

Rome. This we learn from his own words as recorded in the same last chapter of his Epistle to the Church there.

"Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen."

"Salute Herodion, my kinsman."

A very ancient tradition says that the name of the mother of Paul and Pudens was Priscilla.

That Pudens, the half-brother of Paul, became an influential citizen, is evident from the reference made to him by ancient writers.

Martial, a great Roman poet, in answer to a request from Pudens, thus addresses him:

"You urge me, Pudens, to correct my books for you with my own hand and pen. You are far too partial and too kind thus to wish to possess my trifles in autograph."

The ruins of the house of Pudens are still to be seen, but with some difficulty, as they are sixty or seventy feet below the present level of the street, and of the modern church of Stapudentiana, which is partly built above them.

The traditions from the early church are that the home of Pudens was the hospice for all Christian visitors to Rome. From his position and wealth, he was able not only to afford hospitality, but also protection in times of peril, which in those days were not unfrequent. In this Christian centre, an oratory or chapel was built, which was undoubtedly the oldest Roman church. Hernes was its pastor. To him Paul refers in Romans 16. 14.

When Paul came to Rome, he found it in existence, and doubtless often preached in it. Part of this old church is still in existence. It is down on a level with the house of Paul's half-brother, Pudens, and seems to have been closely connected with it. With a few adventurous friends, with lighted tapers, guided by a chatty old man, we carefully wended our way down some ancient steps, through gloomy vaulted passages, into what seemed dark, old subterranean dungeons. Then on through arch-pierced walls down to regions still lower, and more dismal still. Here, where the excavations are still going on, we were able to trace the outlines of an ancient church, and some rooms, the construction and style showing them to be of the first century.

By careful investigation in the gloom we were able to make out some much faded stucco ornamentations and re-

mains of fresco on the old walls. At one end we crawled through an opening into a small square chamber, where the mosaic pavement was still visible as well as some decorations on the wall. These, it is claimed, are the ruins of the church founded by Pudens. The Government has men at work more fully clearing them out, and doubtless many interesting discoveries will yet be made.

Very interesting is the romantic story of the courtship and marriage of Pudens to a daughter of Caractacus, the heroic British king, who, after bravely defending his country, fell, with his whole family, into the hands of the Romans, and was brought in triumph to the imperial city, 52 A.D. The story of his noble defence, and of the Emperor Claudius' magnanimity in releasing him, and giving him a residence in Rome, is well known. Among his children was a daughter by the name of Gladys, who was afterwards adopted by the Emperor, and given the name of Claudia Perugia Rufus. Pudens was an officer in the Roman army in Britain, and was one of those appointed to escort the captured British king and his family to Rome. The gallant young officer seems to have fallen in love with the fair captive princess, for we learn that some time after their arrival in Rome and the liberation of the captives, Pudens and Claudia were married, about 53 A.D.

Martial, the poet, thus announces the event:

Claudia Perugia Rufus is about to be married to my friend Pudens. Be propitious, Hymen, with thy torches. In after years may the wife cherish her husband in his old age; and may she when grown old not seem so to her husband."

About five years after the marriage of his daughter, Caractacus, who seems to have fully submitted to Roman authority, and had also with his family became a Christian, was permitted to return to Britain.

He not only left behind him in Rome his married daughter, but also a son, whose name was Linus; to whom Paul refers as one of his friends. (2 Tim. 4. 21.) This Linus became the first bishop of Rome.

The testimony of Irenaeus to this fact is: "The apostle having founded and built up the church at Rome, committed the ministry of its supervision to Linus."

Strange indeed are the mutations of