

THE CHRISTIAN SENTINEL.

I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.—HAB. ii. 1.

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MARTYRDOM OF ST. IGNATIUS,

Translated from the original Greek, and published by Dr. Grabe, in his Specileg. Patrum, t. 2.

(Concluded from p. 69, No. IX.)

10. And having thus strengthened such of the brethren at Rome as were against the martyrdom, by this Epistle, as he desired; setting sail from Smyrna, (for he was pressed by the soldiers to hasten to the public spectacles at great Rome, that being delivered to the wild beasts in sight of the people of the Romans, he might receive the crown for which he strove,) he came to Troas: from whence going on, being brought to Neopolis, he passed by Phillippi through Macedonia, and that part of Epirus which is next to Epidamnus: having found a ship in one of the sea-ports, he sailed over the Adriatic Sea: [and from thence entering into the Tyrrhene] and passing by several islands and cities, at length he saw Puteoli. Which being showed to the holy man, he hastened to go forth, being desirous to walk from thence, in the way that Paul the Apostle had gone, [Acts xxviii. 13, 14.] But a violent wind arising, and driving on the ship, would not suffer him so to do: wherefore commending the love of the brethren in that place he sailed forward.

11. And the wind continuing favourable to us, in one day and a night, we indeed were unwillingly hurried on, as sorrowing to think of being separated from this holy martyr: but to him it happened justly, according to his wish, that he might go the sooner out of the world, and attain unto the Lord whom he loved. Wherefore sailing into the Roman port, and those impure sports being almost at an end, the soldiers began to be offended at our slowness; but the Bishop with great joy complied with their hastiness.

12. Being therefore soon forced away from the port so called, we forthwith met the brethren; (for the report of what concerned the holy martyr was spread abroad) who were full of fear and joy; for they rejoiced in that God had vouchsafed them the company of Theophorus; but were afraid, when they considered that such a one was brought thither to die. Now some of these he commanded to hold their peace, who were the most zealous for his safety, and said, that they would appease the people, that they should not desire the destruction of the just. Who presently knowing this by the spirit, and saluting all of them, he desired them that they would show a true love to him; disputing yet more with them than he had done in his Epistle, and persuaded them not to envy him who was hastening unto the Lord. And so all the brethren kneeling down, he prayed to the Son of God in behalf of the churches, that he would put a stop to the persecution, and continue the love of the brethren towards each other: which being done, he was with all haste led into the amphitheatre and speedily, according to the command of Caesar before given, thrown in, the end of the spectacles being at hand. For it was then a very solemn day, called in the Roman tongue the 13th of the Calends of January, upon which the people were ordinarily wont to be gathered together.— Thus was he delivered to the cruel beasts, near the temple by wicked men: that so the desire of the holy martyr Ignatius might be accomplished; as it is written, "the desire of the righteous is acceptable;" [Prov. x. 21.] namely, that he might not be burthensome to any of the brethren, by the gathering of his relics, but might be wholly devoured by them: according as in his Epistle he had before wished, that so his end might be. For only the greater and harder of his holy bones remained; which were carried to Antioch, and there put up in a napkin, as an inestimable

treasure left to the Church by the grace which was in the martyr.

13. Now these things were done the 13th of the Calends of January, that is the 20th day of December; Sura and Seneceus being the second time Consuls of the Romans; of which we ourselves were eye-witnesses: and being the night following watching with tears in the house, praying to God with our bended knees, that he would give us weak men some assurance of what had been before done; it happened, that falling in a slumber, some of us on the sudden saw the blessed Ignatius standing by us and embracing us, others beheld the blessed martyr praying for us; others as it were dropping with sweat, as if he were just come from his great labour and standing by the Lord.

14. Which when we saw, being filled with joy; and comparing the visions of our dreams with one another, we glorified God, the giver of all good things, and being assured of the blessedness of the saint; we have made known unto you both the day and time: that being assembled together according to the time of his martyrdom, we may communicate with the combatant, and most valient martyr of Christ; who trod under foot the devil, and perfected the course he had piously desired, in Christ Jesus our Lord; by whom, and with whom all glory and power be to the Father, with the blessed Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE COURSE OF TIME.

(Concluded from p. 67, No. IX.)

From this "Bard of Adam's race" the young heirs of glory hear in mute astonishment the moral history of man, faithfully delineated in every feature not with the glozing of "untemper'd mortar"—but in characters of living truth. His narration constitutes the substance of the Poem.—I cannot forbear giving one extract from the body of the work: it is from the 9th book, and is a description of the "faithful Minister of God" at the Judgment Day.

"And first among the holy shone, as best
Became, the faithful minister of God.
See where he walks on yonder mount that lifts
Its summits high, on the right hand of bliss,
Sublime in glory, talking with his peers
Of the incarnate Saviour's love, and passed
Affliction lost in present joy! See how
His face with heavenly ardour glows, and how
His hand enraptured, strikes the golden lyre!
As now conversing of the Lamb once slain,
He speaks; and now, from vines that never bear
Of winter, but in monthly harvest yield
Their fruit abundantly, he plucks the grapes
Of life! but what he was on earth it most
Behoves to say. Elect by God himself,
Anointed by the Holy Ghost, and set
Apart to the great work of saving men;
Instructed fully in the will divine,
Supplied with grace in store, as need might ask,
And with the stamp, and signature of heaven,
Truth, mercy, patience, holiness, and love,
Accredited;—he was a man by God,
The Lord, commissioned to make known to man
The eternal counsels; in his Master's name,