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AND

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

VOL. XXI.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, DEC. 9, 1870.

NO. 17

BRENNUS-THE BARBARIAN.

The

A TALE OF ROME IN THE DATS OF PAGANISM

BY RUTH FAIRFAX.

(From the Banner of the South.)

(Conclusion.)

"What is it my child ?" eried Acuns. "I see a form moving on the mountain side, tell him, me is it he? my eyes are old, thine are young. What see you, Nyda?"

"It is Brennus that I see, but what means he! Look, my master, he climbs the huge and deliver thy words." rock that stands in his pathway; his armor glitters in the sunlight like a sheet of gold.-Look, Coqui ! is it his hair that glows so brightly, or hath the gods crowned him with sunlight?"

"Neither, young maiden," answered the man addressed; "'tis his helmet that glitters so, and I take it 'tis of gold.'

" Behold ! he is not alone," exclaimed Nyda; "six others-see you them. my master ?-are going up after him. He holds a staff in his men of Clusium, for Clusium is the friend and hand. See, Coqui. he waves it aloft ! The gods defend us! Who are those coming over the mountain ?

As she spoke the clash of arms filled the air. and the mountain side was covered with a living verdure-an armed host. To these Brennus resumed speaking, though he was too far for his words to be heard by Aruus.

have made; these are enemies that are pouring down the mountain side; our friend Brennus is not there," said Aruns, in an agitated tone-

" But, see ! the warrior is coming down .---Look, master, how he bounds along the mountain path. Is it not Brennus? Ah ! my master, I have seen him thus too often not to know him now.'

" How sayest thou. girl? Thou'st seen him often? Thou dost not know what thou wouldst say; but, you are right, tis indeed Breunus. but he comes not alone."

"See! the six are with him, but the armed hold ! he commands an armed host."

"But what will he do with them? why comes he here ?" asked Aruns, in a trembling tone.

as Brennus sprang to the side of Aruns, and who is her favored lover, thou shalt be my eup-

Lucius stood upon the walls with a herald's Clusium stood, the Gallie legions found thembanner floating above his head, Brennus, attended by his six warriors, came near enough they crossed, and pouring down its left bank. to listen to his words, and Lucius looked with the hosts of the invader found themselves conenvious eyes upon the royal robes and glitter- fronted by the Romans on the banks of a small Every heart asks the question, every eye is ing pageantry before him. " I am sent with a message from Rome to

the most noble Brennus, King of the Gauls," sud Lucius, little thinking that the stranger who stoed near the temple of Vesta, was before

"Come forth, then, and give thy message." said Brennus; "three of my warriors shall remain in thy city, whilst thou enterest my camp

At these words, Lucius and his brothers came down from the walls, the gate was opened. and the three issued forth, were met at a few rods distance by three of the barbarians, and while the Gallic warriors entered the city the three Romans stood before Brennus.

"I am sent to thee with words of courteous greeting, oh ! Brennus, King of the Gauls, and am bid to warn thee not to further molest the ally of Rome, who is ready to take up arms in her defance. Therefore, oh ! Gallie warrior. return to thy own country, and leave the men of Ciusium at peace !"

Such was the message sent by the Roman Senate to Brennus.

"Go back, thou, to those who sent thee," said Brennus, and Lucius looked upon him in "Oh! child, what a fearful mistake you startled surprise, for he knew the voice, " and tell them that Brennus does not understand their words. Tell them that Clusium shall be laid in ashes, unless Virgilia, the daughter of where she has been placed by fraud, and sent them. Clad in their robes of state, the old to her father. And for thee, Lucius Fabius. remember that a dog's death shall be thine Brennus, King of Gallia, whom they will indeed have cause to call a Barbarian, sends to them these words."

" I know thee, Brennus," said Lucius, defiantly; "but even now that thou hast returnhope to conquer Romans !"

" Thy sacred garb of Envoy protects thee." said Brennus, calmly ; " but thy words I will remember. When the lovely Virgilia is my "Ask him," answered Nyda, moving aside bride, for I know, false Roman, 'tis Brennus

the Pontifex Maximus, with a message to the their march southward towards Rome. Fol-Gauls. And so they came to Clusium, and lowing the course of the Cauis, upon which selves upon the right bank of the Tiber, which stream. A terrible battle was fought here ;

the Romans were defeated, and fled in terror before Brennus and his barbarians. Many fell by the way, and died of their wounds : many were drowned, and some few reached Rome to tell the news of their disaster. The

Gauls did not immediately pursue. Two days were passed in rejoicing, caring for their wounded, and sacrificing to their gods. On the third day they renewed their march. In the meantime, the Romans had done all in their power to retrieve their fallen fortunes .--Not having men enough to defend the walls, they withdrew into the capitol. The priests and virgins of Vesta were sent to Cure; but

Virgilia was kept back by the order of the Pontifex Fabius. Wild alarm filled the breasts of all the inhabitants of Rome. The enemy were rapidly approaching the gates, and their hearts filled with patriotism, a number of the old Romans determined to sacrifice themselves to save their country. Therefore, assembling in the court before the temple of their gods. tion alone might fall upon them, and their there before his friends and his enemies ! country be spared !

most ominous silence, the Gauls entered the On their way over the mountains, Aruns, with city. They looked suspiciously around them; all his slaves, was added to their number .-they knew not what to make of the silence | Long lived King Brennus and his beauteous that reigned in the city. They approached wife, the fair Etrusean, who never found her the temple, and paused at the outer gate, gaz-Aruns, is sent to me, or taken from the temple | ing with curious eyes upon the sight before senators sat in their chairs of ivory like so many kings. For a few moments the Gauls gazed, when Clusium is taken ! Go, tell them that as if spell-bound, upon them; then one Lolder perhaps than the rest, ventured to strike the long white beard that fell over the bosom of the one nearest to him. Indignant at the supposed insult, the old man raised his ivory staff

and struck the intruder in the face. Alas! warriors remain upon the mountain side." said Nyda, exultingly. "Ah! said I not that Brennus was a noble in his own land? Be-temple. Out upon thee. Barbarian ! dost thou had devoted themselves to the gods, were indeed sacrificed ! Their white hair and beard, soaked with blood, presented a most pitcous sight, and the Gauls gazed with horror upon their own deed.

The Romans, in the citadel above, looked down upon this awful scene, and thought their then knelt before him, placing the old man's bearer. Go! and tell the people of Clusium gods had accepted the sacrifice. But it was not so, for they were compelled to see their " Virgilia shall never be thy bride, boastful beloved eity pillaged before their eyes, and Gaul," said Lucius, angrily, " Lay the city their houses laid in ruins. For seven long of Clusium in ashes, if thou canst; yet will weary months, the capitol was besieged, and at length the Romans signified their wish to make terms of peace with the Gauls. They were almost reduced to despair, for they were starving ! Bareheaded and barefooted, a deputation was sent forth to treat with Brennus. Many of his men had died, and his own cheeks had lost their ruddy hue, yet still with the fierce front of a lion, he came forward to meet the embassy. " Most noble King," said one of them, " we are sent to make a treaty of peace with thee, if so we can agree upon the terms. Tell us, then, upon what terms thou wilt agree to withdraw thine army and leave us in peace ?" "I demand, first. that Lucius Fabius be given up to me," answered Brennus; "next, a speed that defied pursuit. And then there | that one thousand pounds in gold be weighed

Slowly Brennus loosens his sword from his side, and casts it, belt and all, among the weights, and the gold rises high into the air .---Then he takes his heavy shield of bronze from his attendant and puts it in also. What will he now require to restore the lost balance ?fixed upon his lips.

Bring hither Virgilia, the daughter of Aruns, the Etruscan, and place her in the other side of the 'scale !" exclaimed Brennus, with a voice of thunder.

Wrathful looks were exchanged among the Fabii, but what could looks avail? Virgilia was brought forth and placed in the scale. The gold slowly descended, paused, rose again, and at last stood still. The balance was perfect ! Many turned aside their eyes as Virgilia was lifted from the scales and led to Brennus, that they might not see the horror they imagined was imprinted on her countenance.

For an instant all was still, and then a deafening shout from the Gauls rent the air. The Romans turned hastily around. Virgilia was clasped in the arms of Brennus, her lovely cheeks glowing like the rose, her eyes sparkling with love and joy.

Brennus turned to an attendant near at hand, whispered a few words in his ear and dismissed him. Two or three, minutes passed, and then they solemnly uttered the words devoting Lucius, the proud Roman, kuch before Brenthemselves to the gods; prayed that destructions with a golden cup in his hand. Kuelt

Brennus had accomplished his wishes, the The gates were thrown open, and amidst a camp was broken up, and the invaders retired. Brennus (whatever he may have been to others) **a** Barbarian !

FATE OF THE CHILDREN OF USNA BY A. M. SULLIVAN.

One of the oldest, and perhaps the most famous, of all the great national history poems or bardie tales of the ancient Irish, is called . The Fate of the Children of Usna," the incidents of which belong to the period preceding by half a century the Christian era, or anno mundi 3.960. Indeed it was always classified by the bards as one of " The Three Sorrowful Tales of Erin." Singularly enough, the story contains much less of poetic fiction, and keeps closer to the simple facts of history, than do several of the poems of Ossian's time, written much later on. From the highly dramatic and tragic nature of the events related, one can well conceive that, clad in the beautiful idiom of the Irish tongue and told in the fancied language of poetry, " The Story of the Children of Usna" was calculated to win a prominent place amongst the bardic recitals of the pagan Irish. When Conor Mac Nessa was reigning king of Ulidia, and Eochy the Tenth was Ard-Ri of Erin, it happened one day that Conor had deigned to be present at a feast which was given at the house of Felemi, son of the laureate of Ulster. While the festivities were the other assembled guests, all saw that a beauty more than natural had been given to the child. In the midst of remark and marvel on all hands at the circumstance, Kavaiec, the should instantly be put to death. But Conor to her, and in time she may become a wife for me." Then the chief druid, Kavaice, named the child Deirdri, which means alarm or danger. Conor placed the infant under the charge of a nurse or attendant, and subsequently a female tutor, in a residence situated in a distriet which no foot of man was allowed to tread; so that Deirdri had grown to the age demand. Within the hour we will commence of woman before she saw a human form other than those of her fomale attendants. And the maiden was beautiful beyond aught that the eye of man had ever beheld. Meanwhile, at the court of the Ulidian king was a young noble named Naeisi, son of Usna, whose manly beauty, vigor, activity, and bravery accompanied only by a faithful deerhound, weighed, and now the last pieces were resting Naeisi had hunted deer from the rising of the eve. He paused to think how best he might

suddenly upon Deirdri aud her nurse, who were strolling in the sunset by a running stream. Deirdri cried out with joy to her attendant, and asked what sort of a being it was who stood beyond : for she had never seen any such before. The consternation and embarrassment of the aged attendant was extreme, and she in vain sought to baffle Deirdri's quories, and to induce her to hasten homeward. Naesi too, riveted by the beauty of Deirdri, even though he knew the awful consequences of his unexpected presence there, stirred not from the scene. He felt that even on the penalty of death he would not lose the enchanting vision. He and Deirdri spoke to each other; and eventually the nurse, perplexed at first, seems to have become a confidant to the attachment which on the spot sprung up between the young people.

It was vain for them, however, to hide from themselves the fate awaiting them on the king's discovery of their affection, and accordingly Nacisi and Deirdri arranged that they would fly into Alba, where they might find a home. Now Naesi was greatly loved by all the nobles of Ulster; but most of all was he loved by his two brothers, Anli and Ardan, and his affection for them caused him to feel poignantly the idea of leaving them for ever. So he confided to them the dread secret of his love for Deirdri, and of the flight he and she had planned. Then Anli and Ardan said that wherever Naesi would fly, thither also would they go, and with their good swords guard their good brother and the wife for whom he was sacrificing home and heritage. So, privately selecting a trusty band of one hundred and fifty warriors, Nacisi, Anli, and Ardan, taking Deirdri with them, succeeded in making their escape out of Ireland and into Alba, where the king of that country, aware of their noble lineage and high valor, assigned them ample "maintenance and quarterage," as the bards express it. There they lived peacefully and happily for a time, until the fame of Deirdri's unequalled beauty made the Albanian king restless and envious, reflecting that he might, as sovereign, himself claim her as wife, which demand he at length made. Nacisi and his brothers were filled with indigation at this: but their difficulty was extreme, for whither now could they fly.? Ireland was closed against them forever; and now they were no longer safe in Alba ! The full distress of their posisition was soon realized; for the king of Alba came with force of arms to take Deirdri. After many desperate encounters and adventures, however, any one of which would supply ample materials for a poem-story, the exiled brothers and their retainers made good their retreat into a small island off the Scottish coast. When it was heard in Ulidia that the sons of Usua were in such sore strait, great murmurs went round amongst the nobles of Ulster, for Naeisi and his brothers were greatly beloved of them all. So the nobles of the province eventually spoke up to the king, and said it was hard and a sad thing that these three young nobles, the foremost warriors of Ulster, should be lost to their native land and should suffer such difficulty " on account of one woman,"-Conor saw what discontent and disaffection would prevail throughout the province if the going on, it came to pass that the wife of the popular favorites were not at once pardoned host gave birth to a daughter: and the infant and recalled. He consented to the entreaties being brought into the presence of the king and of the nobles, and a royal courier was dispatched with the glad tidings to the sons of Usna. When the news came, joy beamed on every face but on that of Deirdri. She felt an unaccountable sense of fear and sorrow, " as if of chief druid of the Ulidians, cried out with a coming ill." Yet, with all Nacisi's unbounded out to me, and when the scales are balanced, I loud voice and prophesied that through the in- love for her, she feared to put it to the strain will throw my sword and shield in with the fant before them there would come dark woe of calling on him to choose between exile with weights, and thou shalt place in the other side and misfortune to Uister, such as the land had her or a return to Ireland without her. For not known for years. When the warriors it was clear that both he and Auli and Ardan heard this, they all demanded that the child longed in their hearts for one glimpse of Erin, However, she could not conceal the terrible interposed and forbade the deed. "I," said dread that oppressed her, and Nacisi, though the king, "will myself take charge of this his soul yearned for home, was so moved by beautiful child of destiny. I shall have her Deirdri's foreboding, that he replied to the reared where no evil can befall through her or royal messenger by expressing doubts of the royal messenger by expressing doubts of the safety promised to him if he returned. When this answer reached Ulster, it only inflamed the discontent against the king, and the nobles agreed that it was but right that the most solemn guarantees and ample sureties should be given to the sons of Usna on the part of the king. To this also Conor assented; and he gave Fergus Mac Roi, Dutha del Ulad, and Cormac Colingas as guarantees or hostages that he would himself act towards the sons of Usna in good faith. The royal messenger set out once more, accompanied by Fiachy, a young noble of Ulster, son of Fergus Mac Roi, one of the three hostages; and now there remnined no excuse for were the theme of every tongue. One day, Nacisi delaying to return. Deirdri still felt. oppressed by the mysterious sense of dread and hidden danger; but (so she reflected) as Naeisi in the scales, as they swayed evenly against sun, until, towards evening, he found the chase and the devoted brothers had hitherto uncomto the people, and they, with one accord, denied each other. The Romans are standing around had led him into a district quite strange to his plainingly sacrificed everything for her, she the powerful city of Rome for succor, Now, Rome felt no sympathy for Clusium, but they feared the Gauls, and determined to support the Etruscans against their foes. Yet they how hat the increments brock this the the second received would the fierce Brennus brock this the the to receive on the second received with anxious eves upon his to is there gazing with anxious eves upon his death to enter_the words of retrace his way homeward, when suddenly the sorrow and foreboding), to their homeward was within the forbidden ground which it was voyage. would now sacrifice ber feelings for their sakes. Soon the galleys laden with the returning were loth to send their soldiers to the field, and open insult? Not so; and scarcely quick too, is there, guing that they brothers who are free, though he is a pris-all they done was to send three young men, enough to suit his impatient spirit could they brothers who are free, though he is a pris-While pondering on his fatal position, he came they found a Dalaraidian legion waiting to est

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hand on his head in token of submission.

. Thou hast come, Brennus. I have waited until my heart grew sick," said Aruns. " I have come to redeem my promise. Be-

the mountain.

"And what wilt thou do with those warriors?

"March to the gates of Clusium, and demand thy daughter !" said Brennus.

"And who art thou that canst thus bring armed men to do thy bidding?" said Aruns, gate that opened to receive them also gave gazing with feelings of awe upon the noble form clad in shining armor, that stood so proudly before him.

Gauls," said our hero, with an air of conscious of them. A wild shout rent the air as he fell power.

hast thou, most noble Brennus, come hither waited not to lift the still breathing body of with thy armed warriors to restore my child to their companion, but fled across the plain with -me ?''

"Such is my purpose, noble Aruns."

"And what reward can I give to a King?"

acceptance of a king. But, listen to me, young the war was renewed. In high wrath, the barbarwarrior, I will not force the inclination of my child; if thou canst win her heart, Brennus shall be my son.'

"Then call the blessing of the gods upon me, for I have already won the heart of Virnus.

"Thy words are mysterious," answered Aruns; "yet I see by Nyda's smilling lips that she knows thee well. Thou shalt have my child, Brennus, if thou canst rescue her."

"Leave that to me," said Brennus, and placing a silver trumpet to his lips, he called his warriors to the valley.

CHAPTER V.

King Brennus and his barbarians laid seige to the Etruscan city of Clusium. Terrified by the formidable numbers and appearance of the Gallio legions, the Etruscans, despairing of help from their own countrymen, appealed to were loth to send their soldiers to the field, and open insult? Not so; and scarcely quick too, is there, gazing with anxious eyes upon his death to enter-the watchfully-guarded retreat Lucius Fabius and his two brothers, sons of break up their camp at Clusium and commence oner.

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to prepare for war,

hold !" said Brennus, waving his hand towards not Virgilia fall into thy hands ! I will bring against thee an army who shall sweep thy legions back to their original nothinguess!

To these words Brennus made no r. ply, but turning his back to Lucius, walked slowly away, and Lucius retraced his steps to Clusium. The steps of the Romans were swift, and the egress to the three Gallie warriors. Hastily Lucius and his companions mounted the wall, and ere the Ganls had gone a bow-shot from "I am Brennus, the Barbarian, King of the the gate, an arrow quivered in the neck of one headlong to the earth, and his companions, "King of the Gauls !" cehoed Aruns; " and hearing the gate again rolling on its hinges, came forth from the gates a crowd of men, led by the Roman Lucius Fabius, who stripped the Gaul of his armor, and left the body lying "Thou canst give me thy child, when the where they found it. And this in full sight of that which I will name to thee to make it even time comes that I can prove myself worthy of Brennus and his attendants ! The Gallic King again." her," answered Brennus with a proud smile. "Thou sayest well, oh ! Brennus," said Aruns; "my child is indeed a gift worthy the tremble, and returned to his tent. The next day

ians besought Brennus to lead them against the city whose envoys had so insulted them.

"Not so," said Brennus; "let us rather de-mand of Rome the persons of these faithless men, that we may deal with them as we will. gilia, as Nyda here can tell thee," said Bren- Let us give them this chance to save themselves, and if they will not give up these men, I promise, on the word of Brennus, that we will go to Rome !"

And thus the king held his men in check, and while they were waiting for an answer from Rome, Clusium gave itself into their hands.

With the utmost respect, Brennus called upon the priests of Vesta to bring forth their virgins. Alas! for his hopes; Virgilia was not among them.

"One of the virgins," said an aged priest, 'had been sent to Rome a few days before."

The next day arrived the messenger from Rome. The Senate had referred the matter

"And what will it be?" asked the envoy trembling.

"I will name it to thee at the appointed time, but it shall not be gold ! Upon these terms will I leave thee in peace.'

"We cannot but agree to them," answered the envoy; "but, oh! most noble Brennus, deal not harshly with thy servants."

"My demand shall be a just one," answered Brennus; "go now and give my words to the Romans. I would know if they agree to them." "I am invested with full powers to treat with thee, oh ! King, and we do agree to thy weighing out the gold to thee."

CHAPTER VI.

Lucius was given up, and carried bound to the tent of Brennus. The gold was brought, though they were compelled to take many of the sacred vessels belonging to their temples to make up the required amount. It was all the just demand. Not only this; but at the in trembling suspense, waiting for the words of