

with Asia and Syria, via., Marseilles, and the southern ports of France (Gaul). The first Christian Church in Britain was of an Eastern or Asiatic rather than of the Western or European type.

**The Roman Armies in possession of Britain.**—For the short period during which the Roman soldiers were encamped or settled in various parts of Britain, they imparted to the Britons many of the arts of civilization.

68 The martyrdoms of S. Peter and S. Paul  
A.D. occurred in the reign of Nero, about 68 A.D.

Every succeeding period saw persecution falling upon the devoted Christians throughout the vast Roman empire. In the reigns of Trajan, Aurelius, Antoninus, Severus, Decius, Valerian, Diocletian, and Maximian persecutions of the Christians broke out from time to time in wholesale slaughterings and fiendish tortures.

**Persecution of the Church was periodical.**—Up to  
310 the year 310 A. D., persecution of the Christian  
A.D. Church had generally been the policy of the Emperors of Rome.

**The best known Martyr was S. Alban.**—In the  
303 Diocletian persecution, Albanus, an inhabitant of  
A.D. the Roman town Verulam in Hertfordshire, since named SAINT ALBANS, was cruelly put to death. This Martyr was a Roman soldier. He sheltered a Christian priest who was fleeing from the heathen persecutors. From his guest Albanus learned the story of the Cross of Christ, was instructed in the Christian Faith and baptized. His instructor being discovered and demanded by the Roman soldiery, Albanus presented himself, disguised in the priest's garments, to the fury of the pursuers, and was thereupon dragged before the Roman Governor. Being recognized, he boldly avowed himself a Christian. He was ordered