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Saint Cyprian.

Thascius Cyprian was born about A. D. 200, at Carthage, where he spent the greater part of his life. He was a teacher of rhetoric and was remarkable for his learning and his integrity. When well on in life, he made the acquaintance of Caecilian, a venerable Christian priest, and from him he learned the virtues of his faith.

At the death of Caecilian Cyprian took the name of Caecilius in addition to his own.

Interpreting literally the words of our Lord, "If thou wilt be perfect, go, sell that thou hast, and give to the poor," he sold the two landed estates that he possessed and distributed the proceeds to the poor.

Cyprian then devoted himself to the study of the great African Christian Father Tertullian, and almost at once became a noted man in the African church.

In the year 246 he was raised by the votes of the Christian Community to the dignity of the priesthood, and it is said as early as the next year was placed at the head of the church as bishop.

The fact that these honors, came to Cyprian, unasked, angered a number of the priests who formed a party against him and proceeded to contest the authority of Cyprian.

During the Decian persecution of the Christians, Cyprian absented himself but not because he lacked courage.

"At the beginning of the troubles," he writes, "when with furious outcries, the people had repeatedly demanded my death, I withdrew for a time, not so much out of regard for my own safety as for the public peace of the brethren, that the tumult might not be increased by my presence, which was so offensive to the heathen."

He recommended others to act in the same way. "On this account," says he, our Lord commended us, in times of persecution, to give way and fly: He prescribed this rule, and followed it Himself, for as the martyr's crown comes from the grace of God, and cannot be gained if the appointed hour has not arrived, he who withdraws for a season, while he still remains true to Christ, delays not the faith, but bides his time."

From his retirement, Cyprian kept up a constant correspondence with his flock, by means of certain ecclesiastics, who gladly braved danger to be his messengers.

Before the beginning of the Decian persecution, Cyprian had taken the view that any who denied Christ should for ever remain outside the pale of the visible church. But when he was brought face to face with the persecutors and the broken and contrite hearts of penitents he realized that the blood of Christ had been shed for these and begged his brother bishops to deal leniently with them.

Eventually those who had suffered everything but death for their faith, espoused the cause of the lapsed and took upon themselves as martyrs or approved witnesses for God to absolve them from their sins.

Of course this could not be allowed. But by his gentleness and firmness, Cyprian managed to adjust matters, after prolonged controversy.

In May, A.D. 253, Cyprian returned to Carthage and two years later, the plague broke out with great virulence. In this affliction the Bishop acted as became a true father of his flock, and gave all his means and energies to their assistance.

In the year 257, the Emperor, Valerian, banished Cyprian from his flock. During his absence, members of his diocese as well as multitudes of the common people were brought before the tribunal charged with the crime of professing Christianity.

Cyprian deciding that his place was with them returned from his exile, and allowed himself to be taken prisoner.

When the news of his capture became known, pagans and Christians alike poured into the streets to do him honor.

Sentence of death was passed upon him by the heathen courts, and Cyprian said: "God be thankful!"

The whole court crowded with Christians, resounded with the roar, "Let us die with him!"

When his hour arrived Cyprian was seen to be praying. Removing his dalmatic, he remained kneeling in a long white linen garment, awaiting the stroke of the executioner. He bount the napkin round his own eyes, and extended his hands to a priest and deacon to tie. The Christians spread before him askins to receive his body when he fell, that they might be sprinkled with the blood of so great a martyr. The words passed, his great head fell, and the body bowed forward, and was prostrate on the cloth. In the night, the faithful buried the body, with great solemnity on the Mappellan way.

Ambassadors of Charlemagne passing through Carthage, centuries afterwards, opened the tomb of the Saint and carried off his relics to France, where they were deposited at Arles. In the night, the faithful buried the ed them to Compiegne, and placed them beside those of Saint Cornelius.

BOWRING'S just received a small shipment Gent's Black Box Calf English Brogues, also Tan Calf. Prices \$12.50 and \$13.00 pair. Extra value and fine finish. The last shipment of this line. Splendid footwear, sold for \$18.00.—Aug 15, 21

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Aug 20, 23, 25

Poor Asylum In- mates Entertained.

On the evening of the 10th, being Wednesday, there was given by the Westey Epworth League to the inmates of the Poor Asylum their annual summer picnic or treat. Long before 2.30 the grounds were nicely decorated for the occasion. The day being nice and warm, every inmate was on the outside and enjoyed themselves. At about 3 o'clock the Committee in charge wended their way to the Asylum and began at once to prepare the necessities for the event. No pains were spared to make the time a success, which it could not be otherwise under the guidance of the stalwart Committee, consisting of Messrs. Harry V. Churchill, S. Moore, and W. White-day, assisted by Misses Cook, Butt, Taylor, Sparkes and others. At 5 p. m. the boys and girls began to seat the old people around for the feast of the occasion, and each one received a large bag brim full of candy, fruit, cake, etc. Tea was served also and appreciated and enjoyed by everyone of them, as there faces showed afterwards. We cannot but pause here to say a word of two about the most worthy Supt., Mr. A. W. Miller, and his staff. Mr. Miller was all the evening and night to the fore, helping in every way the boys, and attending to each and every inmate in his own genial and kind way. After the tea had been cleared away and all taken back to the hall they, for an hour and a half enjoyed a full programme of items rendered by the inmates and members of the Committee, while the obliging and efficient President, Mr. Mark Pike, in a most pleasing manner filled the duties of chairman. Mr.

Miller, the Supt. of the Asylum, also gave a very interesting address along the lines of his work. The Poor House should no longer go by that name, because it has certainly undergone general revision since Mr. Miller has taken it over, and one going there cannot help but noticing the great changes that have taken place. Everything is spotlessly clean. No offensive odour prevails, while each inmate, male and female, by the expressions on their faces tell that they are happy once more. Wednesday the 10th of August has gone down as another red letter day in the history of the House for the Poor.—Com.

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