

VIRGIN AND MARTYR.

LESS. Ecclus. li. 1-12. — I will give glory to thee, O Lord my king, and I will praise thee, O God my saviour. I will give glory to thy name : for thou hast been a helper and protector to me, and hast preserved my body from destruction, from the snare of an unjust tongue, and from the lips of them that forge lies ; and in the sight of them that stood by, thou hast been my helper ; and thou hast delivered me, according to the multitude of the mercy of thy name, from them that did roar, prepared to devour. Out of the hands of them that sought my life, and from the gates of afflictions which compassed me about. From the oppression of the flame which surrounded me, and in the midst of the fire I was not burnt. From the depth of the belly of hell, and from an unclean tongue, and from lying words, from an unjust king, and from a slanderous tongue. My soul shall praise the Lord even to death : because thou, O Lord our God, deliverest them that wait for thee, and savest them out of the hands of the nations.

GOSP. Matt. xxv. 1-13. — At that time, Jesus spoke to his disciples this parable ;

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