

"At that very time there happened to be a number of Venetian ships in port, and the captain of one of them, hearing of what was going on, determined to try to secure the sacred relics of the apostle for his own city. So he had an interview with the priests who had charge of the tomb; pointed out the dangers that would always threaten the grave of a Christian saint among a Mohammedan population; and how desirable it would be to have the body transferred to a safer place: a large bribe was added to the arguments, and all together were so persuasive that the priests consented.

"The work, however, was not easy. The worshippers were numerous, and might detect the act. At length they made an opening in the lower part of the coffin, through which they removed the body of St. Mark, and immediately afterwards put in its place the body of another saint, who, however, was of inferior grade. This removal was attended by a very wonderful circumstance. For no sooner had the body of St. Mark been brought forth into the open air than an odor was wafted forth from it, through all the surrounding space, of such exquisite sweetness that all who came near the church were amazed and delighted at the heavenly fragrance. Inquiries were made, and the tomb was narrowly inspected; but none of the examiners were able to detect any difference. Thus they succeeded in removing the body from the tomb.

"The next trouble was about getting it on ship-