THE PALACE. The world thou hast not seen, much less her glory, Empires and monarchs, and their radiant courts—Best school of best experience, quickest insight, In all things that to greatest actions lead. Paradise Regained.

The interior of Dioclesian's palace was fitted to increase the awe and admiration which his power crea- was it placed close to the folding doors, and plied by ated among all the innumerable subjects of his empire. levers, than they began visibly to shake, and a moment Lucius, who had never seen a greater man than the after flew open, with such violence as to be torn from and the statues which ornamented the building. Both down. The altar, which stood near the eastern wall, bute to his own unacquaintance with such scenes.

from his journey, but that, at the present time, all worship of the unseen God. things were in peculiar uncertainty. A friend came himself occupied in the palace.

he was himself of that body.

interest the subject creates at present."

of what is passing.' those secret discussions which the emperors have been it being evidently no time for his intended visit, he ing a solitary man in the streets of Nicomedia. holding all winter long, and which have created so returned to his quarters in the palace. much alarm in this place? Though, like you, no Christian myself, I have friends among them, and am minus has made a day of it, as I expected." interested for their safety."

This, then, Lucius found, was the cause of the Briton. anxiety he had witnessed. On further inquiry, he was told that throughout the winter the emperor Diosaid the other; "I see he looks on this as only the clesian and his son-in-law, the Cæsar Galerius, had commencement.' been continually shut up together in secret. Some- Nothing more passed that day; but the next mornoriginal state, as the wife of a Dacian peasant, to the contents. favour of the gods of her native woods and mountains. "It is as I expected," said Gallus; "all men are Christian members of her household were celebrating tians; those who do so are declared incapable of office their Lent-fast before the time of Easter. Her anger or honour, are put out of the protection of the law, had been particularly excited by their refusing to par- and threatened with punishment."

a new and more firm foundation, they feared lest, if of a commotion, drew him off, and they returned to once resolved to injure them, he should aim at their the palace. capital.

Constantine, he found, was absent from Nicomedia; worship in greater privacy, yet that the Christians and as Anthimus was engaged in public worship, he would not suffer more from this edict than from many

approaching storm. People asked, when they met peaceable submission. one another, whether any thing had yet come of those In this expectation, Lucius and his friend Gallus, secret discussions. All that was known was, that whose success in the emperor's court depended much fresh troops had arrived. "So ends the twenty- on the influence of Dorotheus, passed the evening in second of February," said Gallus to his comrade, as conversation till a late hour. The night was dark they retired for the night. "To-morrow is the Ter- and stormy. Before going to bed, Lucius looked minalia; I suppose you will go and see the ceremonies. forth, and occasional flashes of lightning shewed him I should not wonder if the emperor was to make it the the vast pile of building which lay opposite to that day for entering on some new attempt. Old Termi- part of the palace where he was himself stationed .nus was always a limit both ways-the place where It was appropriated to the household of Galerius; the new and old world parted."

said the young Briton, "and he is constantly occupied occasional flashes he could see a considerable number from the time he goes to his worship; I will join you of persons coming across towards his own portion of

he found the street already thronged with soldiers .- turning from the quarters of Galerius. As they were standing perfectly still, though under At length Lucius lay down, but not to sleep. The arms, Lucius passed them, and ascended as far as the strange scene he had witnessed the day before, the Christian church, which lay somewhat in front of the decree of the morning-the influence it might have bishop's dwelling. But scarcely had he got so far, on his own fortunes,—these subjects long disturbed when he heard an evident stir among the soldiery in his rest. At length he slept; but still the same the street below him, though the light was as yet so thoughts returned and mixed with the tempest, which faint, that he could not discern its purpose. Curious was raging without. The men whom he had seen in to see what they were doing at so unusual an hour, he the palace-court were rushing on, he thought, as the climbed up a flight of steps which led him to a raised soldiers had done the day before. His own room was terrace in front of the western end of the church .- the point at which they were attacking the palace .-The principal door appeared to be on that side, which Now they were firing it, as the tribune had prepared commanded a view down one of the main streets of to do the church. In an instant the flames seemed the town. Having ascended the terrace, he posted to burst up before him,-it was the lightning which himself at the balustrade which ran along its western was flashing across the sky. He woke up. It could edge, just above where the main street, dividing itself not be the lightning, for the glare continued. The into smaller outlets, formed an opening on each side palace was on fire. He sprung up. Gallus was roused of the church. And now he could see distinctly that in a moment. The alarm was given without, He the whole body of soldiers were coming towards him. thought he saw some persons hurrying away towards They must clearly be intending, he thought, to pass the quarters of Galerius. Perhaps they were gone to along one or both the streets which ran by this ter- procure help. In a few minutes a large body of solrace; and he might as well remain here, -for in nar- diers were assembled in the square of the palace. row places it is ill jostling with such rude passengers. The fire, which had threatened at first to consume the He sat down, therefore, in a low seat, which was so whole building, was got under, after consuming a con-

and left, as they came up; and Lucius was expecting dress himself, when the fire drove him forth, leaving that the tide would soon flow by, when he heard a every thing which he had with him to be destroyed. party begin to ascend the steps by which he had him-self mounted. "Is it to surprise the Christian church,"

The next day was a melancholy time to Lucius.—
The little money which he had brought with him from he thought, "that this early march is intended? If home had been expended, so soon as he reached Niso, I shall see, at all events, whether there is anything comedia, on such clothes as were wanted for the pahidden in those places, which they guard with so much lace. All these, except a single suit, had perished in care from the intrusion of strangers." The notion the conflagration. His papers and letters had also prevailed so commonly, that the Christians had some been destroyed. And what made matters worse, his none but the initiated were acquainted, that it was these losses, was not likely to have the power of renopen. They were fast closed, the hour of early wor- publicly declared that all his household should shew

LUCIUS, OR THE FLIGHT OF CONSTANTINE. ship not having yet arrived. Their strong materials, that they worshipped the ancient gods. From a hidthe stoutest timber from the neighbouring forests of ing-place in the palace, to which Gallus had conducgave them with sledge-hammers had no other effect royal Valeria were obliged publicly to approach and tribune in command ascended the steps, followed by unwillingly they performed their part. soldiers who carried one of those engines which the Romans employed in the seige of cities. No sooner

"You know, I suppose," said Gallus, "how much should spread into other quarters; and after a short little postern. pause, a body of engineers marched up, who carried work begin; but the crowd having now ascended the secret." "Has nothing travelled abroad, then, respecting steps, he was able to mingle with it unperceived; and

"Well," said Gallus, when they met, "so old Ter-"Is Dorotheus much discomposed," asked the

thing was evidently in preparation; and the mother ing, when the two young men were walking out through of Galerius had uttered expressions which had alarmed the main square of the city, they were attracted by a the Christians. She was addicted to various super- vast crowd, to which a new edict from the emperor stitious rites, and attributed her elevation from her was exhibited. They got near enough to read its

To them she held feasts at the very time when the publicly warned against professing themselves Chris-

Scarcely had Gallus spoken, when a man who was When the emperors had completed their private nearest to the place where the edict was exhibited, deliberations, it was known that a council of officers climbed up upon the railing, and cried out aloud, "Is had been held; and since that time a message had this a triumph over the Goths or Sarmatians which been sent to the oracle of Apollo at Miletus. "Put- you are assembling us to proclaim?" -at the same ting all things together," Gallus said, "the Christian | time tearing down the emperor's edict from the place population of Nicomedia was in a state of great an- to which it was affixed. The man was well dressed, xiety, and anticipated some diminution of their pri- and evidently belonged to the higher ranks; but he vileges, if not the actual breaking out of a fresh made no opposition when a body of soldiers rushed up persecution." And considering how great was Dio- and seized him. Lucius understood afterwards that clesian's power, and that he had evidently the pur- he was put immediately to a cruel death; but he did pose of placing all the institutions of the empire upon not witness what passed; for Gallus, who was afraid

complete extermination. Galerius they knew was If it was from the Christians that Gallus apprehentheir enemy, -for he it was who had directed the ded disturbance, his fears were unfounded. Though persecution against the Christian soldiers five years very numerous in Nicomedia, as well as throughout before; but Dioclesian's was a milder nature, and the neighbourhood, they offered no opposition. The they had been allowed to build a handsome church tearing down of the edict they comdemned, as indicatin one of the most conspicuous situations in his new ing a wish to create a popular disturbance. In short, it seemed towards evening as though matters were Lucius discussed these matters with Gallus for likely to go off quietly enough; and Lucius could see some hours on the following day. Nor did he forget that Dorotheus had his hopes that, though somewhat the other letters with which he was charged. But circumscribed in their privileges, and compelled to was requested to call on him early next morning. which had previously been pronounced against them, Every day seemed to increase the expectation of an and that the emperor's wrath would be allayed by their

while that in which he himself was standing connected "I have promised to call very early on Anthimus," with the apartments of Dioclesian. By one of these the building.

The earliest dawn found Lucius on his way to the Gallus, to whom he mentioned what he saw, took house of Anthinus, which was near the Christian little notice of it. The palace gates, he said, were church, at the summit of the town. To his surprise watched; and these were only some late revellers re-

hidden in the balustrade as completely to conceal him. siderable number of rooms, and amongst them that The first ranks passed quickly on, dividing right which Lucius had occupied. He had only time to

secret object of worship of a hideous kind, with which patron Dorotheus, who might easily have made up with as much interest as surprise that the young Bri- dering any further assistance. Popular rumour attriton now saw the soldiers approach the main gates of buted the fire to the Christians. They took that way, the church with the evident intention of bursting them it was said, to express their discontent. The emperor

Thrace, were bolted together with great iron bars .- ted him, Lucius could see an altar raised in a conspic-For a time the heavy strokes which four or five soldiers | uous place, to which the empress Prisca and the Princess than to attract a crowd from the neighbouring streets. offer sacrifices. They were known, Gallus said, to But in a few minutes a person who seemed to be the favour the Christians; and their manner shewed how

After them the officers of the household were ordered to give the same test of submission. The emperor declared that he would inflict the most cruel unishment on those who refused. Already preparations were made for atrocities at which the heart regovernor of York, was amazed at the size of the pal- their hinges. Instantly a crowd of soldiers rushed in. volted. Instruments of torture were brought forth; ace-courts, at the number of soldiers who filled them, The building was empty; but all its furniture was and the ferocious beings by whom it was wont to be at the crowd of attendants who were moving in every ransacked and destroyed in a moment. A balustrade inflicted, seemed as if they were already gloating over direction, as well as the magnificence of the porticoes, which ran across the middle of the building was beaten the agonies of their victims. On the other side stood various persons who were known to be Christians, and in the palace, however, and in the streets through then became visible. It had at first been hidden by some on whose countenances might be read a steady which he passed to it, he had been struck by a degree curtains which hung from the balustrade; and it was look of unconquerable resolution. Dorotheus would of hurry and anxiety, which he was disposed to attri- here apparently that the soldiers expected to find some certainly not submit. And though neither Lucius nor image or object for which they were seeking. Lucius, Gallus would themselves have objected to sacrifice, But when he was introduced to Dorotheus, he could | who could see what was passing within, was sufficiently | yet they were liable to be accused of setting fire to the not help feeling, notwithstanding the general kindness acquainted with the construction of a church to know palace. This charge Galerius made against all the with which he was received, that the emperor's fa. that this was the part to which strangers were not attendants of the Christian chamberlain; and he was vourite seemed to share the common inquietude, and commonly admitted; but he had now a proof that himself conducting the inquiry with the greatest cruelthat something of moment was at hand. Indeed, they were not actuated by a superstitious regard for a ty. Lucius could not help supposing afterwards, that Dorotheus told him that he was arrived at an anxious concealed image, but only by a natural reverence for the event had been brought about by his own emissamoment; that be hoped he might derive advantage that place which was reserved for the more special ries; especially when, a fortnight later, he heard that a second fire had broken out. Some, indeed, referred The soldiers, however, were only the more exasper- it to the lightning; but he remembered that the perin while he was with the chamberlain, and began to ated at discovering nothing. They overthrew the al- sons whom he had seen coming just before the fire whisper Dorotheus, in a low voice, that the messenger tar; the candlesticks they broke to pieces; the benches were evidently crossing from the quarters of Galerius. had returned from Miletus, and that the answer which in the centre of the building, and the ambos, or raised These were later thoughts. At present the two young he brought was supposed to be of an unpleasant kind.
Their further conversation was cut short by the enthey beat down; they burnt the rolls on which the
cape. Lucius would gladly have returned home; but trance of a young man, of about Lucius' own age, to Scriptures were written; they broke open and pillaged his money was expended. He was disgusted at the whose care Dorotheus committed him, stating that in the sacristy; -five minutes after the doors were burst, cruelty of the punishment, which he was told had been a few days he should be placed in some situation in the whole interior was a ruin. Meanwhile the tribune inflicted on the poor man the day before, who, it was the imperial service. Till that time, it was arranged in command was standing in front of the building, and said, had been burnt to death, and at the threats, which that Gallus,—such was the young man's name,— seemed to hesitate in what way to destroy it. Lucius, the emperor had just uttered, of similar punishments should allow him to share the apartment which he who was very near him, could see him make signs to against the Christians. At all events, he was resolved a party which was now visible on a turret in the pa- to quit the palace, and not witness the cruel scenes The friend from whom he brought introductions lace. They were evidently observing what passed, as which were about to pass there. He asked Gallus, had prepared him to find Dorotheus a Christian; this the church was in so commanding a position as to be who was resolved at every hazard to remain, and run circumstance, perhaps, induced Gallus to inquire, so seen from the whole town. From the situation of the the risk of procuring another protector, to guide him soon as they left the chamberlain's presence, whether turret, they manifestly came from the apartments of out of the place. Gallus, whose long service gave the emperor himself. At first the tribune seemed to him a knowledge of all the recesses of the palace, con-"I am not," he answered; "but why should you intend to fire the building; but, at a signal from the ducted him by a secret passage which led close to the PROFESSOR OF THE PIANO FORTE, take the trouble of asking the religion of a stranger?" party on the palace, he desisted, perhaps lest the flames emperor's own apartment, and then let him out by a

"No one," said Gallus, "knows this passage, save "I am just from a long voyage, and am ignorant with them tools for its destruction. Lucius saw the my master Dorotheus and myself. See you keep my

He shut the door; and Lucius was once more walk-

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