attained the supreme rank of Grand-

slaves

The Sacred Fire having been extinguished through the neglect of one of the priestesses, Helvius Agrippa, Domitian's substitute in the po ntificate, had made her responsible of this fault which was ered a most unhappy omen, and proud patrician girl was subjected, like the vilest of slaves, to the tortures of flagellation.

Shame, even more than physical pain, had made her seriously ill; and being authorized, according to custom, to withdraw to a private house during her sickness, she had left momentarily the Atrium Regium, for the roof of her dear Aurelia, who, at the age of twelve years, as fixed by the Roman law, had had to leave the temple of Vesta. This necessary digression being ended,

we shall now resume the thread of our

story. The curtain of Aurelia's apartment was drawn aside, and an old man of small stature, with a smiling and pleasant countenance, entered, bowing to the countenance, entered, bowing countenance, entered, bowing young girl with every demonstration of young the wore the laticlave, indicat-respect. He wore the laticlave, indicat-respect. It was Vibius respect. He wore the factorate, indicate, indi had sent for

It was he who incurred the displeast re of Domitian by an impudent joke p.e-

this is why we wish to go every afternoon with his tutor." "Vibius! Vibius! you are very wick but in the state of the stat

ed! Yes, I want to see my cousin, but is to explain to him—to excuse—" "And what need have you of excuses I was present the other day at Faunia"

"And what need have you of extensive I was present the other day at Fannia's toilet. Her waiting-maids were around her, their shoulders bare down to the wais; and I can assure you the whip did not remain idle when any of them was smilty of carelessness. Do you think only the death of (Faunia would mourn over the death of a

hair-dresser ?" And as the young girl remained thoughtful and silent, Vibius continue

ned:--For having forgotten a towel, Ogul For naving longotten a tower, ogni-nia's bathing-attendant was tortured with blades of brass brought to a red-heat. Medullina, that fair and gentle girl, moderates the unbearable chattering of her chamber-maids by sticking into their arms the long pins with which sh fastens her hair. Has anybody ever ac cused these matrons of being pittless As for me, I am of Piiny-the Younger opinion,—and surely no one will accuse him of cruelty towards his slaves—speak ing of the tragical end of Sargius Macedo beaten to death by his family, he re-marked that masters should make them-selves feared, else all would perish l Rome, my dear ward, contains two hun-

dred thousand citizens and two million Vestal but had soon become apprised of its perils. She had suffered the chastisement of

Mentry Vibius-Crispus might have multiplied indefinitely his examples, without obtain-ing a word from Aurelia. It was easy to perceive that remorse had entered her young heart, already disposed to feelings young heart, already disposed to feelings of goodness and humanity, and that the pitiless arguments of Vibins worried her. He understood this, and changed ad-roitly the conversation. "I know somebody," he said, "who would pay a large price for the letter you have shown me."

have shown me." "And who is it, if you please ?" inter-

upted Aurelia.

" Marcus Regulus." " Marcus Regulus." " Marcus Regulus !] why so, guardian ?

"Because he would find in this letter a becates in works with a seeking everywhere : that Flavius Clemens, his wife, and your cousin Flavia Domitalla are Christians."

consin Flavia Domitalia are Christians." "And what would be the result?" Aurelia hastily inquired. "The result? I don't know! But in the Emperor Nero's time, it happened ore than once that we strolled in his gardens lighted by Christians whom they

burnt in the guise of torches, with tani-prepared with sulphur and resin. Pe

hapared with sulphur and resin. Per-haps the Emperor Domitian would like to enjoy one of these agreeable spec-tacles."

" My cousin is not here," she exclaimed

with vexation. "It is true, august ward," replied Vib-ius;" I had forgotten that his tutor has recently lost his two sons in a few avs But I must see Vespasian," said Aur-

elia; "I wish to speak to him by all means, and you know that my uncle and aunt do not receive me any longer."

"You can write to him, my dear ward. Besides, I shall arrange an interview. Bat, for the present, you must seek some diversion, and think no more of things that grieve you. Do you not like the sight of this portico, of the elegant society which fills it? I will call your escort, desire, and we shall go to the Ap-

pian Way." "Oh ! what fine vases and magnificent things " exclaimed the young girl, inter-rupting Vibius, and stopping before a tavern in which a man, clad in a strange and fantastic tunic, stood by a table covtavern in which a man, clad in a strange hope: and fantastic tunic, stood by a table cov-ered with objects of art. "Will the niece of the Emperor Domi-used with the niece of the Emperor Domi-

friends.

tion, a supreme invitation to fortitude and

ing so loud as to drown at times the noisy music. The priestess of Isis was radiant with

beauty; her eyes, more brilliant than the golden stars which encircled her head, were resplendent with the fire of inspira-

It was Ganna, the prophetess, who, like It was Ganna, the prophetess, who, like Velleda, had come from Gaul to prophesy the future. She had been received with great honors at Rome, where she already replaced the divinities in whom the people no longer believed.

"Daughter of Titta," she cried, when Aurelia's hand touched Cecilia's head, "do not take that slave to your home, she will bring you death." But the octogenarian whom we have

seen encouraging Cecilia rose at these words: her eyes also shiding with subime enthusiasm. "Daughter of the Cæsars," said she in

solemn accents, addressing the divine Aurelia, "take this young girl home, she

The aged woman who spoke thus, was Petronilla, the daughter of Peter, chief of old, a mere commonplace fisherman who barely earned his daily bread with his boat and his net from the waters of the Gallean Sea. "Simon,

The crowd contemplated with silent the son of John, thou shalt be called the Rock." In the second year this surprise these two wemen, so different in every respect, Petronilla and Ganna, both speaking to the niece of the emperor, in

the same authoritative tone. One foretelling death ; the other promis ing life.

Both spoke the truth ! One, notwithstanding her youth, re-presented the past; the other, notwith-standing her old age, represented the

ties are these, the first Simon who called the Rock," and the rest. Sa Double and living image of Rome! of the old Rome dying with her brow crowned with flowers; of the young Rome entering life amid suffering and desola-Luke: "Simon, whom also He called the Rock." Now, as Tertullian, in the second century, remarked on this passage, a remark constant among the ion!

ticket of sale, but with this difference : it set forth that she was of free condition, and could never be affranchised. Her Aurelia, the careless child, saw in all Aurents, the careless third, saw in all this only the charming slave she had purchased and she wished to keep. Vibins Crispus, the skeptic old man, shrogged his shoulders impatiently. "Let us go!" said he to his ward. Fathers and obvious to any student of Scripture, when God gave a name, its Meaning was A DIVINE SYMBOL AND SANCTION

and could never be antancinsed. There misfortune was then to be eternal. Nevertheless, her face turned up to-wards heaven, expressed a divine feeling of resignation. Silent tears which did not belte her courage, rolled slowly over her delicate and blushing cheeks. This young girl was Cecilia—the victim of Marone Regulas.

The cortege moved, and soon, with Cecilia, Christianity was entering Cicero's ancient dwelling.

Death is a passage to another world. What awaits me there? What pre-paration have 1 made for the mysterious journey thither ?- Cardinal Wise-The third cry was a sublime exclama-

prevail against it ; and I will give to thee the Keys of the Kingdom of An alms given with a kind word is Heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt at the same time an act of charity and bind on earth shall be bound also in a caress. It is as though a coin and a Heaven, and whatsoever thou shall flower fell from your hand together. loose on earth shall be loosed also in Do Amicis.

THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE

was to rebel against H the true faith. While Evangelist was still l arose amongst the Chi The matter was him, one of the twelve Peter's successor, Cleme whose letters not mer dispute, but were re churches. In 142 the cion sought the appro in order to silence all demn his teaching. I 177 an appeal against from Lyons to Pope 157 St. Polycarp, Bis went to Rome to Pope fer on doctrine, and time Danis of Corint supervision of Rome or es as "customary from wards the beginning of tury St. Irenaeus wro of the supremacy of sary that the faith should be in commun 250 Origen admits th In the following yes Spain appeal against the decision council. In the nex find the Montanist Febriani appealing St. Cyprian, whom] te, because he to quote, because he fended against the opinion, about the re tics, wrote : "To th heresy can have no self asked St. Stephe supreme authority of

Gaul. In 262 we

Marcus Regulus. When she appeared on the platform, three cries were heard: First, a cry of despair from her father, TO BE CONTINUED. First, a cry of despite the first, a cry of despite the second se