

## CHRISTIAN MARTYRS.

Lessons of Encouragement to Affiliated Members.

## SOME FRAIL BODIED HEROES.

From These Persecutions the Great Increase of the Church of Christ Was Started—Not One Drop of Blood Which Fell From the Christian Martyrs Was Ever shed in Vain.

Entered According to Act of Parliament of Canada, in the year 1902, by William Bailey, of Toronto, at the Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Chicago, July 13.—From the example of martyrs and great sufferers in the cause of Christ Rev. Frank De Witt Talmage draws lessons of encouragement and fortitude for afflicted members of Christ's church; text, Philippians iv, 22, "All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household."

Pope Leo XIII. was one day giving an audience to some foreigners. Turning to a gentleman present, he asked, "How long have you been in our city?" "Three days," was the answer. "Then," said the pope, "you have been here long enough to know that you have just begun to see Rome." He asked another gentleman, "How long have you been in Rome?" "Three months," was the answer. "Then," said the pope, "you have been here long enough to know that you have just begun to see Rome." He asked a third gentleman the same question. "I have been here three long years," was the answer. "Then," said the pope, "you have been here long enough to know that, though a man may live in Rome a hundred years, he can never live long enough to fully appreciate Rome." The longest of all lives under the shadow of the Coliseum the more he realizes how much of history, of conquests and defeats, of culture and ignorance, of purity and vice, of justice and injustice, clusters about the seven hills of the Eternal City.

But, though the most marvelous achievements and the most startling happenings may be purchased in that one word, "Rome," yet without doubt to the Christian student the most absorbing and intense of all the history of Nero's reign is the persecution against the early Christians because the most virulent, inhuman and fatal. Then the brutalities and murders of the fiendish monster, Nero, out-Heroded even bloody Herod. Then the lowest dungeons of the inferno were filled with pandemonium of satanic joy. "For then," wrote the historian, "the Christians were covered by the skins of wild beasts and torn to pieces by the dogs. Then they were crucified. Then they were smeared with pitch and combustible materials and burned in the Imperial gardens at night. Then at last from a horror-stricken nation there arose pity for the condemned, since they were not put to death for the public evil, but to gratify the cruelty of one man." Yet Paul wrote about this time that, in spite of all these persecutions and martyrdoms, there still remained in Rome men and women who were true to the Christian faith. In the darkest days of the history of the early church there were Christians ready to testify for Jesus Christ. They wore the uniforms of the Roman emperor and though, on account of that testimony, they knew they had to die.

Now, as Paul sent the salutations of the saints in Caesar's palace to the members of the Philippian church for their encouragement, I am going to bring the salutations of the saints who live in Caesar's modern palaces for the encouragement of every man, woman and child. I am going to declare to the young and the old, the rich and the poor, the high and the low alike, that though some of you are having a hard time to maintain your Christian integrity against the bombardments of seemingly overwhelming worldly difficulties, yet there are men and women who are maintaining their Christian integrity against troubles infinitely greater than yours. There are men and women true to God to-day who have shouldered under their backs a whole mountain range of misfortunes and sorrows and pains, while you, comparatively speaking, are going forth into the gospel fight weighed down only with a little knapsack. There are Christian men who, figuratively speaking, have been flung overboard mid-Atlantic and told to swim ashore while you have only a shallow brook to cross. There are Christian men who are ankle deep, knee deep, waist deep, shoulder deep, chin deep in the quicksands of difficulties who can yet look up and see the face of God, while you, comparatively speaking, have only a stony path to climb. If the saints in Caesar's ancient and modern palaces, could be true to their gospel faith, surely their spiritual examples ought to rouse every one of us to better and truer and purer and nobler efforts, no matter what our mental or physical or incidental difficulties may be.

I would encourage those Christians, in the first place, who are struggling against the physical depressions of ill health. Life even under the brightest of conditions is an awful struggle. Alexander Pope once compared the ceaseless struggle of life to a continuous journey over the bridge of time. Upon one end of this bridge the English poet started the different generations. Then he kept them moving on and on, never allowing the tired and weary, and the headaching and heartaching traveler to halt for an instant. He kept them moving on and on over the bridge of time until every boy and girl or young man and young woman or middle aged man and middle aged woman or sexagenarian or octogenarian or tottering centenarian had tumbled through the broken planks

of that bridge into the dark waters of the river of death flowing below.

But though life is such an awful struggle for the broad chested and the stout limbed and the powerfully physiognomied, yet, wonderful to say, some of the mightiest Christian heroes have been men and women who were physical weaklings. Some of the most famous mental and spiritual giants of the ages have been those whose physical frames were so frail that they could have been destroyed almost as easily as a dew-drop could be flung from the surface of a leaf or a humming bird's life could be crushed out between the thumb and the forefinger of a man's hand. John Sumnerfield's body was so frail that it withered away under the touch of consumption while he was yet a boy. John Sumnerfield died when he was but twenty-seven, yet he lived long enough, with that frail body, to bring the gospel message to the whole English speaking race of his time. Fanny Crosby, the inspired hymnologist, who has written many thousands of souls have nestled in the arms of Jesus Christ, (which is perhaps her most popular hymn) has such a weak, frail little body, that there seems to be nothing but physical frailty, and in addition to her other physical infirmities God put out the light of her two eyes. And there she sits, in the darkness of her own room, in order that with her eyes sockets she may better see the face of Jesus Christ. Frances E. Willard in all probability never saw a perfect well day in thirty days, yet with her weak body she headed one of the mightiest reform movements of her time. With her devoted companions she toured up and down this land, speaking in every town and city of 10,000 inhabitants or over. When she became too feeble to travel, in order to keep her from working her friends sent her across the seas. Yet even there, under the shadow of the trees, she would write her letters, which poured all the wisdom of Christendom to better deeds for God and humanity.

Now, to you who are sitting before me today with the pale face of an invalid I bring the salutations of the saints who have lived in the Caesarian palaces of physical infirmity. I would tell you to do something for God in spite of your bodily pain, as blind John Milton did, as Bella Cooke, who has been bedridden for over forty years, is doing; as Paul who, with his bodily presence weak, "Your very physical sufferings ought to bring you closer to Christ. Your very sicknesses ought to make you the more anxious to do something for the Saviour now that your time on earth may be short. They ought to make you as anxious to do something for Christ as was the dying president of Union college, who in spite of his physician told him he had but one hour on earth to live, said, "Then place me upon my knees, that I may spend that hour in prayer with God, pleading for the salvation of my soul." Would that to-day, in the presence of these saints who have lived in the modern Caesar's palaces of physical torture, we might all consecrate our frail as well as our will bodies to the service of the Lord Jesus Christ!

I would encourage those Christians also who are trying to maintain their Christian integrity in spite of an evil past. By this statement I mean those Christians whose past sins have been heralded over the world, even as Cain's sin was known by the black mark which had been stamped upon the murderer's brow. If it is hard for a young girl when she is living in a Christian home and has practically never been out of her mother's arms to have much harder must it be for a young girl to be good and true and pure when she has had her feet cut and lacerated by treading the crooked and slippery path of sin and has had her fair name blackened by the condemnations of a dissolute life! If it is difficult for a young man to hold an honorable position in society when his record is clean and good, how much more difficult must it be for a man to attain an honorable life when he has served out his term in a felon's cell, or has had his name cropped by the convict's shears, and his clothes striped with the mark of the penitentiary! If it is difficult for a Christian to live right whose nearest neighbors can find nothing but good in him, how much more difficult must it be for a man to live a good life who has been a drunkard, a libertine, a thief, a social outcast! Would you, O Christians, be willing to have reformed ex-convicts as occupants of your office? Would you, O mother, allow reformed servants in your home whose past lives have been dissolute? "No," in all probability you would both answer in an un-Christian way. "I do not bear any such people any ill will, but I would prefer not to have them around my person. They might steal or perhaps they might lead my children astray, and were such among my help I would dismiss them at once."

But though it is so difficult for a man to lead a Christian life who has had an evil past, yet if there are any here to-day, I bring to you the salutations of the saints of Caesar's palace. I want to encourage you with the fact that, just as some of the greatest of moral heroes have been physical weaklings, so some of the greatest of Christian heroes have been those who have sinned even worse than you have sinned. Harry Monroe, who for years has run the Pacific Garden Mission of Chicago, and who has been instrumental in saving thousands of souls, was a wastrel. A college graduate? A member of a Christian Church and a Christian home? No. He was a converted gambler. Jerry McAuley of New York, who did so much for the slums of New York, was a drunkard and a prize-fighter.

And I bring to you who have an evil past this message from the saints in Caesar's palace, because the man who has publicly sinned, the man who has been loathsome vile, is the man who has an especial mission to save souls for Jesus Christ. You know as no one else knows how awful is the power of temptation,

## A WOMAN'S PRAYER.

It is notable that in the dependency caused by womanly diseases, there seems to many a suffering woman no way of escape from pain except at the price of life itself. It would be sad to record such a story of struggle and suffering except for the fact that in such dire distress many a woman has found a way back to health and happiness by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription.

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You know as no one else knows how difficult it is for one who has been a social outcast to try to live again among respectable social surroundings. You can speak as Mary Magdalene could speak when she was once the noted Blue Bird, the field of the New York slums. Although St. Delia had such an evil past, yet her life, under the power of the Holy Ghost, became so pure and sweet and influential, that the rich and the poor, the pure and the depraved alike, the old as well as the young, sobbed over her casket. You can speak from the heart as John B. Gough spoke to the drunkards, because you yourself have seen the phantoms of delirium tremens moving themselves about in the cup until at last they would bite like a serpent and sting like an adder. Struggling Christians, you have had an evil past, you can plead for Christ in the highways and the hedges, as the saints who had an evil past could speak in Caesar's palace. Those saints to-day are now placing their hands of holy ordination upon your head that you may go forth and save your sinful fellow men.

I would also encourage to-day, those Christians who are compelled by force of circumstances to live and work with evil associates. Perhaps the young man who is standing behind the same counter with you in the store, is an infidel, perhaps some of your classmates at school and in college are out and out scoundrels against the word of God. Perhaps, what is worst of all, you find that you are married to a man who neglects an obligation to read the Bible. You have found out also that your husband is having a pernicious and spiritually devastating influence over your children. What are you going to do? Do leave these evil associates? Sometimes such a course is possible; sometimes it is not. It evidently was not possible for the ancient saints to leave Caesar's palace, else they would have done so. It is most natural to suppose that those saints would have instantly fled from the Roman capital during the time of Nero's persecution, if they could have run away with honor and self-respect. But in all prob-



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themselves something like this: "No, I cannot. I will not go! It would be cowardly for me to desert, my Lord and Master. I will stay here and keep on testifying for Christ, if need be, until my body is burned at the stake or eaten by the wild beasts in one of the arenas. And stay in Rome, these saints did, and die a martyr's death most of them also did. So it may be your Christian duty to keep on living for Christ and testifying of his love in a place of persecution and among companions who make Christ an object of daily ridicule, as did the persecuted young Roman officer whose epitaph can still be read in one of the Roman cemeteries in these words: 'He lived long enough to shed his blood for Christ.'"

Now, I want you, my Christian friends, who are experiencing these daily persecutions, to fully realize that not one drop of blood which fell from the Christian martyrs of Caesar's ancient palace was ever shed in vain. From those persecutions the great influence of the church of Jesus Christ was started. From those persecutions were lighted the gospel torches which are to-day shedding their light upon the souls of a world. From those persecutions came so much Paul's death and the death of the saint's in Caesar's palace as the eternal life of millions upon millions of immortal souls. So if you, O persecuted Christian, only keep true to the gospel faith in the difficult places where you are stationed, you may not only win your father's and mother's and husband's and children's God, but you may win thousands upon thousands of immortal souls for Christ—beings whose names you have never read, and whose faces you never see, but whom you shall never see until you look upon them among the redeemed before the great white throne.

My hearers, no matter what our walk of life may be, will you to-day be a saint of God, and throw yourself upon the pardon and the mercy of Christ? Will you here and now dedicate your life to the Saviour even if that dedication means the shedding of your life's blood? Will you be willing to suffer for Christ as well as to have the pleasure and the joys that come from the Christian life? Are you ready to place your Christ the heavy burden. Are you ready, for him, to have the feet ache, the hands ache, the back ache, the head ache, and the heart ache? I want you to be willing to make these sacrifices for Christ, as did the saints in Caesar's palaces, because it is on account of their sacrifices that Jesus is going to reward you in another place which he has builded for you, not in Rome, but upon the golden boulevard of heaven. It is only a step from the palace of persecution into the palace of reward. It is only a step from Caesar's throne when the saint of God is condemned to earthly death by the power of sin to the throne of God, where the redeemed saints give everlasting life. It is only a step from the Roman arena, where the ancient saints were torn to pieces by the wild beasts, into the green pastures by the side of the still waters, where the glorified saints shall forever dwell with the Lamb. It is only a step—a short step. Are we ready to live for Christ? I want you to be willing to take that step, although to take it we shall pass through the fires of earthly persecution? It is such a short step for the saints of God from the palaces of Nero to the palaces which Christ has prepared for his own that it does seem as though the palaces of persecution are but the vestibules of the palaces of reward. May God help each one of us to be true to his faith while we dwell for a little while on earth in one of Caesar's earthly palaces!

Soap or hot water will spoil oil-cloth. It should be sponged with cold water.

## SOME SOUND SENSE

O. L. Lewis is the lawyer in this county most conversant with the procedure in criminal prosecutions. His has been years of practice, had the defense in the great majority of the criminal cases tried in this county. As the procedure now is in criminal cases the magistrate hears only one side of the case—that of the complainant. Thus the man who lays the information has the first ear of the magistrate. First impression always have their effect and the complainant has the advantage of this. Mr. Lewis has given this matter some study. He says that a public inquirer should be appointed to investigate all cases and see whether prosecution should be undertaken, first as to whether the crime justifies punishment, and second as to whether it is in the interest of the public that the expense of a trial should be involved. He should also determine whether the charge is laid to vent or spite and put the defendant to trouble and costs unjustly. In this way the judge wouldn't hear anything about a case till he reached the bench and would be in a much better position to give an unbiased judgment. As at present, either the Crown Attorney or the magistrate takes the information. The man who prosecutes on behalf of the public is paid by fees. He is naturally induced to get as many cases as possible, for the more cases the more money for himself. He is also paid more for convictions than for acquittals. The Crown Attorney then has to guard against an inclination to take informations that should not be taken. This new office of public inquirer would be a salaried office. Thus the magistrate would hear the case for the first time on the bench and his mind would be open to receive both sides.

A scaffold at the Canadian Northern Railway's new elevator at Port Arthur, gave way, allowing three men to fall 95 feet. Harvey and Blackwood killed and Johnston's leg was broken. The last named may recover.

William Johnston, M. P. for South Belfast, a prominent Irish Orangeman, is dead.

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