Written by His Emiseros Cardinal Wiseman.

[Published by special request.]

CHAPTER XXV. THE RESCUE

In spite of every attempt at concoalment, the news was soon apread among all connected with the court that Sebastian had been discovered to be a Christian, and was to be shot to death on the morrow. But on none did the double intelligence replied, Certainly. make such an impression as on Fabiola.

Sebastian a Christian! she said to herself; the poblest, purest, wiscatof Rome's nobility a member of that vile, stupid sect? Impossible! Yet, the fact seems certain.

Have I, then, been deceived? Was he not that which he seemed? Was he a mean impostor, who affected virtue, but was secretly a libertine? Impossible, too! Yes, this was indeed impossible! She had certain proofs of it. He knew that he might have had her hand and fortune for the asking; and he had acted must generously, and most delicately towards her. He was what he seemed. that she was sure not gilded but gold.

7

able

11

7

Ü¢

E23

Then how account for this phenomenon, of a Christian being all that was good, virtuous, amiable?

One solution never occurred to Fabiola's mind, that he was all this, because he was a Christian. She only saw the problem in another form; how could be be all that he was, in spite of being a Christian?

She turned it variously in her mind in vain. Then it came to her thought thus. Perhaps, after all good old Chromatics was right, and Christianity may not be what I have faucied, and I ought to have inquired never did the horrible things imputed stead. to Christians. Yet everybody charges them with them.

Might there not be a more refined form of this religion, and a more grovelling one; just as she knew there was in her own sect. Epicurenism? one coarse, material, wallowing in the very mire of sensualism: the other refined, sceptical, and reflective. - Sebastian would belong to the higher class, and despise and loathe the superstitions and vices of the commoner Christians. Such a hypothesis might be tenable; but it was hard to reconcile to her intellect, how a man like that mobile soldier could belong to that hated race. she had heard nothing; for she had journey made into Campania, to please thee." arrange her father's affairs.

iste: to morrow morning he would be also. no more. This second thought came with the sharp pang of a shaft shot into her heart. She felt as if she personally were about to suffer a loss, as M Sebastian's fate were moing to fall on some one closely bound to her, by some secret and myster-

sadder, as she dwels on these ideas, said anmoved before him, and seemed amidst the deepening gloom. She to command him by the strong inswas suddenly disturbed by the cination of her eye, as one of the serentrance of a slave with a light. It peats of their native land might do a peak, towards the sun. Clouds have was Afra, the black servant, who vulture. came to prepare her mistress's evelny repest, which she wished to take slove. While busy with her wak for my head. If thou hadst seen arrangements; she said, . Have you the emperor's face, when he issued

heard the news, madem?" What news?

'Only that Sebastian is going to be here." shot with arrows to-morrow morning. What a pity; be was such a handsome youth!"

Be silent, Afra; unless you have some information to give me on the subject.

'Oh, of course, my mistress; and way.' my information is indeed very astonishing. Do you know that he turns out to be one of those wretched twelve. Christians?

you do not understand.'

Certainly not, if you so wish it: I Tt is impossible. Jubala. imposindifference to you, madam. It cer- son. tainly is to me. He won't be the first officer that my countrymen have shot. Many they have killed, and that was all chance.

There was significance in her

missis. She looked up, for the first. time, and fixed her eyes seerobingly her maid's awarthy face. There was no emotion in it; she was placing a flation of wine upon the table, just as if she had not spoken. At length. the lady said tohor:

"Afra, what do you mean?"

a poor slave know? Still more, what settlements, shac't we? can she do?"

Come, come, you meant, by your words, something that I must know. The slave came round the table. close to the couch on which Fabiols rested, looked behind her, and aroung ber, then whispered. Do you want ding."

Sebastian's life preserved?" Fabiola almost leapt up as she

The servant put her finger to her lip, to enforce silence, and said, 'It will cost dear.

'Name your price.' A bundred sestertia, and m

liberty." Taccept your terms; but what is my security?"

They shall be binding only. tion, he is still alive.

'Agreed; and what is yours?' "Your word, lady."

Go, Afra, lose not a moment. There is no hurry quietly replied the slave, as the completed, unflurried the preparations for supper She then proceeded at once to the palace, and to the Mauritanian

commander. What does thou want, Jubala, he seld, 'at this hour! There is no hetival to-night

I know, Hyphax; but I have important business with thee. "What is it about?"

sbout thy prisoner.

be sleeps. He could not do so better, entered into his mind to doubt, that more about it. I am sure Sebastian if he were going to be married in-

be the next day." 'Come, not quite so fast; there are certain conditions to be fulfilled first."

'That is secured.'

Secondly, a dowry, a good dowry, mind: for I never wanted money more than now.'

That is safe too. How much dost bou expect? Certainly notices than three hun-

dred pounds." "I bring thee six hundred."

And yet he was ready to die for their all this cash! Whom hast thou faith! As to Zoe and the others, robbed? whom hast tholl poisoned, my admirable pricatese? Why wait only returned the day before, from a till after to-morrow, to-night, if it

Be quiet now, Hyphan; the money What a pity, she thought, that she is all lawful gain; but it had not talked more to Sebastian on than its conditions, too, I said I such subjects! But it was now too came to speak about the prisoner

spprosoklug kuntials!

"A great deal." "What now?" "He must not die."

The captain looked at her with a mixture of fury and stupidity. He Church, and prayed that his death seemed on the point of laying violent Her thoughts grew darker and hands on her; but she atood intrepld

"Art mad?" he at last exclaimed: thou mightest as well at once his orders, thou wouldn't have known he will have no triffing with him

'Pshaw! pshaw! man; of course the printest will appear dead, and will

he reported as dead." "And if he finally recover?"

"His fellow-Christians will take care to keep him out of the

Didst thou say twenty-four hours slive! I wish thou hadet made it

'Hold your peace, I pray you; and calculate close. Let him die in gift. Yet in its sparkling bounds, do not orate any more about what the twenty-fifth bour, for what I as it rippled along towards him, he

suppose his fate is quite a matter of sible; he is too important a per-'Very well, then; there is an end

to our bargain. The money is given only on this condition. Six hundred waters. some they have saved. But of course pounds thrown away! And she His countenance was glowing as harmed off to go.

words and tones, which did not the demon of covered country coming thing (die what a dawn that is). secure the quick ear and mind of apperment. Let us see. Why, my cought his face at he stood up. with

islant will consume fall the model, his area to a seed as in bribes and feasting.

in reserve for that."

'Sayes hou so, my princess, my him on his face. Oh, nothing, nothing. What can add the other half-to our marriage not scientifically about or plag them.

between two guards, he was alum- own followers he could fully deput bering soundly by the wall of the on secrecy.

a Christian, bends down his head, and mingles his blood with that of the confessor, whom he had come to execute; or the friend, of unknown quarters, and went in directly to the mame, who salutes the marter going to death, is seemed, and made to bear him willing company, is as prepared for martyrdom, as be who has passed months in prison engagest in prayer. It is not mory, therefore, for the forgiveness of past sin; for there is a consciousness of that perfect love. 'About thee, about myrelf, and which sendeth out fear, an inward assurance of that highest grace.

shaking wings, in restless homage.

Then when the stars in the bright himself, to exchange the watchword of divine praises; and as the nightwind rustled in the leafens trees of the heighboring court of Adenia, he bade its wayward music company Excellent! where didet thou get itself, and its rude harping upon the vibrating boughs form softer hymns, -the only ones that earth could dom. utter in its winter night-hours.

Now burst on him the thrilling thought that the morning hour approsched, for the cook had crowed: and he would soon hear those branches murmuring over him to the sharp whistle of flying arrows, unerring in their aim. And he offered himself gladly to their sharp tongues, blesing as the serpent's, to drink his blood. He offered himself as an oblation for God's honor, and for the appearing of His wrath. He offered himself particularly for the afflicted might mitigate her nufferings.

And then his thoughts rose higher. from the earthly to the collected Church souths like the carie from the highest pinnasie of the mountain rolled away, audithe bins embroidered vell of morning is rent in tweln, like the soucturery's, and he sees quite into its revealed depths, far, far inwards, beyond senates of mainta and legious of angels, to what Stephon saw of inmost and intensest glory. And now his hymn was siient: harmonies came to him, too sweet and perfect to brook the jarring of a terrestrial voice; they came to him, requiring no return, for they brought heaven into his soul, and what could be give back? It was as a fountain of purest refreshment, more like gushing light than water. flowing from the foot of the Lamb. and poured into his heart, which Wall but I know that thou canst could only be passive and receive the could see the countenance now of one, and then of another of his happy friends who had gone before him; as if they were drinking, and bathing, and disporting, and plunging, and dissolving themselves in those living

with the very reflection of the vision, Stay, stay, said Hyphan, eagerly; and the morning dawn just bright-

est so that when Hyphan Well, I have two hundred more his door and saw him, he could have crept across the court and worselpped we less but the

sorveress, my charming demon? But Sebastian a woke as from a transa that will be too much for my acous mud the chink of sectorous sounded dreis. We will give them half, and in the mental care of Hyphan; so he He picked out of his troop of a hum. 'As it pleases thee, provided the died, five markemen, who could solit thing is done according to my pro a flying arrow with a factor man, possil.

Onlied them into his room, told them into his a bargain, then. He shall their reward, concealing his own live twenty-four hours; and after share, and arranged how the exception that, we shall have a glorious wed-tion was to be managed. As to the body. Christians had already secretly. Sebastian, in the meantime, was offered a large additional sum for its unconscious of these amiable negoti- delivery, and two slaves were to walk ations for his safety; for, like Pater suitside to receive it. Among his this while after while after between two guards, he was alum own followers he could fully depend

court. Fatigued by his day's work. Sebestian was conducted into the he had enjoyed the rare advantage maighboring court, of the malane, of retiring early to rest; and the man which senarated the quarters of ble pavement was a good enough these African archers from his own soldier's bad. But after a few hours' dwelling. It was planted with rown for soldier's head work refreshed; and now of trees, and consecrated to Adonis.

That all was husbed, he silently rose, He walked observably in the midst of the sold with contained to the sold with the sold with the sold with the sol twenty-four hours after the executant and with outstretched arms, gave his executioners, followed by the appropriate the execution of the secution of the secu himself up to prayer.

The martyr's prayer is not a preparation for death; for his is a death that needs no preparation. The good archery. The officer was soldier who suddenly declares himself at the chosen five took their standards. the choses five took their stand-outposite; cool and collected. It was at best a desciate sort of death. Not a friend, not a sympathiser mear, mot one follow-Christian to beer his middle of the crowded amphith and unintelligible; but who were to tenged them as wakeful sentinets like lengthing, as mends before exemption in the binnels, to exchange the watchword or a game, which they are the many the sentiness of the sen doubt uttering their rude jobet, and enjoy; all this had more the days of whee ance of a piece of greatly specific and acted in a gloomy lipids by lipids to than open and misti Christ's passes & foods more like assessmation then morters dom.

this. Angels looked over the wallupon him; and the rising our, which desied his eyes, but made him.a pleaser mark for his bowmen, shope not more prightly upon him, that did the countenance of the only Ellerance he cared to have of suffering

The first Moor drew blo-bewetslass to his ear, and an error transfer in the flesh of Setuation distribution are markement followed in turning should of applicate each hit, so devery epochasis yet avoiding, according to the period order, every visal part data are the games want out inegring and branking and satisfication and enjoying the articular training for the new transactions and painted with blacks all the contract of the martyr, to whom the contract of the contract copt the martyr, to when solve the solver earnest—each sharp solve the enduring smart, the anthropology the wooriness, the knowly bound, the constrained attitude Chi but des nest too, was the steadfast beart, says flow the dest. the untiring spirit, the unwavering you mount! faith, the unruffed methods, the way said love of refrecing for his Land. Earnest was the proper/sursest the A. gens of the egy or beaven, or next the one sales coming strain of the histonia skip

ters, as they should open the gets.
It was indeed a dreary death; yet be Challen with
this was not the world. After all, with year, waste. death came not; the golden gates re- has the now mained unbarred; the marter in store but beboart, still reserved for preserved plory even upon earth frame him sell, not suddenly translated town the the total state of the second state of the tormentors saw when they be reached their intended message, they cut the cords that bould like and Sebestian fell exhausted, and to all as such appearance check, byte the servet of "Cana blood which he had spread for bles. It was self on the pavement. It'd as it's the like a noble version.

Alach Publish Court Market on which he fell

CHAPTER XXVI THE ENVIYAL

Marks was for sales and sales of sight; and the most remail that I

TANK THE STATE OF one follow-Christian to beer ble forewell to the faithful, or to record the faithful to the f for them his last sceents, and the constancy of his and. To stand in the with a hundred thousand witnesses of Christian constancy, to consider encouraging looks of many, and base the whispored blessings of a firm the whispored bissings of a first loving squainteness, had something the first loving squainteness, had something the first loving squainteness, had something the first loving squainteness. Took at him there, said the barbarian pointing across the court, which his door commanded. You would not think that he is going to opposite feeting a him at he could suggest be shot to-morrow. See how soundly it, was unknown to him. It never of an insulting multitude put a strain.

as he had faced death intropidly for cry only nerves the stag at her. The his carthly sovereign on the battlethis dead and silent access, at deads
the next day.'

'Come, not quite so fast; there are indifference tied up, like a true of His prayer, then, till morning, was hav, or a stuffed figure, to be costy Well, what are they?

Well, what are they?

Siret, thy manumission. I cannot to the King of kings, a joining with orders, this being alone in the winds.

But Sebustian cared not for all controls

endured for His sales.