

the courage of her new faith, replied : " Yes, I knew it." " Ah, you knew it, exclaimed Clelia, triumphantly, you knew it, and yet—you *loved her*. Now, listen to me, Cornelia," and her voice became soft and persuasive ; " I will save this wretched creature, who is even now before the judgment-seat, and she shall be yours, on *one* condition, that you marry my brother Torquato. This you know is your father's wish as well as mine." ***

Cornelia answered, with great firmness : " What you require of me is impossible ; to save a life even dearer than my own, I cannot marry Torquato, because he is already married, and I would not be guilty of the crime of driving his wife from her house." " Then, you consider me guilty of a crime in driving your mother from the house of Licinio?" Cornelia replied meekly : " Perhaps you did not realize how wicked it was." In rising anger Clelia sneered : " How well instructed you are, perhaps you also are a Christian?" The girl raised her head with dignity, and unhesitatingly replied : " Yes, I am, and I glory in it !" " O, wretched, misguided girl, do you not fear the Imperial edicts, nor the anger of your father, do you not know that your life hangs on a single word of mine?" " My God is my helper and my protector," replied the Christian. " This," said Clelia, " is absolute folly, you are ruined by the incantations of Ifigenia ! Once more I appeal to you ; she is even now before the tribunal ; consent to marry Torquato, there is still time to save her ; marry Torquato, and you can enjoy your new opinions unmolested." " Never !" exclaimed Cornelia with energy, and rushing from the room, rapidly descended the stairs and leaving the house, directed her steps to the prætorium.

(To be continued.)

