LUCIUS, OR THE FLIGHT OF CONSTANTINE. (By the Ven. R. I. Wilberforce, A. M.)

CHAPTER IV. THE CONFLAGRATION.

Noise, call you it, or universal groan, As if the whole inhabitation perished? Blood, death, and dreadful deeds, are in that noise, Ruin, destruction, at the utmost point. Samson Agonistes

With a joyous heart did Lucius leave Nicodemia a few days after the last conversation, riding in the train of Constantine, and already entrusted with a sorted. "Though no open persecution has commenced assailants. He soon learnt that the neighbouring town command among his troops. The short period since here, yet we think it prudent to meet in secrecy, lest was that of which he had heard as enjoying the signal his arrival at the capital had been so prolific in inci- we draw on us the attention of the magistrates."dents, that he could scarce believe that but a month When satisfied that Lucius was not actuated by any heartlessness of the one, and of the solitude which he experienced amidst the crowded streets of the other. He was stationed with a small force in a somewhat wild part of Phrygia, where his office was to guard against those predatory incursions which were occountry, while his business led him to pay occasional to which he had alluded in their first conversation. visits to the adjoining towns. During one of these that on that occasion the man's appearance had evidently avoided him, until accosted in a friendly manner, and reminded of the place of their meeting.

"In such times as these," he then said, "every one whom we meet, but especially those who bear any public office, may be seeking our lives." Lucius immediately understood that he was flying

from persecution, and was glad to hear something respecting the events in the capital, concerning which little had found its way into that remote neighbourhood.

either by torture or by fire. Several hundred, after befallen each of you. being cruelly tortured, have been sent, mutilated or mained, to the mines. And I only," he added, "have appearance, who was evidently suffering from some escaped alone to tell thee."

at having been removed from the sight of such an "I bear about me," he said, "the mark of the Lord afflicting scene. In his secluded region he had heard Jesus," at the same time shewing his foot, which had nothing but that many Christians had been punished, been so cruelly burnt as to render him a cripple for and their worship prohibited.

opinions have not spread at all through the villages; them. 'You may burn me,' I replied. By favour of and the small towns which lie to the northward of us one of the emperor's officers I was dismissed thus are so shut off from all communication, that I have mangled." heard of no attempt at enforcing the emperor's edict there. Indeed, I know not whether they contain any

further conversation. But Lucius, who was pleased "that though you suffered great cruelty from the heawith his manners, and thought from his appearance then, yet that at last you took that which was profane that he needed assistance, would not allow himself to in your hands, even if you did not defile your mouths be thus repulsed. Calling up his servants, who were with words of treachery." leading a spare horse, he insisted that the wanderer should mount, and ride with him. As they were to one another, but their different manner indicated crossing one of those barren plains which are to be that their condition was widely distinct. Both found in the heart of Phrygia, the traveller could not were elderly men of serious and thoughtful counterefuse to accept his offer.

before night."

stranger's appetite showed that he had cause to be what was done by the heathen. When I was brought sequence," he said. Rushing out of the church, he thankful for Lucius's kindness. He had been wander- before the judge, I refused to sacrifice, as those around posted a detachment of soldiers before its doors. ing for some time in utter destitution, having been me witnessed; and when frankincense was put into allowed to escape from torture by the sacrifice of his my hands by force, my voice still testified that I took he occupied. What could it portend? He could East. The young Briton made no scruple of expres- my knowledge and consent." sing the favourable impressions which had been prohad been betrayed.

"You must abandon however," he added, "the your system could not be suppressed, and that the became, in some sort, partaker in their sins." power of Rome would be put to the worst before it."

possessed." "Are not your churches shut up or destroyed? Is not your public worship at an end? Are not your bishops put to death, or banished to the mines? Are tent in the exterior part of the church, before he could you not blotted out of the nations? You have just participate in the full privileges of Christian commutold me that the emperor designs to erect a column in memory of the utter extinction of the Christian name."

the travellers had reached a more cultivated part of to the communion; while some who had yielded with the plain, where a few enclosed spots had lately been out necessity, were sentenced to take their places for sown with maize. The Christian pointed towards them, and said, "What if winter were here to set up his icy columns in token of his victory over last year's seven years in the class of penitents, and finally to herbage? We have a proverb, 'The blood of the worship for two years with the faithful before they martyrs is the seed of the Church.' So will the emparticipated in the holy eucharist.\* peror find it. But the greatness of Rome, its wealth antichrist makes us believe it at hand."

"But what are your people doing?" said Lucius; "which of them has made any opposition? Have they not submitted in silence to the emperor's com-

"The Christians have offered no opposition to the emperor's laws, because they are taught to honour every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake. Nothing can be more at variance with their principles than that stubborn resistance to oppression, and that love of independence, which heathen writers so highly praise. These they leave to worldly men; yet you would find that they were never more firmly joined together in one body than at present; nor was their faith ever stronger in the permanent existence of their Church."

What proofs do they give of it?" said Lucius. "The interest they take in one another's endurance is a proof of that united feeling which is the neverfailing sign of Christ's Church; and their faith is shewn by their enforcing, even more strongly than at other times, those rules of discipline which exclude

offenders from their communion. Lucius remembered the scene which he had witnessed in the house of Anthimus, and was curious to learn something further on the subject. "Perhaps," said his companion, "I may be able to give you some proof of this, if you are making any stay in the town

which we are approaching." brotherhood; and though my relations have removed required. After a few weeks, however, he received a from the neighbourhood, yet I have been received cumstance which harmonised so well with the letter canon.

which he had brought from home, and pressed to know more of persons who had among them so attractive a called upon to take part in them. He was ordered to principle, in which the world around was so grie-

acquainted with the place to which his brethren re- that he was only wanted to cover the retreat of the pleasantly enough, in a cheerful and rather romantic asked him likewise, what were the rules of discipline

"That, I think, I can shew you," said the other, with in the house of Anthimus. He remembered and clergy of the neighbourhood will shortly assemble." Lucius accompanied him. Two hishops were present, sitting on raised seats in front; behind them sat marked that out as a person of distriction, and there sent, sitting on raised seats in front; behind them sat the priests; the deacons and people stood around. dress was now squalid and neglected. The man The persons whom Lucius had seen the preceding evening, and taken for strangers, were there. The subject in discussion proved to be, whether these persons might be admitted to the Holy Communion. This the Bishops were to decide. They occasionally referred to the priests; but the deacons and people

took no part, except as spectators.
"You, my friends," said one of the Bishops, "have ome from various cities, having either undergone, or fled from persecution. But since the martyrdom of our holy brethren, the bishops of your several Churches, to himself, "who knows that it may not encourage "All the great towns," said the man, "all Syria prevents you from bringing us commendatory letters and Egypt, are one scene of slaughter. Anthimus, as proofs that you are indeed members of the Church's the excellent bishop, at whose house I met you, has communion, and since it is said that some have failed been beheaded. The emperor's attendants, Doro- in the fiery trial, and therefore need the discipline of theus and others, who were most in his favour, have repentance before they can be admitted to their place not been allowed so easy a death. They have perished as members in the Lord, we desire to learn what has

The first who came forward was a man of reverend great bodily infirmity, as it was only with the help of Lucius now found fresh causes for thankfulness two persons that he could advance into the circle. life. "They demanded the sacred books for the fire "In this country," he said to the Christian, "your \_\_those 'useless writings,' as they profanely called

Respecting this person's acceptance there was no question. He was followed by two others, who seemed to be regarded with more doubt. "We have His companion made no reply, and seemed to shun heard respecting you, my brethren," said the Bishop,

The persons to whom this was spoken stood next nance. Both had the appearance of having suffered "Wearied as you plainly are," said Lucius, "you bodily injury. In neither was there any shade of will scarce be able on foot to reach a resting-place self-conceit. But while one was calm, quiet, and cheerful, the other was evidently labouring under some Lucius was anxiously waiting the result. They soon approached a wooded glen, where the deep and disturbing emotion. The former spoke first. servants of Lucius produced the provisions which "I call God to witness," he said, "that no words of they had brought for the day's meal; and the mine, nor even my silence, gave any countenance to the anger of the deputy. "You must take the conwhole property, and was on his way to seek shelter no part in the proceeding. At length, when I fainted not design the massacre of so large a body of persons. from some distant relations. When his strength was under the blows which were heaped upon me, I was But his intention was speedily apparent. The doors somewhat restored by food, he grew communicative, drawn forth by the feet from among the crowd which of the church were no sooner shut, than he ordered and gave a more detailed account of the fearful scenes surrounded the tribunal; and if the soldiers who rewhich had been passing in all the great cities of the moved me said that I had sacrificed, it was without body of soldiers then dispersed into the adjoining

"I wish," said the other who stood by him, "that duced upon him by what he had himself witnessed in I could clear myself of guilt as well as my brother and a little difficulty in keeping back his own soldiers, the house of Anthimus, and deplored the ferocities companion. I was taken with him before the tribuinto which the seemingly mild nature of Dioclesian nal and refused to sacrifice; but at length, overcome by the blows of my tormentors, when frankincense was put into my hands by a soldier who stood near, I confidence which your party used to express, that allowed him to say that I had sacrificed, and thus

Lucius was much interested with a proceeding "By no means," said the Christian; "we are but which shewed how little the Christians had relaxed the more filled with the confidence which we ever the exactness of their rules even during the height of persecution. The first of these two parties was admitted, he found, at once into communion; but the second was ordered to wait for six months as a peninion. Others there were who were subjected to a longer trial. One person, who had given up the At the moment when Lucius uttered these words, sacred books, was deprived for ten years of admission three years with those who were only hearers in the outer division of the church, then to continue for

Lucius could not help expressing surprise, when he and fame, are doomed, as your own prophets declare, and his friend were alone together, that the strictness to a speedy overthrow; and the temporary victory of of the Christian rules should not be somewhat modified during the severity of persecution. "It speaks great boldness in your rulers," he said, "that they should not be afraid of disgusting persons, at a moment when so little is to be gained by continuing in your

ranks." "We consider that never was the time when more was to be acquired," said the other. "The blessings which the Church has to give are of a spiritual nature the peace of God in this world, everlasting joy in the next. When were these more near at hand? And we have ever found that the Church has flourished most when its discipline has been most rigid. It is like those trees which shoot the stronger, the more they feel the pruning-knife. For its strength does not lie in the soft and careless, but in serious and selfdenying spirits. However," he added, " these persons either through the obvious sincerity of their own repentance, or the intercession of others. In this place, moreover, the fire of persecution has not yet begun to burn, perhaps never may; indeed, there is a of the surrounding soldiery, or be thrown back by town at no great distance, which, being entirely secluded, and happening to be under a Christian magistrate, still enjoys the advantages of public wor-

ship without fear or concealment." Lucius often thought of this last statement, when, on his return next day to his own quarters, he was told that a new Roman deputy had arrived at the Their arrival at the town where Lucius meant to seat of government, whose orders were, to see the halt broke off their conversation; but during the days imperial commands respecting religion more strictly he remained there he had several opportunities of obeyed. His own troops, and the other legions in the meeting the Christian. The stranger had found neighbourhood, were to hold themselves ready to aid rians, Eusebius and Lactantius. friends in this distant quarter, and seemed no longer the civil power. And now various acts of cruelty in want. "You know," he said, "that we Christians were committed in his own immediate neighbourhood, have every where connexions: our baptism is a tie of although the aid of the soldiery was not at first

as a brother." Lucius was impressed with a cir- \* This was the sentence of the Council of Nice in its 11th

summons which made him fear lest he should be occupy a position near a town about forty miles to the vously defective. "I have neither friends nor rela- north-eastward of his quarters. Though not as yet tions within some thousand miles," he said, "though alienated from heathenism, he had seen enough of the there are many who pretend good-will to me, now that | Christians to resolve that nothing should induce him I am a prince's favourite; yet I would fain know to stain his hands with their blood. Whatever loss or something of persons who have this friendly feeling danger he might draw upon himself, this was his firm towards a fugitive. It must be a strange thing, this resolve. Happily another legion was ordered out baptism of yours, which makes all men of one blood." before him; so that when he took part on the heights The Christian was at first unwilling to make him where he was commanded to array his troops, he found advantage of a Christian magistrate, and the unre stricted exercise of its public worship. The rocks

previously he had sailed into its harbour full of expecunfriendly motive, and informed that in Britain he had
upon which he was standing so completely overlooked tation from the pleasures and interest of a palace and occasionally been present at parts of the Christian the place, that it might almost have been used for a great city. And now he left them, sick of the service, he took him as a spectator of the more public military operations, had not the difficulty of the ground portion of their worship. It was conducted in a cavern near the town; and Lucius observed that the
from bringing with them their heavier engines. He

WOOLLEN DRAPER AND TAILOR,
from bringing with them their heavier engines. He Far different was his life in the service of Constantine. prayer for the emperor, which he had heard formerly could see, therefore, every thing that passed within, in Christian Churches in Britain was not discontinued. and observe that the church, which stood in the centre When looking around on the assembly, he felt con- of the town, was at this time open for worship. Close vinced that many persons were present who must be before the walls of the place was ranged the legion casionally made by bands of brigands from the North- visitants from distant parts. He told his surmise to which had preceded his own, commanded by the chief eastern portion of Asia Minor. Here his time passed his fellow-traveller, when they met next day, and authorities of the province. They evidently expected opposition, as the town was strong from its natural position, as well as from the union which prevailed among its inhabitants. Being situated on the fronhe fell in with a person whom he had formerly met "if you will go with me to a house where the Bishops tiers of the empire, it required fortifications for its security against the surrounding barbarians. Considering the mountainous nature of the country, and the difficulty of obtaining provisions, together

with the risk which might be apprehended, supposing any of the adjoining tribes were to cut off their retreat, Lucius thought it very likely that the attack would be abandoned, if the besieged shewed any resolution in With these expectations he looked on with considerable hope that the attempt against the place

would be unsuccessful; a hope which was increased by information that the ground all round the city had been surveyed, and found nearly inaccessible. "And if the Christians are successful in this place," he said them to self-defence in others? They form the decided majority in many parts of the country; and whereas the empire is divided into various portions, and ruled by persons who have little affection totowards one another, they are one body wherever they are dispersed. There can be little doubt that Constantius would be well pleased were Galerius to be hampered in his proceedings by a Christian insurrec-

Such were Lucius's thoughts as he saw the troops of the empire form under the walls, and a herald advance to the gates of the city to demand admission in the name of the emperor. But what was his surprise and disappointment, when a person advanced upon the walls, and proclaimed aloud, that though the Christians of the place would rather forfeit their lives &c., Engraved. Coats of Arms Emblazoned. Jewelry neatly than take part in any idolatrons service, yet that as than take part in any idolatrous service, yet that, as their religion taught them to obey their temporal prince, they should immediately open the gates to the troops of the emperor. No sooner was this done, than the soldiery rushed in. The streets and houses they found deserted. All the city, it seemed, was assembled in the large church which Lucius had seen. The royal deputy entered it, and called upon the governor and the chief citizens to take part, according to the emperor's order, in a heathen sacrifice. "You have opened your gates at the prince's summons; now open your hearts to his command." "Here," said the chief man of the place, "we cannot obey him. 65, Richmond Street, East of Church Street, To Cæsar we have rendered what was Cæsar's-we Where he will be at all times happy to receive a continuance of To Cæsar we have rendered what was cooled assemmust give what is God's to God." The whole assemtheir favours.

N.B.—Every description of BOOK-BINDING, both
N.B.—Every description of BOOK-BINDING, both with one voice, "Amen." The distant sound of their esponse could be heard as far as the station where

The fervour and unity of the people only inflamed them to be nailed up securely on the outside. A houses. Lucius supposed that the property of the Christians was to be given up to pillage; and he had who desired to take part in the proceeding which was going on under their eyes. But soon he saw a tall centurion, who had been the first to lead the pillagers, return, carrying upon his shoulders the door of an adjacent building. He was followed by others with similar burdens. In a short time each side of the church was piled up with a confused heap of materials. It was a wooden structure, of rough but solid construction; its small windows somewhat high up in the walls. While all this was going on without, the low murmur, as of persons engaged in prayer, mixed with the occasional burst of a chanted psalm, proceeded from the building, alternating, like the sound of a waterfall on a stormy night—the deep sound waxing more full and distinct at each occasional hush of the tempest. But this sound was speedily overmastered by one far more awful to those who have ever heard it. The loud crackling of flames arose from the wood and furniture on the sides of the building, to which the tall centurion had now set fire. A moment more, and the walls of the church had kindled. The view from above into the town, which had hitherto been so distinct, that Lucius could discern every step that was taken, was now obscured by volumes of smoke, which, meeting over the roof of the building, rose up thence towards heaven, as though to bear witness against the atrocity of the deed. Lucius looked around him; and as, in the stillness of a clear evening, he saw the vast mass of smoke ascend in a compact column, till, reaching the level of the lofty mountains among which the city was situate, it was gradually dissipated by some currents of air which were moving in the upper sky, he thought, that if there were any trust, to what he had heard respecting the interference of superior beings, it must be in the prevention of such a wickedness, thus publicly acted before earth and heaven. He lived afterwards to see the footsteps of God's providence in the signal fate of those to whom these fearful scenes were to be attributed; but for this doomed city there was no earthly relief, nor any present intercessor. The shrieks of the miserable victims, as the fire gradually made its way into the interior of the building, which even the roaring of the flames could may obtain an abatement of their time of penance, of wind, which opened a passage through the smoky not drown, haunted him for weeks to come. A flaw curtains which enveloped the place, shewed him the fate of a few persons who had forced their way through the windows of the building, to perish by the weapons them into the flames. Lucius had hid his face, when

> and the human sacrifice complete.\* \* This occurrence is mentioned by two contemporary histo-'At that time," says the first, "soldiers surrounded a city

he was recalled by a dull and heavy sound, as the

rafters of the roof fell in together. There was one

cry of deep but smothered agony, and then all was

still, save that a vast gush of fire rose up for a moment

with more than its usual intensity. Then came the

shout of the victors, as their work of wrath was over,

in Phrygia, and burnt the inhabitants, men, women, and children, while they called upon Christ the supreme God. For the whole inhabitants of the city, the treasurer, and governor, and magistrates, refused to obey those who ordered them to sacrifice

Lactantius says, that the governor of Phrygia "burnt the people, with their place of assembling."—Ins. Div. v. 11.

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Johnstown ... Bastard .... Broken lot 27, and E. part of broken lot 26 E. half 11 ...

... E. half 11 19 ... W. ½ 17, W. ½ 27 do. ... W. ½ 17, W. ½ 2, do. ... Broken lots 39 & 4 5 and 6, North side Talbot Road, South 398-tf Simcoe ..... Collingwood .. stern ..... Cornwall ..... E. half 14 .. Part N. half 20 .. (Town of) } 5, 6, 7 & 12, Block No. 2 14 & 15, " " 16 11, " " 17 3 & 4, " " 35 3 & 4, 19
18, 22, 24 & 34
23 28
front \( \frac{1}{3} \) 33
12, 17, 18 & 34
W \( \frac{1}{1} \) 19 W. ½ 19 15, & E. ½ 25 N. half 30 E. half E. half 17 W. half 12, 16 Do, do. ... North Crosby. E. half N. half 7 Prince Edward Picton [Town] South half 14 W. half 14 lictoria ..... Rawdon .. .... 9, 11, 12, 13 & 14 didland ..... Richmond .... Do. do. ..... Sidney ....... Prince Edward Sophiasburgh ..... 

N. half 19

of postage, to

Kingston, 1st December, 1845.

S. half 13

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