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SAINT THARSICIUS



Feast on the 19th of January.



Fierce persecution raged in heathen Rome, With reeking blood the frothy Tiber flowed, The martyrs down in loathsome dungeons stowed, Awaited death that leads the exile home.

When lo! from out the silent Catacomb,
A youth of noble mien and raptured eyes—
To famished souls their Life-Bread bearing—hies
Past marble courts or fanes with haughty dome.

Betrayed by face heaven-beaming, bidden show That precious Burden to his bosom prest: "No pearls to swine," he answers; beaten low He claps his Treasure sinking down to rest. Now Christ on high rewards His martyr slain, While baffled foes his body search in vain.

D. F. S.