

EVERY FAMILY SHOULD KNOW THAT



To a very remarkable remedy, both for Rheumatism and Neuralgia, and for all other pains...

VISION OF ST. PATRICK.

The green award is veiled in the most mellow light. Yet kneeling since Vesper doth Patrick still pray...

DIMITRIOS AND IRENE.

The Conquest of Constantinople.

A HISTORICAL ROMANCE.

CHARLES WARREN CURRIER. Published by the Herald with the Author's permission.

CHAPTER XV.—(Continued).

"They do, my son, listen. You subscribe to the Council of Chalcedon. Well, this Council was presided over by the legate of Pope Leo, the Father of the Council call the Church of Rome the head of the churches, and after the reading of the letter of Pope Leo, they all exclaimed: 'We all believe thus...'

as is just in her who presides over all, reverencing the whole harmonious teaching of God."

"The Greek Council of Sardis, in the year 347, teaches clearly that an appeal may be had to the Bishop of Rome against the decision of other Bishops."

"S. Irenaeus, in the second century speaks of the Church of Rome as the greatest of the churches, possessing a more powerful principality; with which it is necessary that every church agree, and in which Apostolic tradition has been preserved, might thus continue, but let what I have said suffice."

"Father you have given me great information. I was never acquainted with these citations. You have opened before my eyes a new field of research; if ever I find leisure to devote myself to study, I will most assuredly explore it. But, tell me, what is your opinion of the bringing up of the separation or schism?"

"If I may be outspoken, I must assure you that I think the cause, primarily, and as it were, in germ, in the jealousy which existed between the East and the West. From time immemorial, almost, there has been a tendency in Constantinople to place the Patriarch of that city on an equal footing with the Bishop of Rome. The East, however, did not arrive when Photius became Patriarch. This most learned man of his time was at first an intruder, and not the rightful Patriarch. The schism began under him, was, for a time, healed, but it was renewed a few years later, about 1053, when Michael Cerularius succeeded in his attempt to restore the Eastern Bishop of communion with the West, on account of a discrepancy in doctrine, and a few minor differences in discipline. But since more than this separation from the See of Rome was an innovation, and entirely opposed to the teaching of the early Fathers and the Councils."

"After all, then," said Dimitrios, "perhaps the Emperor is right. Father I will continue to reflect most seriously upon this subject."

"He had scarcely ended the sentence, and another wild shout arose, which reached from one end of the line to the other."

"Let us go out," said Selim. "Leaving the tent they took up their position on a commanding eminence near by, whence they could overlook the entire scene. The bells from the large brass cannon were striking hard and fast upon the wall of which, now and anon, huge pieces would fall. 'Poor Greeks!' said Selim, 'Their end is nigh. Do you know what the present Pope, Nicholas V., wrote to them some time ago? These are his words: 'Long time have you abused the patience of God, by persisting in your schism. God is waiting, as in the parable, to see whether the figs are ripe, which has been tended with such care, but at last, yield its fruit; but, if within three years it shall bear none, the tree will be hewn down, and the Greeks will be obliterated with the justice of God.' Do not these words seem sadly prophetic?"

Dimitrios could not help remembering the day when he first met Father Gregorio on the threshold of St. Sophia, his venerable aspect had brought to mind so forcibly the Prophet Jeremiah, and now, as he heard those dreadful words uttered by his lips, they seemed to fall upon Constantinople as those of the Prophets of the Old Testament had fallen upon Jerusalem."

"My poor, unfortunate country!" lamented Dimitrios, "is there no salvation for thee? Father" he continued, "I love your society, but I long to re-enter Constantinople, but alas! I hope is dying out in my heart. Tell me, Father, would I injure you if I should offer you my sword?"

"No, my son, you would not injure me, for I could show that you needed without my co-operation. Besides, the Turks are not likely to trouble themselves concerning an individual prisoner, whom they are inclined to look upon as a fool; even had they a desire to injure me, they would abstain from doing so, for I am too useful to them."

"See!" exclaimed Selim, pointing toward the city, "what is that? Do you see that multitude of men? The Greeks are issuing forth from Constantinople. Look in the direction indicated, and, verily, proceeding from the gate Polyandron, over an improvised bridge, marched a small army in battle array. Spears and pikes glittered in the sunshine, which caused the armor of the soldiers to glisten like polished silver. Like one compact mass they advanced. Impetuously the Turkish cannon were directed upon the multitude. The guns from Constantinople belched forth flames of fire and clouds of smoke in reply, as if needless of the danger to the walls. The Turkish balls flew over the heads of the Greeks as they advanced."

"Bravo! Bravo!" exclaimed Dimitrios, "how I wish I were there! Restrain your ardor, my young man," said Selim, calmly. "See! a Turkish regiment is forming in line of battle, there will be a hand-to-hand encounter. Look! the Sultan has come out of his pavilion. Beside him stands Mustafa Pacha, one of the trusty servants. The affair is serious, Dimitrios."

"Meanwhile, the Greeks marched steadily onward, heedless of the Turkish fire. The standard of the Emperor floated above the multitude; beside it, fluttering in the breeze, was that of Genoa."

"Come, Father, come," said Dimitrios, "can we not advance to the front? I will, at least, behold the scene in which I cannot act a part."

"I will go to the front," said Selim, "I am always where danger is greatest; my services may be required, but I cannot take you with me. It would be considered treason."

"At least, let me stand where I can see the fight. May I not place myself near your yonder flag?"

Dimitrios pointed to a tree at the end of the outposts, beside which stood a horse, from which the rider had shortly before dismounted."

Selim beckoned to a Turk. The latter advanced, and it was Fortuny who, in the Turkish language, with a significant twinkle of his eye, "I confide to you this man; take him where he may behold the destruction of his countrymen, but remember, your life shall answer for him."

Selim pointed to the tree, here, the Emperor would be displeased."

Turning their horses, they galloped off towards the city. Before the ditch they halted. "The Greeks were not quartered," "are you about to cut off his head?"

"No, but he is about to see other heads cut off."

"The Turk laughed. When Fortuny and Dimitrios were alone, the former whispered: "Fear nothing, young man, I will not harm thee."

They reached the tree. Dimitrios gazed in this direction, the combatants, who were fast approaching each other. The eyes of all the spectators were turned in the same direction. Suddenly Dimitrios disengaged himself from the group that he had formed, and with one bound he sprang towards the horse. The seeming Turk, noticing this, wheeled around, and, raising his scimitar as if about to strike, he stumbled and fell heavily, as if by accident. Meanwhile, in less than it takes to think of it, Dimitrios had leaped to the ground, and, kicking in the air, he dashed off towards the city with the speed of lightning. Hearing the sound of hoofs, the Turks turned their heads, and their surprise was so great, that for a moment they stood, as it were, bewildered. In another moment, volleys of shot and showers of arrows were sent flying after the fugitive. They flew over his head and whizzed past him, but heeded them not. Suddenly he turned, and in an oblique line, galloped straight towards the advancing Greeks. Now that a dozen Turks, on fleet Arab steeds, were in pursuit, but the Greek was out of their reach. Onward he flew, as though borne by the wind, his right arm raised high, grasping the reins. His friends had noticed him. In an instant their arrows flew against his pursuers, who dared advance no further, and the Greeks were left alone. Dimitrios had recognized, and amid a roaring outburst of applause, he reached the ranks of his countrymen, and, in another moment, the Emperor had embraced him, as though he were a long lost son."

CHAPTER XVI. Dimitrios had scarcely reached the ranks that he entered the Emperor to allow him to take part in the fight. Unmindful of the danger from which he had just escaped, his ardent nature spurred him on to cast himself into the midst of the peril. His armor had been taken from him in the Turkish camp, and he wore nothing save the few pieces of clothing that had been left him and an old garment that Selim had obtained for him. The Emperor would not hear of the proposition, and sternly commanded him to return to the city with a guard of horsemen whom he detailed to accompany him. Obedient to the commands of his Sovereign, but with an appointment in his heart, Dimitrios turned his horse's head toward the city. However, the thought of so soon meeting his sister consorted him, he hesitated, and he was, when he curiously impelled him to turn. Clouds of smoke and dust filled the air, loud shouts could be heard in the distance, swords were flashing right and left over the heads of the combatants. The Greeks and Turks were in a close engagement. Dimitrios and his companions halted, they could not proceed on their way while Grecian ranks were flowing like water. Gladly they left their hands to take part in the encounter, but the positive command of his master held him to the spot. His eyes were riveted upon the combatants, and the gate of Polyandron sparkled from the fire of the Turkish battery which was now silent, for, although the latter were more numerous, they were little or no armor, and they found themselves unable to withstand the ponderous weapons of the Greeks. For a moment the Turks fell back; the Greeks, profiting by every inch of ground yielded to them, advanced. Dimitrios, perceiving this, could not refrain from exclaiming: "Bravo! my brave brothers, onward for Christ and Byzantium!"

His enthusiasm, however, was but momentary, for, lo! Turkish numbers were advancing in the rear and on the flanks of their comrades. The ranks of the enemy opened by a sudden movement, so that the way to the coveted battery lay clear before the Greeks. "Dimitrios!" exclaimed one of the veterans who stood beside him, "it is a fearful ruin. Nothing can save our brave men against such frightful odds but a hasty retreat. If the Greeks, linked by their first successes, advance, the Turks will certainly close in their rear, and, thus hemmed in, the Emperor and every man will perish."

The speaker forgot how hard it was to conquer Greeks by ruse or stratagem. "See!" cried out Dimitrios, "they are fast retreating, with their backs following. See our brave cavalry, how it protects the flanks, striking right and left into the enemy. Let us not abide here, the Emperor would be displeased."

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Fortuny, drawing his scimitar, took Dimitrios by the hand and led him to the place indicated. "Where are you going with that Greek, Hassan?"

"No, but he is about to see other heads cut off."

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"Home again," repeated Dimitrios, with a tone of sadness in his voice, "but when I for how long?"

"Drive away those sad reflections, Dimitrios, and leave the future to God."

"Eusebius, my friend," answered the Greek, and he galloped off towards the palace.

Within an hour, Morosini and his friend were standing before the door of the latter's house. The heart of Dimitrios beat violently for, though he was rejected at the thought of meeting Helena he could not restrain a certain feeling of fear and a presentiment of ill, which frequently takes possession of a nervous temperament like his. They enter the portal. How familiar is the scene! The events of the past few days seem like a dream. There stands the fountain scattering the spray of its cool water in all directions, beside it the marble seat upon which Dimitrios and his sister reposed on the morning when the life of Nicholas Lorenzoni seemed to hang suspended on an uncertain thread, the will of the Emperor. Suddenly the door opens. It is Helena. How pale and wan we last saw her! She is alone, Dimitrios, and with a cry of joy, she rushes towards him. Another moment, and brother and sister were locked in close embrace.

"O my brother," she exclaimed, "my lost brother, God has brought thee back to me. How can I ever thank Him? How couldst thou be so long? I have learned of thee from thy letter, but what suspense and anxiety did my soul pass through, until that blessed message of joy reached me."

"Morosini," said Dimitrios, gently disengaging himself from her embrace "your health has suffered much, I see, but you will soon recover, let us thank God that He who delivered Daniel from the lion's den has preserved you to save me from the cruelty of the Turks. But, alas! poor Irene! where is Irene? Helena, day and night her image haunts me, and my heart is harassed by fear."

"Calm your anxiety, dearest brother, for I have the firm confidence that the Almighty Power of Him who protected you in the midst of peril, will suffer no harm to befall Irene."

Morosini, having now beheld the happy reunion of brother and sister, deemed fit to retire in order not to encroach upon their joy. Divining his intention, Helena exclaimed: "Morosini, do not leave us. You are now one of the family, you have been to me a second brother, stay and share our happiness."

It was evening. The exciting day was over, and the red glow of sunset illuminated the western horizon, as Morosini, having excused himself on the plea of urgent business, left Dimitrios and Helena to each other's society. The deadly combat had caused a full in the bombardment, and Constantinople seemed to breathe more freely, though in many a home there was sadness and grief for the dead that had fallen. More than one heart was breaking as the sun sank to rest at the end of a day which long since has been blotted from the pages of history, but which then stood marked in letters of blood upon the tablets of Byzantium's memory. More than one young widow shed tears that evening for the husband that would never return, and the babe, as it nestled close to the saching breast of its mother, slept soundly in the blissful unconsciousness that war had rendered it fatherless. The aged father knelt beside the bier of him, whom, years before, he had cradled on his knee, but who, cut down in the flower of his manhood, had preceded him to the silent grave, though he had fallen for his country's sake, like a hero's fall. The mother, greater than whose love there is no earthly love, gazed with tear-stained eyes upon the face of the boy she had nurtured in his infancy, having given him his life and his sufferings, upon the face of the son, once a babe, whom she had fed with her milk. But O cruel death! thou tyrant of the human race, thou avenger of the babe still unborn, for Byzantium's doom, thou hast conquered; there lies thy victim! There lies a flower from one of old Byzantium's trees; its young heart has ceased to beat, no more doth glow within its veins the fervor of Byzantium's blood, but weep not, mother, for the dead, for greater ills await the living. Thy son has fallen, but on earth his sorrows are ended. See you not how calm and peaceful is his brow in death? Weep rather, mother, weep for the living ones, weep for thyself, weep for the babe still unborn, for Byzantium's doom is sealed.

(To be continued.)

Instead of immediately returning to his home, he proceeded to the gate, where he knew Morosini would enter. He had but a short time to wait, when the Venetians rushed in. Morosini did not observe his friend, until the latter rode up to him, calling him by name.

"Great heavens! Dimitrios, have you fallen from the skies?"

"No, my hero, you would better ask if I have risen from the ground, for have I not been buried in the captivity of the Turks?"

"And who broke your bonds, reckless boy?"

"I effected my escape, but I will tell you later. How is Helena?"

"Dimitrios, this will be the happiest day of poor Helena's life. She has pined away ever since your sudden disappearance, and had she not received your letter, I fear the worst would have occurred. As it is, she would have died."

"Vicent! I cannot return home in this guise, will you not procure me clothing?"

"Certainly, friend, go to the Hebdomon, I will send you all you need."

"Those Turkish brutes stole my beautiful armor that had newly been made."

"Never mind your armor, thank God and the Madonna that your life has been saved."

"Has Nicolaus been found?"

"No; theascal has completely disappeared. The city has been searched in all directions, but all was fruitless. It is all the same now, you are home again."

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To be sold by Public Auction on Tuesday the twenty-fourth day of March, A. D. 1896, at the hour of twelve o'clock, noon, in front of the Law Courts building in Charlottetown, under and by virtue of a power of sale contained in the mortgage of the premises bearing date the twenty-first day of December, A. D. 1891, and made between Thomas Gifford, of Grand Tracadie, Lot or Township Number Thirty-five, in Queen's County in Prince Edward Island, farmer, and Anne Gifford, his wife, of the one part, and Credit Foncier Franco-Canadien of the other part.

P. B. ISLAND RAILWAY.

Excursion return tickets at one first-class fare for the double journey will be issued to and from all stations on this Railway on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 8th April, 1896, good for return to and on the 7th April, 1896. Tickets no good for going journey after the 6th April.

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NEW SERIES

Calendar for 1896

Last Quarter, 4th day; New Moon, 13th day; First Quarter, 20th day; Full Moon, 27th day.

Table with columns: Day of Week, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat. Rows for weeks of the month.

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