

nothing, but am ready to offer myself as a living victim to my Lord. If this offering is agreeable to Him, may He consummate it Himself."

It was in vain that the consul tried to make her waver in her faith. To all his questions and insulting remarks, she replied with words of such firmness and wisdom as to surprise all present. Paschasius, irritated by her obstinacy, exclaimed, "These beautiful speeches will cease as soon as the scourges begin to be heard."

Incensed by her answers, the consul ordered that she should be cast into a house of ill-repute, and commanded several ruffians to seize the virgin and bear her away. But when they laid hands on her, they found it was impossible to remove her from the spot where she stood. More aid was called, but all in vain. They attached ropes to her ankles and to her arms, and redoubled their efforts, but she remained as firm as a rock. Beside himself with anger, Paschasius instructed his servants to build a fire about the young maiden and to cover her limbs with pitch, resin and oil. The fire was lit, but the flames refused to attack the bride of the Lord, and only circled harmlessly about the fair form. Thereupon one of the ruffians, seizing a sword, plunged it into the martyr's body. This was her death-stroke. She did not expire, however, immediately, but was carried away, and after having received the last rites of the Church, soon gave back her pure soul to God.

E. G.