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THE TRIALS OF ST. EUSTACE.

When Trajan was Emperor of Rome, Sir Placidus, a knight of great prowess, and a most skiltul commander, was chief of the armies of the Empire. Like his Imperial master, he was merciful, just and charitable, but a worshipper of idols, and a despiser of the Christian faith. His wife was worthy of his virtues, and was of one accord with him in his religion. Two sons had be, educated in all the magnificence that besitted their father's station; but, as was to be expected, the faith of the parents was the faith of their children, they were idolators.

It was a fair soft day, the southerly wind blew lightly over the meadows, and the fleecy clouds ever anon obscuring the sun, proclaimed the hunter's day. Sir Placidus rode to the chase .-His triends and retainers were with him, and a right gallant company they were. A herd of deer was soon found, the dogs were loosed from their leashes, the whole party started in full and eager pursuit. One stag of lofty stature and many branching antiered head, separated itself from the rest of the herd, and made for the depths of the neighboring forest. The company followed the herd, but Sir Placedus gave his attention to the noble animal, and tracked it through the mazes of the wood.

Swift and long was the chase. Sir Placidus rode after the stag, ever gaining just near enough to the noble animal to inspire him with hopes of its ultimate capture, yet never so near as to strike it with his hunting spear. On, on they went with untiring speed. The wood and its thickets were passed, and a hill rose to the view. He pressed the stag up its sides, and gained rapidly in the chase. In a moment the stag turned and faced the knight; he prepared to strike, but his hand was stayed as he saw between the horns of the creature a cross encircled with a ring of glorious light. Whilst he mused on this wonder, a voice addressed him. The stag seemed to speak thus to the knight:-

Why persecutest thou me, Placidus? For thy sake have I assumed this shape; I am the the God whom thou ignorantly worshippest; I am Christ. Thine alins and thy prayers have gone up besore me, and therefore am I now dome. As thou dost hunt this stag, even so will I bunt thee."

Placidus swooned at these words, and fell from is horse. How long he lay on the ground he knew not. When his senses returned, he cried io auguish:-

'Tell me thy will, O Lord, that I may believe

in thee, and perform it.'

Then replied the voice, 'I am Christ the Son of the living God. I created heaven and earth, caused the light to arise, and divided it from the darkness. I appointed days, and seasons, and years. I formed man out of the dust of the earth, and for his sake took upon me his form. Crucified, and buried, and the third day I rose again.'

'Ali this I believe, Lord,' replied Placidus : gea, and that thou art He who bringest back the wandering sunner.'

Then said the voice, 'if thou believest, go into the city and be baptised.'

Shall I reveal this unto my wife and children Lord, that they also may believe?"

'Yea,' replied the voice, 'return here on thy future life.

Placidus returned to his wife and told her all that had happened unto him: then did they believe, and were baptised, and their children with them. The knight was called Eustace, his wife Theosbyta, whilst to his sons the names of Theosbytus and Agapetus were given in their baptism. On the morrow the knight returned to the place where he had seen the

I implore thee, O Lord, to manifest thyself according to thy word, prayed the knight.

Then the voice was heard, saying, Blessed art thou, Eustace, in that thou hast been washed two men drew near, and after observing him for with the laver of my grace, and thereby overcome the devil. Now has thou trodden him to costed the knight. dust who beguiled thee. Now will thy fidelity be shown; for he whom thou hast forsaken will rage continually against thee. Many things and his two sons? must thou undergo for my sake. Thou must become another Job; fear not: persevere; my experience thy trials in thine old age, or forthwith.'

Even as thou willest, O Lord; yet, if it may be so, try me now, and help me in my trial.' Be bold, Eustace,my grace can support you.' With these words the voice died away, and was no more heard; and Eustace, after prayer and

to his own house. But a few days, had elapsed, ere the trules of aught of him. Job came upon Eustace and his family; pestilence carried off his flocks and his herds, and his not, rejoined Eustace. servants fled away, or died with their charges .--Robbers plundered his palace, driving away the we must go onwards.'

nakedness. It was in vain that the Emperor | have is at your service.' sought everywhere for the knight, for not the slightest trace of him could be found.

At length the unhappy fugitives, covered with such rags as they could obtain, reached the sea shore, and besought a passage across the waters. The captain of the vessel was captivated with the beauty of Theosbyta, and consented to carry them over. No sooner were they on the other side, than he demanded money of them for their

Very well,' replied the captain, ' thy wife will do as well; I will take her as my slave, she will sell for the passage money.'

'Good master,' said Eustace, 'I am poor and destitute, and have no money.' 'With my life only will I part with her,' ex-

claimed the knight, as his wife clung to him in her distress.

'As you please, master; ho, men, seize the woman, and take her to my cabin; as for the man and his brats, heave them overboard."

Leave me, leave me, Eustace, murmured Theosbyta; 'save thyself and our children, I

can die but once.' With many a hard struggle Eustace consent-

led them from the ship. 'Ab, my poor children,' he cried, 'your poor mother is lost; in a strange land and in the power of a strange lord, must she lament her

A few hours' travelling brought Eustace and his children to the bank of a broad and sapid river, the waters of which ran so deep that he was afraid to cross its stream with both his boys at one time; placing one therefore on the bank. under the shade of a bush, he clasped the eldest in his arms, and plunged into the river. The stream ran swiftly, and the bottom was treacherous; but at length he reached the further side and placed Theosbytus on the bank. Again he plunged into the river. The middle of the stream was out fairly gained, when he saw a wolf creep from the wood close to which his younger son was placed, and approach the child. It was all their selection, as leaders, by their comrades, did in vain that he shouted, and strove to reach the shore; the wolf seized the child and bore it off of their manners. Pleased with the youths, before his father's eyes. At that moment a loud | Eustace placed them in the van of his army, and roar from the other bank startled the bereaved began his march against the invaders, who had father; he turned and saw a lion carry away his reached within a few miles of the coast whereon eldest son.

Alas, alas! exclaimed Eustage, as soon as he bad reached the further bank of the river, once I was flourishing like a luxuriant tree, but now I am altogether blighted. Military ensigns were around me, and bands of armed mea. My wife and my children are taken from me; the thou didst warn me that I must endure the trials of Job, are not these worse than that holy man's? In his greatest misery he had a couch whereon to rest his wearred limbs, and friends to compassionate him in his mistortunes. His wife, too, remained to him-mine is gore from me; place a bridle on my lips, lest I utter foolishness and stand up against thee, O my God.'

His heart relieved by these passionate expressions, the knight continued his travel; after many days of want and latigue he reached a far off village, where he took up his abode with one of the villagers, as his bired servant. For fifteen the morrow's dawn, that thou mayest know of years he served his master faithfully, and at his death he succeeded to his cottage and his

Trajan still lived, but his fortunes did not prosper; his enemies became daily stronger and stronger, for Placidus no longer directed the movements of the Imperial army, or urged on the soldiers, by his example, to deeds of valor against the enemy. Often and often did the Emperor thick of his lost commander, and ceaseless were his endeavors to find out the place of his concealment.

Eustace was working in his fields about this time, little thinking of Trajan, or of Rome, when some time, and communing with each other, ac-

know in these parts a knight named Placidus, to her own country.

The heart of Eustace was sore tried, when he saw the emissaries of Trajan. The sight of them grace is sufficient for thee. In the end thou recalled his previous bonors in the world, and he shalt conquer; choose then, whether thou wilt still felt a lingering wish to retrace his steps .-'Nay,' he thought, ' were I not alone, it were crossed in a shipman's boat, but when we arrivwell to return: but for a solitary, this place is ed on this side, he demanded money of my hus- out fear. best.' Then said be to the two men.

praise to. God, rose from his knees and returned fear,' said the man; 'we have travelled far and sought to do me evil, for God preserved me from near after our old General, but no one knows his devices. At length my master died, and I

knight, his wife, and his sons, in poverty and Nay, sirs, come to my poor abode: what I raising his belief as he spoke.

The emissaries of Trajan gladly acceeded to the request of Eustace. The homely repast was came thickly upon him; and he could not re- kence.' strain his tears. He left the room where his guests were, bathed his face with water, and re- youths, as they knelt before the General. turned to wait on the two men.

'I have a strange presentiment,' remarked one of the men during Eustace's absence, 'that our good host is even he whom we search after .--Marked you not how he hesitated when we first | wolf.' addressed bim.'

'Aye, and even now he has left us with his eyes red with suppressed tears.'

'Let us try the last test, the saure mark on

As soon as Eustace returned the soldiers exammed his head, and finding the wished for mark which he received during the rassage of the his joy, and that day they fought for the Danube, embraced their old General; the their Emperor, and their commander. neighbors, too, came in, and the exploits of ed; he clasped his two boys by their hands, and | Eustace were soon in the mouths of the vil-

> For fifteen days they journeyed towards Rome, Eustace and his two guides; as they neared the Imperial capital, the Emperor came out to meet us old commander. Eustace would have fallen at his master's feet, but Trajan forbade him; and side by side, amidst the congratulations and in the banquet bail. applause of the people, the Emperor and his long lost servant entered Rome.

The return of Eustace inspired the people with confidence; thousands burried from every village to volunteer as soldiers, and his only difficulty was to select who should be rejected. One conlingent from a far off village arrested his attention; it was headed by two youths of wonderful likeness the one to the other, and apparently within a year of the same age. They were tall in stature, of commanding features, and justice to their attainments, and the superiority be had disembarked from the ship of the barbarous cantain.

Pitching his camp within sight of that of the enemy, he billeted the best of his troops in a small village that formed the rear of his position. A widow lady, of but few years, but sadly worn with grief, received the two youths within her one to slavery, the others to death. O Lord, house. About the mid-day meal, the youths conversed one with the other of their early

Oi what I was when a child,' said the elder, I know only this, that my father carried me over a broad river, and laid me under a bush, while he returned to fetch my brother; but while he was gone, a lion came, seized me by the clothes, and bore me into a wood hard by. My mother was lost on our journey nigh to a great sea, where she remained with a cruel captain who had seized her for his slave. As I was carried away by the lion, methought a wolf seized on my brother, whom my father had left on the opposite bank. The hon soon dropped me, for men with loud cries and stones pursued him and hou's first bound. The crowd grew impatientdrove him from me. Then they conveyed me to a sudden silence; a sound as of revolving hinges, night. the village where we have lived together so

'My brother, O my brother!' exclaimed the other youth, hardly able to restrain his emotion during the recital; 'I am he whom the wolf carried off; but I was saved from his jaws by the shepherds, as thou wast from the jaws of the lion.

The widow had listened to the wonderful story of the two young men. She marvelled much at their preservation; on the morrow she sought | will test his powers against the heat of fire; prethe commander of the Imperial forces; she pare the brazen ox. found him in his tent, his officers were around him, and the two young men stood within the 'Friend,' said one of the men, 'dost thou circle. The widow craved permission to return

'Sir,' she said, 'I am a stranger in these parts; filteen years have passed since I left Rome with my husband, once high in power, and rich, but then poor and in misery; we reached younder sea; our two sons were with as, we band for our passage, and when he had it not to 'There is no one about here, good sirs, of the give bim, he seized on me and carried me into name you ask after. slavery. I lived for years beneath his roof in It is but a fool's errand we are on, master, I sorrow and in pain; but it was in vain that he became free; since then I have labored honestly It is years since he left Rome, friends, is it and would now return to Rome, if, perchance I may find my husband and my chil-

"Fifteen years and more; but come, comrade dren."

Theosbyta, said the General in a low voice,

'Eustace! my busband!'

The General raised his fainting wife, and kissed her gently on the forehead. Our sons, Theossoon placed on the board, and the men sat down byta, we shall see no more on earth; a too and to refresh themselves, whilst Eustace waited a wolf carried them off before mine eyes, as we upon them. Again the thought of his old home were crossing a river not many leagues from

'Father! our dear father!' said the two

'Nay, doubt not, Eustace,' said his wife, last night I overheard the tale of their adventures; this is he whom the lion took; this one did the shepherds rescue from the jaws of the

The tale was soon re-told; and Eustace was convinced that he had recovered in one day his wife and his sons. Then loud blew the trumpet through the camp, and cheers rang from the his head, which he received during the passage good soldiers, when their General came from his of the Danube, when he struck down the North-ern champion.' tent, leading his long lost wife, and supported on either side by his sons. The enthusiasm aided them in obtaining the victory over the enemy.— Every one loved their General and rejoiced in his joy, and that day they fought for their homes

> The Emperor Trajan did not live to welcome home his honored General; his successor, however, spared no expense in order to receive Eustace with the honors which his achievements deserved. The banquet hall was gorgeous with ornaments; and the hanquet replete with delicacies and curiosities. On the Emperor's right sat Eustace, and his sens occupied no mean place

'To-morrow,' said the Emperor, 'we will sathanks for this thy victory.2

'As my lord pleases,' said Eustace; 'one thing I pray, that my lord will not regard my were present, and after waiting for nearly an absence from the temple as an intentional slight hour, the auctioneer remarked,to his royal person.'

'Absence, sir!' exclaimed the Emperor, 'I command your attendance; see that you and yours are before the altar of Mars, at noon tomorrow; thou shalt offer sacrifice with thy own

"I will cut off the hand that so offends," replied Eustace.

'Ah!-a Christian-be it so-sacrifice or die.' Death then, my lord: I worship Christ, not

idols.' iim save thee from the mouths of the lions,' exclaimed the impious Emperor. ' Ho, guards, this Christian and his sons to the wild beasts' den; come, my guests, to the arena."

' And me too, my lord,' said Theosbyta, advancing from the lower part of the hall.

"As thou wilt; coine, sirs; our itous will be well fed.?

The party soon arrived at the amphitheatre, which was crowded with spectors. Rumor had rapidly spread abroad the tidings that the triumphant General was to die by the lion's mouth, for his Christianity. Some pitted him for what they called his folly: 'What die rather than throw a little incense on the fire!' Others cloried in his expected death, for they hated the new faith. A few in secret prayed to God to give their brother strength to undergo his fearful martyrdom, for they were Christians.

Eastace stood in the arena; his wife knelt by his side, and his sons stood before him to meet the and then a sullen roar, as with a bound the lion sprang into the centre of the amphitheatre. He cast one took upon the youths, and then he bowed his head, crept to their feet and licked them : another and another was let loose; but the old lion kept guard over the family, and fought with the other lions, and drove them back to their longed to some friend of yours?" dens.

'It is enough,' said the Emperor, 'be has a

A fire was lighted beneath the animal, a vast hollow frame that represented an ox, and into the belly of which the victims were introduced through a door in the right side. As soon as it was heated to its utmost heat, the executioners hastened to throw their victims in; Eustace forbade them, and then clasping his wife in his arms, and followed by his sons, he moved slowly up the ladder that led to the horrid cell, and entered the belly of the brazen ox calmly and with-

For three days the fire was kept burning beneath the creature. On the third evening the beast was opened; within lay Eustace, his wife, and his sons, as it were in a deep and placid sleep. Not a hair of their heads was singed, nor was the smell of fire upon their persous.

So died they all: the husband, the wife, and the children .... The people buried them with honor, and remembered with sorrow the martyrdom of the Christian General.

THE OLD BUREAU. CHAPTER 1.

As we were passing down Exchange street, several years ago, we stopped in front of an auction room to examine the various articles that were exposed to be sold under the hammer. We had been there but a few moments when we heard a female roice inquiring, 'Is this bureau to be sold to-day?' On looking up we perceived that the question had been addressed to us by a young lady, whose sad but pleasant countenance struck us at once. We replied that all the articles spread upon the sidewalk would be disposed of

to the highest hidder. 'I should like bureau if it goes low enough,' she said, pointing to an old fashioned article that was standing among the other furniture; 'but I never bought anything at auction in my life, and I see no woman here. I do not know if it would be proper for me to bid.

'It would be perfectly proper,' we remarked; but if you wish it, I will bid off the bureau.'
If you will, sir, I will be greatly obliged to

"How high are you willing to go?"

'I do not know exactly how much it is worth, but if it sells for three or four dollars you may buv it.

Shall I speak to a hand carlman to leave it at your house?"

No, sir, I will call at noon, and settle for it, and take it away. I am very much obliged to you for your kindness.'

So saying the lady went away, leaving us to wonder who she was, and of what use the old crifice to the great God of War, and offer our bureau could be to her. We examined it, took out the drawers, but saw nothing about it. At eleven o'clock when the auction commenced, we

We will now sell the bureau. What will

you give me, gentlemen ?"

One man offered two dollars, another three, and we bid a hall dollar more. Four dollars were bid-four and a half and five dollars. We were astonished that the old thing should bring such a price. What could we do-see it sold and disappoint the lady. The thought struck me that it might have belonged to some friend, and she wished to purchase it on that account, and rather than disappoint her, we resolved to bid again. The bureau ran up to ten dollars, and we nurchased it for half a dollar more. Certainly we should not have given four dollars for it to use ourself. However, we bought it, and bad it sent to our room, telling the auctioneer that if a lady called for it, to inform her where it might be found. We examined it again, and began to regret the purchase, feeling almost certain that the young lady would not thank us for what we had done; but we never mourn over a bad bargain. Our philosophy will not permit us to do so.

A little after dusk, as we were sitting in our sauctum, the young lady came to with an apology for intruding, and remarked, 'You bought me that bureau, so the auctioneer informs me.' .

'Yes, I bought it at an extravagant price, I can assure you."

'What did you give?' 'Ten dollars and a half.'

'You astonish me. What can I do? I had no idea that it would bring over three or four dollars, and I am not prepared to pay for it to-I suppose it was foolish in me to give so much

for it, but I presumed you wanted it very much.' 'I did, sir, and would not value paying double that amount for the bureau, if I were able, rather than not have it." 'So I apprehended. Perhaps it may have be-

'Yes, sir; that bureau was once my mother's,' and I noticed a tear come in her eye, which she. charm against the teeth of the wild beasts; we endeavored to conceai- but she is dead now. and I want to keep it in remembrance of her.

Thinking that the lady might be poor, we told her that she might take the bureau that night. if she wished, and pay us when she found it convenient.

'I am greatly obliged to you for your kindness, but would rather you should keep it, until it is paid for.

We urged her to take it, but she refused, saying-I will see what I can do, and call in a day or two, and see you; and budding us good evening, she left.

There is something very mysterious about this woman, thought we. It may be that she is poor, and perhaps in very destitute circumstauces. But she shows an excellent heart and the warmest attachment to a deceased mother. Her education must have been good, and she has evidently seen better days. And we thought that the next time she called upon us we would ascertain something more of her character and circumstances -perhaps of her name—which we felt very

anxious to learn.

In a day or two the young lady called upon us, and with tears in her eyes, remarked, 'I do not