THE NOBLE ARMY OF MARTYRS. (From Bishop Jolly's "Sunday Services.")

anity, sincere and pure, and shining in its own light. herce wild beasts and the swords of gladiators, van- demned to die. Nicephorus now was thrown into an No inducements of the world, no secular emolument quish the devil and all his fury." making provision for the flesh, no force of custom and example without examination, were motives then to whom the power of Christ, and the communications of himself in his way, and prostrate on the ground before profess our holy religion. Its own native splendour his love, quenched the feeling of their torments, as him, implored his pardon; but the other continued attracted the eye of the mind, the example of its once it did the flames of Nebuchaduezzar's flery fur- obstinate in his refusal. Poor Nicephorus, as the proglorious Founder, the Author and end of our faith, nace. For, as St. Cyprian wrote to the confessors | cession advanced, again threw himself on the dust, crythe well-attested miracles which he wrought, and the and martyrs in prison-and the event was verified in ing and supplicating, "O martyr of Jesus Christ, forfilled; the amiable virtues which his religion produced, and the high hopes of future happiness, which, upon the surest grounds, it raised drew a large and long. the surest grounds, it raised, drew a large and long culous fortitude and invincible patience amidst the die, who afterwards could do him no harm. But now, train of followers; and the bright blaze of its truths most dreadful torments, from which they might have the hard-hearted, unhappy man, who had so obstinately darted like lightening over the earth, and dispelled released themselves by only dropping a few grains of rejected his fellow-servant, found himself rejected by the horrors of night and darkness by the healing rays incense, promoted the propagation of our divine reli- his Saviour. When he came to his last step, his cou-

ken by it, combined their utmost force to resist the feel and see that the power of God was clearly mani- offered incense to the devil. Nicephorus, meanwhile, progress of heavenly light and truth. Their attempt fested in them. "When the people," says Lactantius," struck with horror and amazement, besought Sapricius in vain, and only recoiled upon the old serpent's head, ments, and tire out their executioners with unconquer- sion of Christ, and die for his name. But when he which was for ever bruised, they tried to vent all their able patience, they guess what the real truth is, and saw, with astonishment, that he was finally lost and remaining rage and fury against his members, by the conclude that the consent and perseverance of so many gone, he stepped forward into his described place, unmost bloody and bitter persecutions. But the victo- dying persons cannot be vain, nor that any patience, dauntedly declared himself a Christian, and offered rious Head went on to conquer in these his members. unless it were from God, could overcome such great himself to die in attestation of his faith. This strange tonishing fortitude amidst sufferings and torture, the the fire so much as make them sigh." Such was the put to death, and bore away the prize of martyrdom history of which we cannot read without shuddering divine heroism of the apostolic martyr, St. Ignatius, from the wretched apostate.* horror, was truly a continual miracle, attesting the bishop of Antioch, the disciple of St. John; and thus From the deplorable result on the side of Sapricius, power of the grace of Christ, and the triumph of the he wrote to the Romans, when he was advancing to we see, that faith, however seemingly firm, unsupported cross over death and the devil.

and best times, nourished and increased by their con- fired by the love of that divine Redeemer, who had of trial, because it wanted its divine support. But tinual attendance upon the means of it, in the face of endured the death of the cross for him. These are death itself, destitute of this virtue, would have been the greatest dangers; commemorating the sacrifice of his flaming words, could our cold language give them of no avail for the sufferer's salvation. "Although I their Saviour's death, and receiving the sacrament of their original force and vivacity: "It is better for me give my body to be burned," says the blessed Apostle, his body and blood. For the celebration of this life- to die for Jesus Christ than to be emperor of all the who joyfully died a martyr for Christ, "and have not giving mystery, prisons became churches, and night world. Let fire, and the cross, and the wild beasts; charity, it profiteth me nothing." pain of death, the assemblies of the Christians upon he that is in the world." Lord's-day, as may be seen in Eusebius.*

raging persecution of Dioclesian. At Abitina, a city much more must we praise and adore his holy name made manifest in our mortal flesh."—(1 Cor. iv. 12, LOOKING-GLASS & PICTURE-FRAME MANUFACTORY, in the pro-consular province of Africa, Saturniinus was in the wonders of his grace, manifested in the new cre- 13; 2 Cor. iv. 10.) rogated how they durst presume to hold their assembly thus being the doctrine of the cross, all his followers nothing could separate them, neither the terrors of Gilt Window Cornices; Rich Ornamental Frames for Oil against the imperial law, their answer was, under the must carry the cross after Christ, the Captain of our death, nor the allurements of life. torture of the rack and iron hooks, &c., "The obligation of Sunday is indispensable. It is not lawful for share of sufferings, bearing in their bodies the marks the inspired Aposterior of Sunday is indispensable. It is not lawful for share of sufferings, bearing in their bodies the marks the inspired Aposterior of Sunday is indispensable. Christian." Alas! how changed!

of the public spectacles—those infernal shows, by the sublime and exalted thoughts, contemning pleasures, of many shall wax cold."—(St. Matt. xxiv. 12.) Yet woman, was big with child; and as the laws, unmer- strongest arguments to engage you to patience. If we may be able to bear it. ciful as they were, did not allow women in that state to you are oppressed with poverty, or any other evils, Meantime, every true Christian must carry the cross, comfort, she was delivered previously in prison, her tion and remedy for all the troubles that can befal or foot. Such is our engagement, and the express pains with great violence coming upon her. Under you. For this reason," adds he, "I love above all condition of our enjoying Christ, the fountain and fulthese she exhibited the same torturing anguish, and things the commemoration of the martyrs. I love ness of felicity. "If any man will come after me," yielded the same cries and throes that are found in all and embrace them all, but especially those wherein we says He, "let him deny himself, and take up his cross, the poor daughters of Evc. Upon which, one of the commemorate the martyrdom of women; because by and follow me." keepers asked her, as it were in cruel scorn, "If you how much they are the weaker vessel, by so much now ery out so, what will you do when tortured to greater is their grace, their trophy more illustrious, who, for the love of him, laid down their lives, strongly death?" Her answer, amply realized by the event, their victory more glorious, not only for the weakness incites us to aspire continually after higher degrees of shall never be forgotten-"It is I that suffer what I of their sex, but because the enemy of human nature divine love, and all the holy virtues of faith and panow suffer; but then there will be another with me is overcome by that by which it was first vanquished. tience. Members as we are of the same Holy Cathothat shall suffer for me, because I shall suffer for him." the power of Christ magnified, and triumphant over tortures and death endured for his sake, raising his sufferer with Felicitas, was a lady of high rank; of holiness, is very conspicuous. And therefore, being forward toward the mark for the prize of the high callwhom, and her miraculous fortitude amidst her suffer- fit vessels for it, they were filled with extraordinary ings, St. Augustin makes mention with high encomi- grace, which supported them amidst their torments to "Where was she," he asks, "when assaulted and torn by so furious a wild beast, without feeling of all the virtues meeting in conjunction; for otherher wounds; and when, after that furious combat, she wise, their patience could not have stood the test and asked, 'When it would begin?' What did she enjoy, continued to the end. This is proved by the fall of who did not feel such pain? By what love, by what some who entered the lists unprepared, and going to vision, by what potion, was she so transported out of the combat without the full armour, fell away in the herself, and, as it were, divinely inebriated, as to seem day of battle, and were conquered by the enemy. without feeling in a mortal body?" The feelings of indeed put to a severe trial. Her father, an old man, claims awful attention. unhappily continued a heathen, and Perpetua being In the city of Antioch, there was a priest of the his best beloved child, he pressed her by every tender name of Sapricius, and a layman called Nicephorus.

* Hist. Eccles lib. vii. c. 11. † They may be read in Ruinarti Acta Martyrum, p. 337. t Serm. 180.

The Church of Christ, which he bought with his of which number were both Perpetua and Felicitas. to his favour; and engaged some mutual friends to use blood, and redeemed from all iniquity by his death, But Perpetua's executioner, being only an apprentice, their utmost endeavours to bring them together again. wears his livery, and carries his cross after him, who fell into a tremor, and gave her many ineffectual lin- But Sapricius continued inflexible, and spurned the leave to inform them, that he keeps constantly on hand a wellsuffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should gering wounds; till, at length, her holy soul escaped approaches of Nicephorus, when, with the deepest subfollow his steps. And if we suffer, we shall also reign from her mangled body, and was carried by angels mission, he threw himself at his feet, and besought him, with him; if we die with him, we shall also live with into the presence of Him for whom she had suffered; for the Lord's sake, to pardon him. him. But, if we deay him, either by word or deed, by infidelity or immorality, he also will deny us, when applauses, infinitely compensated for all her pains.—

In the meantime, the persecution raging violently, Sapricius was apprehended, and courageously confeshe shall appear in power and great glory, and every "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into sing himself a Christian and a priest, was thrown into In the ages of persecution, we see genuine Christi- his very affecting sermon, "did two women, amidst and adhering invincibly to his confession, was con-

But those infernal powers, whose kingdom was sha- who, if they were not utterly hardened, could not but | incense to the Gods or die-he deserted Christ, and upon the Head, in the hour of darkness, having been "see men torn into pieces with such variety of tor- to banish his fear, and resolutely adhere to his confes-The more the Christians were cut down, the faster torments. Robbers, and men of robust bodies, can- turn put the execution to a stand, which could not they grew; and the blood of the martyrs, in Tertul- not endure such tortures without shrieking and sigh- proceed without consulting the governor; who, upon lian's expression, proved the seed of the Church. ing, because they have not inspired patience; but our learning the circumstance, transferred the sentence The wonderful patience of the martyrs, and their as- women and children conquer their tortures, nor can from Sapricius to Nicephorus. He accordingly was their city, under sentence of death, and where he en- by charity or love, which is the complex of all virtue, This divine grace all the Christians, in those first dured a glorious martyrdom for the name of Christ- the fulfilling of the law, failed and fell away in the day

miraculous effect of supernatural grace and divinely in- thyself like a man, and regard not external ornament. pearing. fused strength, none can doubt who read the history of | So shall we imitate these holy men; so shall we ho-

against us, cut off the head of the dragon." faithful votaries above the natural fear of suffering and plete in every Christian virtue-unsullied mirrors, way, when Christ so strengthens us; and the examdeath in their most dreadful forms. Perpetua, fellow reflecting the divine image in righteousness and true ples of his grace assure us of victory if we will press

Of this the following is a very remarkable instance, nature she possessed in great perfection, and they were in the persecuting reign of Valerian and Gallus, which

tie, and by her pity for his sorrowful heart and grey There had subsisted between them the closest and hairs, to depart from her purpose. He stuck by her, most affectionate friendship—one soul, as it is said, of pouring out his tears and entreaties to the last, and such friendship, in two bodies. But, alas! through attempted to draw her from the scaffold; when he the envy of the devil, the author of discord, some miswas beaten off, and one of the attendants gave him a understanding arising between them, they broke off, blow with a stick; and this his affectionate daughter and separated, to the degree of the greatest hatred, so that they would not look upon, nor speak to one ano-

felt more painfully than she did her own sufferings. ther. Nicephorus at length began to relent, and sent FASHIONABLE TAILORING ESTABLISHMENT, Such of the martyrs as survived the fury of the wild to his old friend Sapricius a very humble apology for beasts were dispatched by the hands of the gladiators, his part of the fault, with earnest request of restitution

the joy of thy Lord." "Thus," says St. Augustin in prison, where he suffered torture with great fortitude, agony of desire to obtain his forgiveness and reconci-Many such victorious combatants there were, in liation. As Sapricius was led to execution, he threw gion, and tended to the conversion of the spectators; rage failed him, and the alternative remaining-Burn

took place of day. For nothing could make them let dissections of my flesh, pulling in pieces, and break- The first martyr, St. Stephen, was a pattern to all forsake the assembling of themselves together, where ing of my bones: let distortions of members, and that followed—in whom love was combined with faith HAIR-DRESSER AND PERFUMER, their Redeemer was in the midst of them by his gra- bruising the whole body, and all the torments which and patience, and rendered him superior to the malice cious presence, to impart to them his strengthening the devil can invent, come upon me, so that I may en- and rage of men and devils. He not only forgave, but, influence. Their persecutors discovered the high va- joy Jesus Christ." Fully verified, accordingly, in him, after the example of his divine Master, prayed for his lue which they put upon the celebration of his day, and in the whole noble army of martyrs, were the in- forgiveness in behalf of his enemies: and so fell asleep which they constantly honoured and held sacred .- spired words of his beloved Master St. John, (1 Eph. in the arms of his Saviour. All the blessed saints And to counteract this, imperial edicts were issued in iv. 4.) "Ye are of God, little children, and have over- possessed and practised charity—the love of God suorder to abolish the blessed day, and forbid, under come them; because greater is He that is in you, than preme, and of all mankind, even the worst of them, for his sake-strictly obeying their Lord's command,it. In Egypt, particularly, the governor Æmilian, in Most justly, therefore, to the praise and glory of "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do the reign of Valerian, cruelly treated St. Dionysius, God our Saviour, does the Church celebrate the me- good to them that hate you, and pray for them that the holy bishop of Alexandria, and the Christians un- morials of those his faithful soldiers and servants, who, despitefully use you and persecute you." — (Matt. v. der his charge, for their religious observation of the in the first ranks of the fiercest combats, showed the 44.) "Being reviled," said his apostle, "we bless; way to victory to all that follow. And surely, if we being persecuted, we suffer it; being defamed, we in-In the acts of Saturniinus and other martyrs of Af- extol and magnify God in his works of creation, which treat; always bearing about in the body the dying of rica, we have an illustrious example, in the fiercely all bear witness to his wisdom, power, and goodness, the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be

performing the sacerdotal offices of Sunday in the pri- ation by Christ Jesus. In the first, He only spake, Thus martyrdom, love, and innocence concurred. vate house of Octavius Felix. The magistrates get- and it was done; but in the second, He not only spake and perfected the whole noble army: those of the ting notice of it, came with a troop of soldiers, and and wrought, but perfected the work of our redemp- New Testament following, with accelerated pace, the seized forty-nine persons, men and women. They were sent to Carthage, where resided Amulinus the pro-consul, before whom they nobly made their conference of Christ, before and after his coming in the flesh, pro-consul, before whom they nobly made their conference of Christ, before and animated the whole glorious train of the above Business,—such as Carving, Gilding, pervaders and animated the whole glorious train of the above Business,—such as Carving, Gilding, pervaders and animated the whole glorious train of the above Business,—such as Carving, Gilding, pervaders and animated the whole glorious train of the above Business,—such as Carving, Gilding, pervaders and processing the conference of the confere fession of Christ, his day, and worship. When inter- of a slave, the death of the cross! And Christianity martyrs and confessors of Jesus, from the love of whom Ornamental Painting; Glazing, Graining, Marbling, Paper-

us to omit the duty of that day. We never passed a of the Lord Jesus. And as they followed Christ in compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, the best style day without assembling. We will keep the commandcarrying his cross, so are we called upon to follow them, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth ments of God at the expense of our lives." No diffi- and bless God for his light and grace, which they held so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the culties, no dangers could detain or deter them from out to the world. Such was the design of the early race that is set before us; looking unto Jesus, the authis duty. While, as Christians in practice, and not institution of these holy-days, and much is the spirit- thor and finisher of our faith."-(Heb. xii. 1, 2.)merely in profession, they served their Lord truly and ual benefit of observing them in the manner which the Every follower of him, carrying his cross, is called to sincerely every day of their lives, they considered the Church directs. In the age of St. Chrysostom, large a combat in resisting and conquering temptations to

constant observation of this holy day as the particular was the congregation that assembled upon those days, sin. But to resist unto blood, striving against sin, is proof of their religion and piety towards their God and and his homilies abound with observations upon them; the honour of those first-rate, choice heroes, who stood Saviour. The most solemn offices of it they performed | pointing out the good fruit to be gathered, by copying | in the first ranks, endured the fiercest attacks of the out observing Sunday religiously, no man can be a the martyrs, let him imitate the martyrs. If any one salvation, faithful unto the end; for whom, enjoying would give the champions of religion their just enco- rest and refreshment meanwhile in transports of glad-That the exulting patience of the martyrs, with mium, let him emulate their labours. Thou art a sol- ness after their trials, there is laid up the crown of liberally bestowed, and pledges himself that no exertion shall their joy amidst their sufferings, was out of the course dier of Christ, beloved, put on thy armour, and mind righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, be wanting on his part to give satisfaction. of nature, transcending its powers, and was indeed the not thy dress. Thou art a generous combatant, quit shall give them at that glorious day of his glorious ap-

In these latter ages, we are not called to such bloody it in Eusebius and the other martyrologists. Among nour these valiant warriors, these crowned wrestlers, combats and posts of honour. And, should the call many instances that might be adduced, the case of St. these friends of God." In another admirable homily be again given, one trembles to think what might be Felicitas only shall be mentioned: -A Christian wo- upon a female martyr, St. Drosis, the observes, that the consequence. It was the constraining love of man, who, in the persecution under Severus, about the the death of the martyrs was an exhortation to despise | Christ which animated those heroes to fight valiantly year 205, suffered in Africa at the same time with the things of this world, and the way to lead men to under his banner, and follow their Divine Leader Perpetua, whose name stands in our calendar at the the desire of a better; a comfort to men in affliction, through tortures and death, where they were more 7th day of March. They had both made their glori- a motive to patience, an engagement to fortitude, and than conquerors through Him who loved and died for ous confession of Christ, and their invincible adherence an incitement to all that is good. "When you see the them, and from the love of whom, in return, not death article in the above line, repaired as usual, in the best manner, to him, with torture and death in their eye, and were martyrs despise life, though you be the most stupid itself could separate them. But of the last days He with despatch. sentenced to be thrown to the wild beasts at the time and negligent of all creatures, you cannot but entertain has foretold, "because iniquity shall abound, the love blood and cruelty of which the devil tyranised over despising riches, and desiring to have your conversa- should He be pleased to try us, He will strengthen us, his slaves, till Christ, wherever his religion was re- tion in heaven. If you languish under a disease, the and not suffer us to be tempted above what we are ceived, for ever abolished them. Felicitas, a married passions of the martyrs will afford you one of the able, but with the trial, make a way to escape, that

be executed, her great fear was lest the shows should cast but your eye to the bitterness of the torments exercise self-denial, and strive against sin, were it as be past ere her deliverance took place. But, to her which they endured, and you have a present consola- painful as pulling out an eye, or cutting off an hand

The example of his first and most faithful followers, For by a woman the devil first slew Adam; and, by lic Church, the mystical body of Christ, washed in the Here natural and supernatural may be plainly distin- being born of a virgin, afterwards Christ overcame the same laver of regeneration, strengthened with the same ONE DOOR EAST OF RIDOUT, BROTHERS & Co guished; the weakness of nature suffering in itself, and devil; and that very sword which was sharpened heavenly bread, and refreshed with the same enlivening cup, drinking all into one Spirit,-most inexcusa-That those blessed saints and martyrs were com- ble shall we be if we sit down in sloth, or faint by the ing of God in Christ Jesus.

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