

At this the Governor became very angry, and, in a torrent of furious words, pronounced the following sentence:

"You have for a long time shown this sacrilegious temper; you have formed a society of impious conspirators; you have shown yourself an enemy to the gods and their religion, and have not hearkened to the equitable counsels of our princes. You have ever been a father and a ringleader of the impious sect; you shall, therefore, be an example to the rest, that, by the shedding of your blood, they may learn their duty. *Let Cyprion, who refuses to sacrifice to the gods, be put to death by the sword.*"

"*God be praised!*" exclaimed the martyr, and he was led forth to execution.

At the last moment, the devoted brethren gathered round their Bishop, and spread linen clothes about him, that so his blood might not be spilt upon the ground. The martyr bound over his own eyes a napkin, while Tullian the Presbyter and Julian the Deacon gently tied his hands, and his head was then severed from his body by the executioner. Pontius, the friend to whom we have alluded, and who was an eye-witness, says that the longing of his heart was to have died with that noble-spirited man.

Never Despair.

Supper was not cleared from the table, and the anxious party were still sitting in earnest converse, when a violent ringing of the door bell startled them.

The servant, who had received her orders, went with lingering steps to answer it, and four men, well armed, walked into the hall and demanded to see Mr. Aubrey. Mrs. Aubrey, with firm and unfaltering step, at once came forward, and courteously requested to be informed of their business with Mr. Aubrey, at the same time telling them that they would not be able to see him that evening.

"We come, madam," said the leader of the party, "to arrest Mr. Aubrey on a charge of heresy, and of endeavouring to corrupt from the true faith a member of the Holy Catholic Church. Unless he immediately surrenders, we have orders to search the house and take him. Do you refuse to tell me where he is?"

"I do," calmly replied Mrs. Aubrey, "and I trust that God may preserve him from such treachery and false accusation."

The men then received orders to make an immediate and close search in every part of the house. Others had already been posted on the outside to prevent escape.

The examination, though conducted with method and vigilance, was unsuccessful, and the baffled men returned to report their failure to their officer, who had remained in the hall.

When he had angrily ordered them to renew their search, he entered the dining-room, where Mrs. Aubrey and her son sat in anxious suspense.

"Madam," he said, "I feel sure that your heretic husband is hidden in the house, and I must find him before I leave it."