

And now the Prefect frowned with rage, like a tiger fearful grown:
The martyr first is cruelly scourged, then into prison thrown!

The next being called like answer makes—the same cruel treat-
ment's given:

And thus the rest,—till smarting, writhing, all are closed in prison!

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'Tis morn,—the sun in splendour shine's on Rome's imperial towers,
But into the Martyrs' gloomy cell no cheering ray he pours.
What list they?—Ha! behold their joy!—They see the heavenly
choir

Descending bright, their path to light, fresh courage to inspire!

Lo! See the "PRINCE of MARTYRS" with resplendent Crown of
Thorn;

In His hand the Imperial Standard—a brilliant Cross—is borne!
Beside Him, see, the "MARTYRS' QUEEN!"—behind, the Purple
Train,

Who fought their way o'er fields of blood to Heaven's eternal reign!

On either side, with crowns of gold, the Apostles glorious shine;—
The Prophets and Evangelists in radiant light divine,
And other Champions of the Faith—the Fathers, Doctors sage,
And Confessors, who firm withstood fierce persecution's rage!

Behind their QUEEN, the Vestal Train, arrayed in virgin white,
Who vowed unto THE LAMB their love, fidelity,—pure, bright!
And then the Patriarchal line—Sires, Matrons, aged, hoary,
Who trained in Virtue's radiant paths bright heirs for heavenly
glory!

And Angels glorious—Cherubim and Seraphim surrounding,
And music sweet, enrapturing, in joyous peals resounding!
Celestial sight! They've come for you, O faithful band—rejoice!
With ravished ear, your Jesus hear, as thus in glowing voice!

"Well done ye good and faithful servants; since you've faithful
been,

Come be exalted on my right in glory, bright, serene!
*My yoke is sweet, my burden light—then haste your Crowns to gain,
Who will not bear his Cross with me—with me shall never reign!"*

That day the Brothers forth were led;—their looks were firm and
calm;

With joyful hearts they met their doom—and won the martyrs palm!
But not till four months after did the Mother shed her blood,
And joined her sons, a martyr crowned, before the Throne of God!