

LIB-GEN.

TUESDAY EVENING.

"Remember my word that I said to you," said Jesus. "The servant is not greater than his Master; if they have persecuted me they will also persecute you; if they have kept my word they will keep yours also; but all these things they will do unto you for my name sake, because they know not him that sent me." St. John, 15th chap., xx and xxi verse.

Dearly beloved Christians!—The Blessed Saviour has foretold that those who believe in Him and who follow His religion shall be persecuted, shall be calumniated, shall be slandered and misrepresented. "The Disciple is not better than the Master," he has said. "And if they have calumniated, and slandered and persecuted the master, they will do the same to the disciple." Hence, my dearly beloved catholic brethren and sisters, it is the lot of the true church of God for ever to be slandered, calumniated and persecuted. It has been so of old. "Who are the Prophets?" says the Saviour. "Did not your fathers stone them and put them to death?" And the Apostles and primitive Christians for three hundred years suffered a fearful persecution for the religion of Jesus Christ. Hardly had the church been ushered into existence when she was surrounded by a host of enemies, that all swore aloud her destruction and her annihilation. Rome and Jerusalem combined together to check her progress; all the powers of the Pagan Cæsars and the Jewish Church; all the Magistrates and Jewish Priests, all the Synod, and the Jewish Synagogue, all combined together and swore aloud that they should leave nothing untouched, and nothing undone to smother in its very cradle the church of the Most High God—the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. For three hundred years the sword of persecution was lifted up, and the earth was anointed with the blood of the martyrs of the church of Jesus. Rome, Jerusalem, Antioch, Lyons, and other cities were covered with the bodies of her generous and heroic sons; her Martyrs that died for the faith of Jesus Christ. Even the tyrants and the despots got tired with putting them to death one by one, and finally enveloped entire cities in one conflagration that thousands might perish at once. Three hundred years I have said of fearful persecution was raised against the church, and during these three hundred years not less than eighty millions—that is nearly three times the population of the United States—died martyrs for the Holy Catholic and Apostolic