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# The Catholic Journal

Fifteenth Year. No. 22.

Rochester, N. Y., Saturday, February 27, 1904.

\$1.00 per Year.

## FABIOLA, Or The Church of the Catacombs, By His Eminence Cardinal Wiseman

(Published by Special Request.)  
CHAPTER I.  
THE CHRISTIAN HOUSE

It is on an afternoon in September of the year 302 that we invite our reader to accompany us through the streets of Rome. The sun has declined, and is about two hours from his setting; the day is cloudless, and its heat has cooled, so that multitudes are issuing from their houses, and making their way towards Caesar's gardens on one side, or Sallust's on the other, to enjoy their evening walk, and learn the news of the day.

But the part of the city to which we wish to conduct our friendly reader is that known by the name of the Campus Martius. It comprised the flat alluvial plain between the seven hills of older Rome and the Tiber. Before the close of the republican period, this field, once left bare for the athletic and warlike exercises of the people had begun to be encroached upon by public buildings. Pompey had erected in it his theatre; soon after, Agrippa raised the Pantheon and its adjoining baths. But gradually it became occupied by private dwellings; while the hills, in the early empire the aristocratic portion of the city, were seized upon for greater edifices. Thus the Palatine, after Nero's fire, became almost too small for the Imperial residence and its adjoining Circus Maximus. The Esquiline was usurped by Titus's baths, built on the ruins of the Golden House, the Aventine by Caracalla's; and at the period of which we write, the Emperor Diocletian was covering the space sufficient for many lordly dwellings by the erection of his Thermae (hot-baths) on the Quirinal, not far from Sallust's garden just alluded to.

The particular spot in the Campus Martius to which we direct our steps is one whose situation is so definite that we can accurately describe it to any one acquainted with the topography of ancient or modern Rome. In republican times there was a large square space in the Campus Martius, surrounded by boarding, and divided into pens, in which the Comitatus, or meetings of the tribes of the people, were held, for giving their votes. This was called the Septa, or Ovilae, from its resemblance to a sheepfold. Augustus carried out a plan, described by Cicero in a letter to Atticus, (Lib. iv. op. 16) of transforming this holy convulsion into a magnificent and solid structure. The Septa Julia, as it was thenceforth called, was a splendid portico of 1000 by 500 feet, supported by columns, and adorned with paintings. Its ruins are clearly traceable; and it occupied the space now covered by the Doria and Verospi palaces (running along the present Corso), the Roman College, the Church of St. Ignatius, and the Oratory of the Caravita.

The house to which we invite our reader is exactly opposite, on the east side of this edifice, including in its area the present church of St. Marcelinus, whence it extended back towards the foot of the Quirinal hill. It is thus found to cover, as noble Roman houses did, a considerable extent of ground. From the outside it presents but a blank and dead appearance. The walls are plain, without architectural ornament, not high, and scarcely broken by windows. In the middle of one side of this quadrangle is a door in antis, that is, merely relieved by a tympanum or triangular cornice, resting on two half columns. Using our privilege as "artists of fiction," of invisible ubiquity, we will enter in with our friend, or "shadow," as he would have been anciently called. Passing through the porch, on the pavement of which we read with pleasure, in mosaic, the greeting Salve, or Welcome, we find ourselves in the atrium, or first court of the house, surrounded by a portico or colonnade.

In the centre of the marble pavement a softly warbling jet of pure water, brought by the Claudian aqueduct from the Tuscian hills, springs into the air, now higher, now lower, and falls into an elevated basin of red marble, over the sides of which it flows in downy waves; and before reaching its lower and wider recipient, scatters a gentle shower on the rare and brilliant flowers placed in elegant vases around. Under the portico we see furniture disposed, of a rich and sometimes rare character; couches inlaid with ivory, and even silver; tables of oriental woods, bearing candelabra, lamps, and other household implements of bronze or silver; delicately chased busts, vases, tripods, and objects of

mere art. On the walls are paintings evidently of a former period, still, however, retaining all their brightness of colour and freshness of execution. These are separated by niches with statues, representing, indeed, like the pictures, mythological or historical subjects, but we cannot help observing that nothing meets the eye which could offend the most delicate mind. Here and there an empty niche, or a covered painting, proves that this is not the result of accident.

As outside the columns, the coving roof leaves a large square opening in its centre, called the impluvium, there is drawn across it a curtain, or veil of dark canvas, which keeps out the sun and rain. An artificial twilight therefore alone enables us to see all that we have described, but it gives greater effect to what is beyond. Through an arch, opposite to the one whereby we have entered we catch a glimpse of an inner and still richer court, paved with variegated marbles and adorned with bright gilding. The veil of the opening above which, however, here is closed with thick glass or talc (lapis specularis), has been partly withdrawn, admits a bright but softened ray from the evening sun on to the place, where we see, for the first time, that we are in an enchanted hall, but in an inhabited house.

Beside a table, just outside the columns of Phrygian marble, sits a matron not beyond the middle of life, whose features, noble yet mild, show traces of having passed through sorrow at some earlier period. But a powerful influence has subdued the recollection of it, or blended it with a sweeter thought; and the two always come together, and have long dwelt united in her heart. The simplicity of her appearance strangely contrasts with the richness of all around her; her hair, streaked with silver, is left uncovered or unconcealed by any artifice; her robes are of the plainest colour and texture, without embroidery, except the purple ribbon sewed on, and called the segmentum, which denotes the state of widowhood; and a jewel or precious ornament, of which the Roman ladies were so lavish, is to be seen upon her person. The only thing approaching to this is a slight gold cord or chain around her neck, from which apparently hangs some object, carefully concealed within the upper hem of her dress.

At the time that we discover her she is busily engaged over a piece of work, which evidently has no personal use. Upon a long rich strip of gold cloth she is embroidering with still richer gold thread; and occasionally she has recourse to one or another of several elegant cushions upon the table, from which she takes out a pearl, or a gem set in gold, and introduces it into the design. It looks as if the precious ornament of earlier days were being devoted to some higher purpose.

But as time goes on, some little uneasiness may be observed to come over her calm thoughts, hitherto absorbed in all appearance, in her work. She now occasionally raises her eyes from it towards the entrance; sometimes she listens for footsteps, and seems disappointed. She looks up towards the sun; then perhaps turns her glance towards a clepsydra or water-clock, on a bracket near her; but just as a feeling of more serious anxiety begins to make an impression on her countenance, a cheerful rap strikes the house-door, and she bends forward with a radiant look to meet the welcome visitor.

(To be continued.)

**Beware of Ointments for Catarrh that Contain Mercury.**  
As mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians as the damage they will do is tenfold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally and made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free. Sold by druggists, Price 75c per bottle. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

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A beautiful dinner set for \$4.85. Read our proposition in this issue. Call at the office and see the set.

## BIG FIRE! Largest Fire Ever Seen In Rochester.

### Rochester Dry Goods Co. Beadle & Sherburne, Sibley, Lindsay & Curr And Many Other Business Places in a Mass of Ruins.

One of the most disastrous fires that ever visited Rochester started in the basement of the building occupied by the Rochester Dry Goods company, on Main street east, shortly before 5 o'clock Friday morning and spread to the adjoining building on the east. On the west the flames spread through the three buildings, owned by the Cornwall estate, the Ellwanger & Barry and the Buell estate, all occupied by the Beadle and Sherburne dry goods store, completely gutting them. At 7:30 the flames had seized upon the Granite building, occupied by the Sibley, Lindsay & Curr company. This building is also at present writing burning fiercely.

The fire is in the heart of Rochester's dry goods district and has already caused a loss of more than two million dollars, and is still burning.

Within fifteen minutes the Rochester Dry Goods building was a roaring furnace and a half hour had elapsed before it was seen that the building was doomed. About 5:15 o'clock one of the floors fell and the flames and burning embers were sent out the windows in front and rear.

The flames from the rear windows ignited three dwelling houses and quickly spread to the rear of the Beadle-Sherburne store. The fiery tongues leaped across the street and soon the Sibley annex was on fire.

Again leaping across the street the flames communicated to the rear of the Granite building, and in a short time the fire was raging as fiercely there as elsewhere.

At 7 o'clock Chief Little and Commissioner Gilman, of the department of public safety, telegraphed to Buffalo and Syracuse for assistance. The following reply was received from B. J. McConnell, chief of the Buffalo fire department: "Will send aid right away."

The fire is reported to have started in the basement of the Rochester Dry Goods company. A fuse connected with the electrical motor that runs the elevator blew out and the next moment the flames were rushing up the elevator well. In a few moments the building was wrapped in flames.

Commissioner Gilman at 8:15 o'clock estimated the loss at \$5,000,000.

At 8 o'clock one of the large cornices fell from the Marble block but no one was in the way of its descent.

At 8:10 o'clock the commissioner stated that the fire was under control. It has been checked at the Walkover store on the east and the Granite building prevented its spreading on the west.

In the neighborhood of 2,200 persons have been thrown out of employment, at least temporarily, by the fire in the three dry goods stores, to say nothing of the large number of others employed in the stores and offices in the other buildings.

All of the money and books of the Sibley, Lindsay & Curr company in the Granite building were removed to the house of Hose 12 on the west side of St. Paul street. At that time it was by no means certain that the fire house was not in the danger district.

The removing of valuable clothes from the Granite building was begun. Some of the money had been taken out. About 100 men and boys were engaged in the work, using tables turned upside down for carriers which were loaded with all they could carry. As fast as the bundles were taken out they were carted away to places of safety.

The Rochester Dry Goods Company's building of six stories, occupied by another dry goods house, the Beadle-Sherburne Company, are a total loss. To the rear and across Division street, the Sibley annex, in which is the wholesale department of that company is doomed.

Adjoining the Beadle-Sherburne building is the Marble block, the upper floors of which are occupied by roomers, who all escaped without injury.

At 8:30 o'clock it was apparent that the fire, far from being under control, was actually spreading. The Wright livery stable, on Division street, the Gibbons & Stone and other structures to the east were catching, and at any moment threatened to burst forth.

## Five Minute Sermon

### Transfiguration of Our Lord

It is generally believed that the wonderful event spoken of in today's Gospel took place on Mount Thabor, which is near the town of Nazareth, in the tribe of Zabulon, between the Mediterranean Sea and the Lake of Genesareth. From its summit one can see almost the whole of Palestine, to the east the River Jordan, and the country beyond; to the south, the tribes of Isachar, and Manasse; to the west, the Mediterranean Sea; and to the north, a sweep of land reaching to the mountains of Lebanon.

Christ wished His transfiguration to take place on a mountain, and in a solitary place to give us to understand that divine favors are reserved for those who, by their virtue, raise themselves above all things earthly, who retire into solitude, and flee from the distractions and cares of the world. Now St. Peter represents those who are steadfast in their faith, St. James those who control their passions, St. John the chaste and pure. Hence Jesus selected them to enjoy so great a privilege in order that we might hope to receive His special favors if we are firm in our faith like St. Peter, if we overcome our passions like St. James, and if we are pure in mind and body like St. John.

Christ manifested Himself in His glory to these apostles for several reasons. First, by giving them a manifestation of the glory, which was not lost or diminished, but only hidden by the veil of humanity; He gave them a visible proof of His divinity. Moreover, He did so to strengthen them and sustain their faith when they would later on see Him in humiliation and suffering. Lastly, He was transfigured before them to encourage them and all future Christians to suffer voluntarily the trials of the apostleship and to serve the law, by permitting them to see a glimpse of that consolation which they will enjoy in the vision of God, which is the reward of all that love and obey Him here on earth.

## Forty Hours Devotion

The devotion of the "Forty Hours" will be held in the churches of the diocese of Rochester as follows:

February 28—Brookport, St. Morris; Canastota, St. John; Watertown, St. John.

## Weekly Church Calendar

Sunday February 28—Gospel, St. Matthew, 1:1-9. St. Romanus, Abbot. Monday 29—St. Oswald, bishop. Tuesday March 1—St. David, bishop and confessor. Wednesday 2—St. Simplicius, pope and confessor. Thursday 3—St. Cuthbert, bishop and virgin. Friday 4—The Shrove and Nails. Saturday 5—St. John, Joseph of the Cross, confessor.

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Read this if you are going West. Now is an excellent time to make a trip to the West or Southwest, and for the benefit of those wishing to go to that part of the country to look for farm lands, business locations, or for pleasure, the Nickel Plate Road has arranged to sell round-trip "Home-seekers' tickets" at extremely low rates on March 1st and 15th, and April 5th and 19th. One way colonist tickets to same territory on same dates. Special one way colonist tickets to principal points in California, Oregon and Washington, at rates of \$42.50, on sale every day March 1st to April 30th. For full particulars see local agents or write R. E. Payne, General Agent, 291 Main St., Buffalo, N. Y.

Low rates West via The Nickel Plate Road. Special one way Colonist tickets to points throughout the West and Southwest, on sale first and third Tuesday each month to April, 1904. If going West this winter see local agents or write R. E. Payne, Gen'l Agt. 291 Main St., Buffalo, N. Y.

## Correspondence

**SHOREVILLE.**  
John Connelly has returned home at Herkimer.

Mrs. John Henry, who was only ill a few days, is now recovering.

Florence Tobin of Buffalo, of her aunt, Miss Nellie, died to her home, the result of a cold.

Mr. and Mrs. Chan, the guests of the ladies of the first of the week.

Miss Lizzie Cummings, of Littleton, will be at the Stations of the Cross, on Saturday at 7:30.

In a play given last week by the Normal school, we noticed the name of this place, who had principal parts.

**DANVILLE.**  
Edward J. Dunn of Danville, Sunday with his brother, Linn.

Mrs. Edward Sander, of Williamstown, N. Y., and Peter Gagner.

Miss Katherine, of Buffalo, visiting Buffalo.

Mrs. P. J. Quinn, of Buffalo, visiting her parents.

Miss Julia Albert, of Buffalo, and Miss Mary, of Buffalo, are visiting Rochester.

Last Wednesday the church at St. Mary's, Buffalo, was again in the evening.

Rev. Father Kishel, of Buffalo, gave the sermon on the Wednesday evening service.

Mrs. Mary O'Connell, of Buffalo, died at the ripe old age of 82 years, the widow of the late John O'Connell, and was in ill health for some years. She leaves two sons, James and John, and a daughter, Mrs. Mary O'Connell.

Alfred, who had been in the hospital for some time, died at St. Patrick's hospital, Buffalo, N. Y., on Monday.

The L.C.B. of Buffalo, N. Y., is the Knights of Columbus, which is the only one of its kind in the city.

Miss Katherine, of Buffalo, died at the age of 11 years, the daughter of the late John and Mary O'Connell.

**CANASTOTA.**  
Marion, of Canastota, N. Y., died at the age of 11 years, the daughter of the late John and Mary O'Connell.

Edward W. Tamm, of Canastota, N. Y., died at the age of 11 years, the son of the late John and Mary O'Connell.

Feb. 18th, 1904. The funeral of the late John O'Connell, of Canastota, N. Y., was held at St. Mary's church, Buffalo, N. Y., on Monday.

Three brothers, William, James, and John, of Canastota, N. Y., died at the age of 11 years, the sons of the late John and Mary O'Connell.

James, of Canastota, N. Y., died at the age of 11 years, the son of the late John and Mary O'Connell.

Leaky, of Canastota, N. Y., died at the age of 11 years, the son of the late John and Mary O'Connell.

Rochester, and Mrs. O'Connell, of Canastota, N. Y., died at the age of 11 years, the son of the late John and Mary O'Connell.

This village, from the funeral home place, and at St. Mary's church, Buffalo, N. Y., on Monday.

Mrs. Mary O'Connell, of Canastota, N. Y., died at the age of 11 years, the widow of the late John O'Connell, and was in ill health for some years. She leaves two sons, James and John, and a daughter, Mrs. Mary O'Connell.