"Thou seest that great n with Him," continued their

Titus, a Comrade of the Cross A TALE OF THE CHRIST FOR THE CHRISTMAS-TIDE.

BY FLORENCE M. KINGSLEY.

CHAPTER VI.

The reader had finished droning out the eighteen prayers. The men on their side of the synagogue had listened with reverent attention, and responded with devout amens. On the other side of the lattice, however, where the women and children s.t, there was a subdued The place was very full rustling. some were standing, and others crouched along the wall. To many who were present the prayers and psalms had a strange sound; they had never been in the synagogue before, though they had often seen it, and admired the beautiful rose colored and white marble of which is was built. But all who could crowd into the place had come to day; for it had been noised abroad that the great Worker of miracles would be there, and curiosity to see Him, and the hope that He might perform some new wonder, had brought many unaccus-

tomed worshipers.

The Jewish women glanced askance at the foreign women, who, with their little ones clinging to their skirts, had crowded into the best places for see-

ing.
"The ungodly ones!" whispered one
to her neighbor. "Why are they
here? If this Man be indeed the

Messiah, He is not for them." And now all the prayers had been recited, the lessons from both the Law and the Prophets read, and in the breathless hush of expectancy which ollowed, the great Healer came forward-the reader, following the custom having asked Him to speak to the Every eye was fastened upon people. him, and as He spoke words of authorof divine and burning truth, the presence. All were intent, silent, drinking in His words, so different from the vague and stupid utterances of the rabbis. Even the children, though they understood not the words, felt the derful fascination of that Heart of ove, and gazed quietly into His wonderful eyes. Suddenly the sacred hush find Him. was broken; a man leaped up from the ground and shrieked: "Let us alone! What have we to

do with Thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who Thou art, the Holy One of God!"

Instantly all was confusion, women shrieked, children cried and men sprang

up, exclaiming:
"He hath an evil spirit, and polluteth the sanctuary. Put Him out! Put

But Jesus silenced the tumult with a who was already in the grasp of two or three indignant worshipers, He said:
"Hold thy peace and come out of

With a great cry and convulsion, the man fell down wallowing upon the floor; but presently, to the great amazement

of all, he rose up, calm and in his right Then all the people, being dismissed, went forth talking of the wonderful thing which they had seen; for the

man was known to many of them.

"Mother," said Stephen that same evening, "the trumpet hath sounded and 'tis past sanset shall we not go forth? I would fain see more of this

'I will go with thee gladly, my Stephen." replied his mother.

truly never man spake as this man. Yet I feel the wonder of it all so keenly, that I think perhaps I am only dreaming. Can it be that thou art really well and strong?' "It is really true, mother," said

Stephen, with a happy laugh. "See how I can leap! And my back hath never an ache in it now; and see my flesh, how firm it is! Oh, mother, what can we do for Him to show how glad, how thankful we are? When He said to me, as I lay in the dust that dreadful day, 'Go in peace,' and I sprang up for the first time since I can remember, oh mother, I only clung to Him and sobbed—I could not speak for joy and wonder. Then He went away before I could rightly tell what had happened and all the men were staring at me, and questioning, and others running to see. And then—oh, then, mother—I ran back down the street, and in a moment, seemed. I found myself with you and

Yes," went on his mother," we thought the little fellow dying, he lay so still, when suddenly the door of the courtyard flew open, and thou didst fly, rather than, run to the spot where the baby lay. My Stephen, I did not know baby lay. My Stepheu, I did not know thee! I thought it was some spirit, till thou didst cry out, 'Gogo is saved!

"And he was well," put in Stephen.
"Yes, perfectly well," said Prisca.
"Not a bruise on him. Ah! how won-

derful! Mother!" exclaimed the boy after a little pause, "let us go forth and find ome sick ones among our neighbors, and tell them. Thou knowest that he said, 'I am sent to heal the broken-hearted; to preach deliverance to the captive to set at liberty them that are bruised. Those were his very words. I cannot forget them. And mother, if He came forget them. And mother, if He came or that, would it not please Him best if we should help Him to do it?

Thou art right, my son; I feel that thou art. We will go. And hastily wrapping herself in her mantle, and ecuring the door of their home, she set forth with the lad. We must stop here," said Stephen,

door. ' said Prisea, "a blind man

dwelleth here."
They knocked, and a voice from withment answered: "Enter." Pushing open thanselves in a in answered: "Euter." Pashing open the door, they found themselves in a courtyard more wretched than their place. own, for it was untidily littered with wandered freely about; while a dozen so of fowls perched aloft.

"Greetings to thee!" said a clear voice of the child.

At the sound, the man raised his shaggy head, and turned his face toward

"Who art thou?" he said in a husky "I am Stephen, son of Dumachus. I am come with my mother that we may lead thee forth to find the great Healer.

will cure thee of thy blindness. Nay, thou mockest me," groaned man. "For knowest thou not that the man. eyes were burned out with a r

hot iron: they be shriveled up in my head. No man could heal me."
"But thou knowest not the power which this man hath," said Stephen. which this man hath,' Then be poured forth eagerly the ory of his own healing, and that of the baby. But the man only groaned and drew

his rags more closely about him.
"Come—come quickly!" said the lad. Thou wert an innocent child, the said the man hoarsely, but I—who am I, that one should heal

ne! I am accursed of gods and men. Twere best for me to die." 'Nay, good neighbor," cried Stephen "Nay, good neignoor, cried stephen impatiently, understanding nothing of all this. "Thou must come." And canning quickly up to the man, he eized his hand and gave him a gentle all this.

pull. Something in the touch of tho childish fingers, perhaps the first friend-ly touch he had felt in years, broke vn the barriers in the man's soulbarriers raised by the disgrace, shame and suffering of years—and burying his face in his hands, he sobbed aloud, Stephen still standing by, his childish soul perplexed at the sight of so much

'Come," he said presently, again touching the man. And this time the poor wretch rose from the ground, stretching forth his hands gropingly. light of heaven which shone upon His face penetrated the dark hearts in His presence. All were intent, silent, outstretched hands. And so the two t forth, Prisca following.
"Dost thou know where to find Him?"

asked the men in a trembling voice, strange hope beginning to stir in his

Nay," said Stephen, "but we shall Then with a sudden illum ination of eternal truth, he added simply: "If we want Him truly and seek for Him, we cannot fail to find Him.

Said Prisca, "I heard one of women in the synagogue say that He lodgeth at the house of Simon the herman. He dwelleth near the lake; know the place.' As they proceeded on their way

thither, they saw many others throng-ing the narrow streets. Some carried beds on which lay poor sufferers wasted with every woeful diesase known to man; others led the blind, or helped half-crippled ones slowly and painfully And as the multitude, ever along. rowing, hurried on, the moans of sufferers on their beds, the shrieks of demoniacs, and the wailing of sick chil-

dren, made a mighty chorus of misery.

The house of Simon, as Prisca has said, was by the lake-side. It was a modest but thoroughly comfortably dwelling or two stories. Instead of the customary courtyard, a small garden extended in gentle terraces to the water's edge; two or three fine fig trees cast a pleasant shade, while roses, oleanders, and lilies made the spot a sweet and pleasant one. Here dwelt Simon, who was also called Peter, his wife, and the mother of his wife, together with Andrew his brother. And here dwelt Jesus when He sojourned in

Capernaum. this Sabbath evening the family, with their beloved Guest, were sitting in the garden enjoying the cool air, and talking in low tones. That day the Master had done great things for them The mother had been taken vioalso. The mother had been taken vio-lently ill with fever, and when Jesus was told of it after His return from the synagogue, He had taken her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediate-ly the fever had left her, so that she

able to rise and minister to them. As they sat, therefore, James and John being with them, enjoying the Sabbath peace, and listening to Jesus as He talked, they became aware of a confusion of sounds—some of hurrying feet, of loud crying and wailing, mixed with shrieks and groans, and ever

wing nearer.
'Hark!' said the wife of Peter, rising in her alarm. "What mean those dole

"The multitude is seeking the Master," said John. "They are bring ing their sick with them." And rising, ing their sick with them." And rising, he went to the door of the garden and There was near Peter's house a square

or market-place, and to this spot the people were hastening. And now they bigan to lay their burdens down upon ground, the first-comers crowding near as possible to the gateway of the garden, calling out as they did to:
"Where is He that healeth? Let Him With many other come forth to us!" With many confused cries, such as, "Jesus, son of David, have mercy!" "Master come forth, we pray thee!" And through it all sounded the woeful noise thee!" of the wailing of the sick ones, whose sufferings had been greatly increased by the hurried journey through the streets and by the confusion and excite-

But now into the midst of all this misery came the benign figure of the great Physician, divine love, sympathy enderness and healing flowing from his eges and His outstretched hands, even as the fragrance pours forth from the cup of a lily. And as He moved among the wretched beings, and touched one here and there, laying His hands on others with words of forgiveness and peace, the moans and shrieks changed to cries of rejoicing and relief. Already many were going happily away, to make room for others who were still coming from every quarter, when Prisca and Stephen with their charge reached the

"He is here," said Stephen joyfully, clasping the hand of the blind man closer. "And many, oh, many others are here to be healed; and some are

clamations of thanksgiving, amid the babel of sound, and, breaking away from the hands that still held him, he ran with a quick instinct to a little open space where Jesus had paused for an instant, and throwing himself or his. an instant, and throwing himself on his

knees, caught Him by the garment, and cried out loudly: "Jesus, Master! I beseech thee to

ave mercy on me!"
And He answered: "Believest thou m able to do this?"
I believe," murm "I am able to do this?"
"I believe," murmured the man, turning his sightless eyes up to the face

Jesus, looking at him, beheld behind the blind eyes the soul stained with with suffering, and hungry for love; and, touching his eyes he said,

And the blind man was blind no longer. He saw; and his first vision was of that face full of compassion and tenderness. soul stirred with a mighty Then was his love for the Healer. And he rose up and went away, as he was bidden, carrying with him a memory destined to become a perpetual fountain of blessing to himself and others through time and eternity.

CHAPTER VII.

The morning sun, as it flickered cheerfully through the high latticed window of a room in the house of Caiaphas, revealed an aparament of noble proportions. After the fashion of the times, a divan extended along the wall on three sides; the fourth side, being open, showed between its light twisted pillars of colored marble, glimpses of the terrace outside. The floor was covered with thick rugs of Eastern manufacture, tapestries of rich hues draped the walls, while curious low tables, and chairs of Roman workmanship, rare vases, and a multitude o costly trifles, completed an interior speaking of both wealth and refine-

The sole occupant of the room on this pleasant morning was Anna, the wife o phas. Sorrow-laden years had their traces, for her hair was streaked with white, and lines here and there on her fair face spoke of suffering patiently borne; but beneath the dark ws her eyes shone sweet and bright, while the curves of her noble were still perfect and graceful as in

From where she sat at ease on the divan with her embroidery, the noble Anna could look out upon the terrace, where climbing roses and other fra grant flowers wreathed the balustrades, and cast pleasant silhouettes of dancing leaves on the marble pavement be neath. The tinkling of a fountain wa fountain was neath. borne pleasantly to the ear, mingled with the twittering of birds. It was very quiet and peaceful, and the peace ed reflected in the face of ady, as she worked quietly and steadly, drawing the gold threads through rich fabric in her hands.

Presently there was a sound of footeps on the terrace, and Anna, raising eyes from her work, saw the tall figure of a man standing at the en-

Greetings to thee, my wife," he

At the sound of his voice the lady rose, and casting aside her work, came forward to meet him with a little cry of "Tis thou, my husband! And I

xpected thee not until evening. "We travelled by the light of the full moon, and found it more pleasant than sunlight," said the man. "Is all well with the household?" he continued,

and with thee, my Anna?' "All is well," she answered. "And how didst thou find our kinsfolk in

then frowning darkly, he added. "But Jairus is as strangely infatuated with the man Jesus as are others in Galilee; he declares that he elieveth Him to be the Messiah. 'Tis journey to Capernaum, Malchus? rank blasphemy, and goeth against the

But is it true about the miracles of healing of which we have heard?" asked Anna with true feminine curi-

There is no end to the marvels mouth of every Galilean rustic," said Caiaphas contemptuously. "I would that the marvels were all of t, but the pestilential teachings of the man—" Here he checked himself, saying, "But these be not things to trouble thee with. I shall take steps to put a top to it. Now I must rid myself of stains of travel; and wilt thou, my Anna, bid the servants prepare me some refreshment, for I have not eaten since before survise. But stay!" he added, fumbling in the ample folds of his gar-"I have a letter from thee from Anna a small sealed packet, he hurriedly

Anna regarded the letter in her hand with a smile of pleased expectancy, but forbore to open it until she had made due arrangements with her maids the comfort of her husband; for she was a notable housewife. Then travers ing the terrace, she descended the terrace, she descended the marble stairway which led into the garden, and seating herself upon a bench near the fountain, proceeded to break the seal of the letter which she still held in her hand. It was written upon a fine parchment, then tightly rolled, bound about with a silken thread, and sealed with wax in several places; so that the opening of it was a matter which occu pied several moments. The last seal being broken, the lady spread open the parchment and began to read.

Sara, the wife of Jarius, unto the noble lady Anna, my sister, beloved of

We have had much pleasure in the presence with us of Caiphas, thy most noble husband, and the High Priest of the Holy Temple. And especially did we rejoice in the knowledge that all is well with thee, and with thy household and with the household of Annas, our father. In truth, though this be a fair city, and though our home be very dear to me, I often times long for the things of my youth, and for the faces of my kins folk and acquaintance which be at Jerusalem. Of late there hath been that bowed forward on his knees, and his And indeed the quick ear of the bath caused much talk among us: To wit, at once dignified and austere. All but she never gone to the synagogue, save

wretched garments wrapped tightly blind man had already caught the ex- the presence in Capernaum of the Naztold by the Scriptures; and I grieve that the matter was one which caused a hot dispute between my husband the worshipful Caiaphas. As for myself, I have seen with mine own eyes that which hath caused me to be filled with wonder and amazement; for, behold, the lame walk, the deaf hear, and all manner of diseases have been healed by this man. Moreover, He bath, cast out many de from those possessed by them, and the devils the nselves have testined of him that He is the Holy One of God.

He is beautiful to look upon, my Anna, but of a mysterious and ful presence, so that, while one looks, there seemeth to go out from Him an influence which draweth all unto little Ruth, who hath seen Him, and heard Him preach normal and make a film preach in our syna-gogue, ceaseth not to talk of Him; and she doth frequently beg me to go forth with her to seek Him. This have I not done, for the crowds which attend Him at all times are so great that it were not seemly for me, a daughter of Annas, to mingle with them. Notwithstanding. I have taken every opportunity to hear Him whenever it hath been possible, and also to inform myself of His teachings. He teacheth often by stories parables, and, in brief, that all may return unto God the Father of all. neaks of Himself, sometimes as the Son of God, and sometimes as the Son of man, and declareth that He hath come from God to call sinners to repent ance. It is rumored that in Samaria, even, He hesitated not to talk to a woman of their nation concerning this salvation: which thing would not be done by the Rabbis, as thou knowest, for indeed the Samaritans be not of the true faith.

Another strange thing about this man is that He hath selected for His followers certain men of the lower classes, some of whom are fisherman by trade, and dwell in Capernaum. In truth, my sister, I fear that I cannot make thee clearly to understand why we are inclined in our hearts to believe that t man is, indeed, the Messiah. But if He cometh up to Jerusalem, be sure that est an occasion of seeking Him for thyself; then assuredly thou wilt understand.

The little Ruth sendeth greetings, so also doth Jairus, my husband. We hope to see thee at no distant day, for the next Feast day is now not far away, and we shall come up to Jerusalem at that time if all be well with us.

And now, my beloved sister, thou seest how long a letter I have written to thee with mine own hand. Wilt thou for me, greet Annas, our father; and also our brothers, together with their households? May the God of Abraham eep thee and thine. And now fare-

As Anna finished reading this epistle. she became aware that someone was waiting her pleasure to speak with her, and raising her eyes, she saw Malchus, the favorite servant of her husband. The man made a gesture expressive of profound respect, and then spoke:

"My lord hath desired me to unto thee, most noble lady, that matters of importance will detain him until the hour for the evening repast. He will see thee at that time, if it be thy pleasure.

The man after delivering his message was about to withdraw, when Anna de tained him with a word. "Thou mayst

"Stay!" she said. "Thou mayst tell thy master that it is well, and that ernaum?"

They are in good health," replied of the inner house, at sunset. I will wait him there.'

added pleasantly—for he was an old and trusted servant—"Didst thou enjoy thy 'I did, most noble lady,

reply: then rather hesitatingly added, "I saw there a man who knew formerly in Jerusalem. He is een sick with the palsy for many years, and when last I saw him, had lain or his bed unable to move for more tha ten years. He was walking about in the streets of Capernaum as myself. I spoke with him, for I thought at first that my eyes had played me false, but it was the same man. His name is Eliphaz, and formerly, before he was stricken with his ailment, he was a servant of the revered Annas.

"And what caused this most notable cure, good Malchus?" said Anna en-

"I asked him, most noble lady, and he said that one Jesus of Nazareth, which is in Galilee, saw him lying upon his mat at the city gate, and bade ise up and carry his bed to his home and that he was able to carry out the command. It was a most amazing thing! Afterward, I myself saw the Man Who

worked the miracle."
"Didst thou see Him perform any cure?" questioned Anna.

"Nay; He was telling a story to a crowd of people. 'Twas a pretty tale and easy to be understood. The children who were there-and there were very many of them-listened as quietly is any of the grown folk. I should like have heard more, but I could not stop, for I was taking a message from my master to one of the rabbis."

Anna longed to question the man but restrained herself, and dismissed him with a pleasant word of praise for his faithfulness.

Meanwhile Caiaphas, the high priest, was seriously occupied in his own part of the mansion. Soon after his arrival in Jerusalem, he had sent messengers o men of authority in the Jewish Church, with imperative summons to vait upon him at a certain hour in the palace. For some time past, a servant had been ushering these expected guests into an apartment which was especially set apart for such purposes. was, like the other rooms in the palace, lofty and well lighted, but fur nished with the utmost simplicity and

acquainted his master with the fact, and

one of the company rose in greeting,

our deliberations. The man who had sat to receive the salutation of the high priest, was of reverend aspect; his beard flowing upon his breast was of silvery white ness, while beneath the snowy folds of his turban shone singularly brilliant eyes. Yet despite its dignity, there was in the face of this man that which to the close observer would indi cate cunning, obstinacy and cruelty. He responded courteously

greeting of Caiaphas, and as the latter seated himself said; "My son, thou hast called us together to-day to learn the result of thy mission to Galilee. What is now thine opinion of the man who is called Jesus?"
"I found," said Caiaphas, "that the

reports of the excitement in Galilee had not been exaggerated, but rather that we had not heard to the full how this man hath stirred up the populace. He hath been teaching not only in the streets of the city, and in the byways of the country round about, but, after the manner of the rabround bis. He enters into the synagogues and reaches there. Accordingly popular reports He hath perform Accordingly to the works of healing. Of these I did not satisfy myself: for I saw nothing, and of that which I heard. I make no account. The creduitty of the common people is well known; and more especially in Galilee, they are ignorant and little qualified to judge of such matters. " But," said a man called Nicodem-

us, " is it not true that even in Jerusalem this Jesus wrought some notable

cures?"
"'Tis said that He did, most friend,"replied Caiaphas. "But which of us can prove it? If the cures had been performed upon reputable citizens, they might perhaps be worthy of our note; but, as thou knowest, the ones professing to be healed were begthe And the word of a beggar—what But after all, it is not this Jesus physician that we would speak. He might heal all the beggars in the country without harm; but His m serious pretensions demand our consideration. I tell thee frankly that the man pretends to be the Messiah, and as such is likely to have a great following among the people.

" His pretensions are blasphemous!" broke in the sonorous voice of Annas. I have studied the Prophets from my youth up, and nowhere do I find such an One as this foretold. The Messiah is to be a mighty king, who will save the chosen people of Jehovah from the hand of their enemies; and He shall establish His throne in Jerusalem and reign in power. It is, moreover, prophesied that the Prince shall be of the lineage of David, and shall be born in Bethlehem of Judea. This man is a Nazarene.

"If this man were the Messiah," said another, "he would assuredly seek to ally himself with the priesthood of

the Most High."
"He not only doth not so seek to ally himself," broke in Caiphais with an angry frown, "but He hath been heard to speak lightly of the laws and customs of the church, and even of the Pharisees and Scribes. Moreover He observeth not our laws, and doth eat with unwashand sinners, even going into their houses to eat and to drink. My counsel is, that we require certain wise and pru-dent ones of the rabbis to watch this Man, and report to us of his doings, to there is great danger to the priesthood, there is great danger to the God of our thou wouldest never do such things unchecked.'

Thon speakest with wisdom. vant of the Most High," said Annas. healed. I could never have borne it for "It is our duty to guard the faith of thee; thou didst carry me in thy strong our fathers, and to preserve it from contamination. If this Man be a blastales which eased me of my weariness ohemer. He ought to die. It is our law. Yet must we move with due caution and secrecy in the matter, lest we in-

cur the displeasure of the people."

A murmur of applause followed this again. Stay with the mother and me, and all shall be well with thee." entiment; and then arose a discussion of ways and means, in which all present took part, with the result that cerent took part, with the result that cer tain wise and crafty men, approved by the council, were appointed to go into Galilee and watch the Man Jesus, that thou art thou art good enough for us they might find sufficient accusation against Him to warrant putting Him to death.

CHAPTER VIII.

"'Tis a wonderful tale, my Stephen, but I must needs believe it, since I have thee before mine eyes, and I make ure that I am not dreaming it all.'

The speaker was Titus, and as he aid the last words, he gave himself a vigorous shake, as if to prove to him-self beyond a doubt that he was in full possession of his waking senses.

The two lads were walking slowly along the lake shore, stopping now and then to throw a pebble into the trans-lucent water which rippled on the beach at their feet. Stephen had been pouring forth the wonderful tale of his neeting with Jesus, and of the healing of Gogo and himself.

And to think," he went on, " that thou hast not seen Him ! thou must see Him when He returns to Capernaum. Oh, Titus, I love Him so -better than anyone in the whole world Better than thy mother, boy?'

questioned Titus, somewhat surprised. "Yes, better than mother; and yet love mother more than ever before, and thee also, my Titus. He loves everyone. If thou couldst have seen He loves His face, the night when so many sick folk were carried to Him to be healed was half afraid to look, and yet I nged to, for there was a light it like to the light of the sun-and yet not like it; and when he spoke to the blind man, and said to him, 'Go in peace,' I felt in my soul that the man must needs see. No one could remain blind before the glory of that face! Thou knowest," continued Stephen, after a little pause, "that we have had no religion ; father speaks of the gods, when he curses. Mother told me once

once when she knew that the Healer would be there. I would I knew so thing of the Father of Whom He speaks One thing I know," he added with energy. "I shall continue to follow energy. "I shall continue to follow Him and listen to all that He saith, and perhaps I shall find out soon.

"Hast thou had speech with the Man since he healed thee?" asked

'Nay," answered Stephen. "Ho is always surrounded with crowds, and so many would speak with Him that I ow He findeth ti know not how He findeth time to take food; but I have followed Him day by day here in Capernaum, and when, few days since, He set forth to visit th viltages round about, I went as far as could with Him. I knew the mothe would fear for me, if I failed to return by nightfall. Titus, I am sure that something is wrong with mother. She weeps often and so bitterly that I am afraid-yet father hath been away, and

I am well. " Hast thou asked her what aileth

?'' queried Titus. 'Often and often,'' said Stephen "but she only answers: 'Thou canst not help me, my son, and why should I tell thee?' Wilt thou ask her, my Titus?"

"Perhaps," said Titus briefly.

"And now tell me what thou hast been doing, and where thou hast been; and let us sit here in the shade of this tree, for the sun waxeth too warm for comfort.' And Stephen threw himsel

down beneath a thritty fig tree.

Titus followed his example, and pulling a stalk of lilies, which grew near, he began plucking it to pieces, throw ing the brilliant leaves in shower upon the ground.
"Thou wouldst not do that, hadst thou heard the Master speak of the

lilies," said Stephen quietly, stretching out his hand as if to save the flow-"And what said He of the lilies?" asked Titus, continuing His work of de

struction.
"He said that the Father made them, and that if He cared for the lilies enough to make them so fair, He would surely care for the creatures which H also made. He said, too, that He Him-self came to teach us of the Father, Who is great and mighty, and Who loves al

"Humph!" said Titus gruffly, throwaway the dismantled stalk with an im-

patient gesture.
"What aileth thee, my Titus?" said Stephen tenderly, taking one of the strong brown hands in both his own. Thou seemest not like thyself. But some, tell me of all that thou didst while thou wert gone.'

"'Twere not a fit tale for thee to hear," said Titus, fixing a gloomy look on the white sails which glittered on the blue surface of the lake. "But what couldst thou expect of such Thou didst hear them talk the night we set forth. I was compelled by brute force to do things which I will not tell thee. Nay, may my tongue wither up in my mouth, if I do!" he added fiercely. "I tell thee I hate he added fiercely. "I tell thee Dumachus and all of his crew! be devils, and will make me one too When thou talkest in thy innocent fashion of this great Healer, as thou callest Him, I cannot tell thee how I teel. He healeth the lame, the sick and the helpless, while we have been robbing, maining-yes, even killing -the last in a husky whisper, and hands, and mingleth with publicans lad buried his face in his hands, and

wept convulsively. Stephen sat in perfect silence, all the happy light gone out of his face; but at length he stretched out his hand,

if He be allowed to teach of myself. my Titus. Thou hast ever ted." me: in the dark days before I was and pain. Thou art a good lad, and true, Titus," he went on stoutly thou shalt not go with those bad men

Titus had ceased his sobbing

both. Let us walk further."
"Yes," said Stephen, springing up
with alacrity. "It may be that we with alacrity. "It may be that we shall meet Him of whom I have told thee. A week since, He set forth to make a circuit of the lake, for I asked one of fishermen who follow Him at all times." "What fishermen dost thou mean?" asked Titus, interested in the mention

his own favorite craft. They be Simon, with his brother Andrew, also James and John, sons of Zebedee. Dost know them?"

"I know who they are; I have often-times seen them on the lake fishing, and once, one of them spoke kindly to me at the wharf."

"They do not fish now," said Stephen. "They have given it up, that they may not leave the Healer. I heard the people talk of it. A rabbi in the crowd said, 'Good people, this man selecteth strange disciples; dost Nay, but see it?' But the people paid no manner of attention to him busy talking of all they had seen and heard.

"Then the rabbis love Him not?" said Titus with a laugh. "They be jealous for their own teaching—the canting hypocrites! I have heard them standing in the market-places, droning out their long prayers. needs draw their robes about them, for fear such an one as I should pollute them for with a touch. But what is that crowd of people vonder about See them running from every direction Let us make haste and see Saying which, Titus broke into a run

followed by Stephen.
"What is it all about? I see nothing," said Titus, to one who was craning his neck to look up the road.

' answered the "Knowest thou not," answered the man, "that Jesus of Nazareth passeth this way? Even now He is coming. Dost thou not see?" to a cloud of dust on the highway, where

bers are with Him, people flock a "The Him from every village. There never been the like of this Man in t parts before; for He doeth wonder healing, and besides that, He spea not as the rabbis, but with such pe that even the devils obey Him." I am one that He healed," Stephen simply, for he could not telling his own story to every one would listen.

stared at him. "A The man stared at him. "A what did He heal thee?" he asked "I was a cripple—" began Ste But at that moment they were rupted by a loud and mournful cryithal in so strange a voice th withal in so strange a voice the started to hear it.
"Unclean! Unclean!" wailed voice.

· Room for the leper!" shoute a dozen voices; and there was stant scattering among those who crowding the road in their anxie Stephen and Titus shrank

stephen and Titus shrank among the rest, and saw the tall of the leper, as he limped pai toward the advancing multitude crying at intervals in his h metallie voice:
"Unclean! Unclean!" "Unclean! Unclean!"
His face was partly concealed coarse linen of his head covering he had drawn forward so as to much as possible the ghastly ravhis malady. But it was evident was suffering from an advanced.

was suffering from an advanced s that disease the most horrib opeless which has ever afflicte By this time the confused co By this time the comused one, women and children, wit walking in their midst, had reached the place where the stood. As they approached,

sounded forth the dismal cry:
"Unclean! Unclean!"
The advancing multitude us standing back, leaving Jes the midst of the highway. W leper saw Him, and that He turn from Him, as did the ot ran forward, and falling upon

in the dust, cried out:
"Lord, if Thou wilt, Tho make me clean."

And Jesus put forth His he touched him, saying, "I will:

And immediately he rose u was seen of all of them that hi was departed, and that his like that of other men.

In the awed hush that follow talked with him that had been

but in so low a tone that no ot hear. Afterward it appeared man's account that the He directing him to go quietly himself to the priest, as M commanded, thus fulfilling the cleansing; and also, that He him strictly to tell no one elewonderful thing which had better the command of the command that the nnto him. But as the man departed, a arose from all the people, crowded about the Healer me than before, so that Stephen who still stood at the outsk throng, were pushed to one si

Was not that a marvelou said Stephen, when he coul But Titus did not answer,

ing up at him, Stephen say great dark eyes were brim with tears. TO BE CONTINUED.

LAY APOSTLES.

It speaks well for the v faith of Catholics of this co the Messenger of the Sac speaking of this the genera of the League for this mont have ever been ready to mal for religion, meeting with with boldness, as occasion the pretensions and, at the open hostilities of those we not rightly understand us

animated by a hatred of the Are you a member of the de Paul Conference, or of i or of the many Third Ord se of St. Francis and S Are you a member of the our Lady, a "Child of M Our Lady, a Tabernacle Socie the guilds or committees visiting the poor, the s

What of your zeal for those who need the day homes, whether in famil them or in asylums, for schools, or, the variety for them in the settlemen. Whilst we are on this holy season of Christmas time to show zeal for our what are you doing for th hood, the Society for F Faith of Indian Childre bureaus which ought to in most of our large citie

ing the faith of the ch thousands of immigrants shores, particularly for the As the children grow u propose to do for them, day, parochial and nigh ing classes, libraries, be

ployment bureaus? The field is great, th "Pray ye therefore the and pra His harvest," and pra permitted to do your shi At the beginning of th when framing resolution it well, decide to giv your Catholic spirit by

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