

deprived of grace, and very much rejoiced because of the fruit which there was upon each one of her branches. For she was not crowned on account of one of her sons, while honour was taken away because of another; nor was it over one that she rejoiced in victory, and was in anguish over another because of his fall; but over all of them, and through all of them, she had great rejoicing, because she saw them all that they stood in the commandment of the law; and she was glad and gave praise, because of the righteousness of her branches in the law; and she offered pure praise and righteous prayer to the Most High the Strengtheners of his servants. How fair was she in duty,²⁰ and righteous in the law, and blessed in her offspring! A wise mother, thou didst remove indifference far away from thy lovely children, and **l**³² without blows²¹ they took their stand in the arena: and this is an evidence²² of true mothers. For it behoves that more than worldly wealth, and than love to our fellow-men, we should love the love of God, and that we should cleave to Christ and love the prophets according to the divine rule, and in everything be like Abraham.²³ O blessed woman, who didst bring forth with hard pains, and without griefs didst restore, by prayer, the fruit thou didst rear; thou, without laments, didst send a messenger for thyself before God. For what time is there, or what day, or what godly congregation of the passion of Christ, and glorious day of the memorial of his resurrection,²⁴ when the members of the resurrection of the confessor Christ may not be remembered and honoured by every mouth and by every tongue? So, then, let the new soldiers of his faith, equipped with the glory of his truth, pass in remembrance and in word before our eyes, and before the Lord of victory, and the giver of crowns, the Lord Christ, Peter being second in command after our Lord Jesus, in the heavenly host of the glorious ranks, powerful in heaven and also upon earth, closing and opening without envy, in righteousness, the way of the gate of heaven, and not like the Pharisees, the partakers of his blood and of his race.²⁵ Let us cleave to them, and to every one of the apostles, since it is proclaimed in heaven and by observation that their minister shall receive a crown of righteousness.²⁶

3. Let Stephen be crowned; and also Paul, no longer persecuting the churches,²⁷ declaring his conversion in the Gospel of truth which is from the Deity, which he received and confessed by his suffering for Christ, and he filled up in his body what was behind of the afflictions of Christ for his body, that is, the Church.

4. But also let others be remembered, who, after them, accepted the conflict, and were counted worthy to stand in the true conflict for Christ. Now as worthy of our commemoration, let the men be remembered who, after these, were the **l**³³ elect, and who, without reproach and violence, with their souls affirmed the faith,²⁸ --those who were counted worthy to receive the hope of the apostles. Let there be honoured in our commemoration then, both Asclepiades and Serapion, and Philetus, and Zebinas, and Demetrius, and Flavianus, and Cyrillus (?), and Sosipater, and Andrew, and Babylas, and Caerealis (?), and Izabenus(?), and Zenobius, and Paulus, a kinsman, who was counted worthy to stand in the divine portion, and to be of it. Let Marinus also hasten, and to heaven let Fronto come, and the abstinent old man Hippolytus.²⁹ Now I know and confess that many others were victorious in this conflict. But although their names escape me, their record, which is in heaven, I remember in my soul, and I lay to heart the sufferings of the Church which is in Christ. For, truly, I hope with all of you, through the divine message, by the truth of the confession³⁰ which, is in Christ, that I shall receive fruit at the resurrection of the dead. I further say to you, O blessed confessors, I desire to depart from the world unto you, and from the body from which you are freed. Now faults fail (those) that (are) with Christ,³¹ as ye are this day, and are accounted. May there, at some time, be given the power to say after you, Pains flee, anguish is worn away, and groaning is departed: O ye who exist in the likeness of the suffering of Christ, and die not for ever.

End of the Discourse upon the Confessors.

[I have moved the footnotes to the end from the bottom of the pages, and used numbers instead of the letters of the original]

1. ^a The Syriac text of this discourse, from a MS. written A.D. 411, was printed in our last, pp. 403-408. We were then under the impression that, because the late Canon Cureton had not referred to it in his *Martyrs of Palestine*, to which it is appended in the MS., he had not observed it at all. This was a mistake. "We are reminded by Dr. Tregelles that Dr. Cureton alludes to it in the *Festal Letters of Athanasius* (Pref., p. 16); and that it is also mentioned by the late Professor Lee, in his translation of the *Theophany of Eusebius* (Pref., p. xi.).

The following attempt at a translation is generally literal, but the original, like all new documents in the same language, contains words and idioms not explained in grammars and lexicons. This circumstance, and the absence of vowel-points, causes some ambiguity in certain places, but we hope we have succeeded in conveying the general sense. Some of the peculiarities are noticed in the following short annotations.

2. ^b The word rendered "robe" is the same as that for "furnace," but it occurs in the sense of a vestment of some kind in Ephraem Syrus, as is observed by Dr. Burgess, *Repentance of Nineveh*, note, p. 54.

3. ^c Or "innocence." The word has both meanings.

4. ^d The rendering of this clause is uncertain.

5. ^e Or, "vouchsafed." The word usually means "justified."

6. ^f Or, "the affectionate desire."

7. ^g The sections we indicate are the same in the original.

8. ^h Literally, "in falsehood."

9. ⁱ The similar Syriac word, "world," might seem more appropriate here, but is not required, as the orator is about to speak of the toil of competitors in ancient contests.

10. ^j The Syriac word is the one commonly meaning "Apostolic," but doubtless "stripped" is the idea; perhaps "gymnastic."

11. ^k Here again the form is that usually rendered "generations" and "courts," but it sometimes means conflicts or contests.

12. ^l As the sun rises.

13. ^m "Restraints" seems to be the sense, but the word may be a mistake for "commands." In any case the clause is not quite clear.

14. ⁿ Probably "be lost in silence and forgot."

15. ^o The preceding clause is not clear.

16. ^p Or, "in purity."

17. ^q Or, "was hot, and did not ascend."

18. ^f *i.e.*, Those who were obedient to the law.

19. ^g Although most of the illustrations are from our Canonical books, it is plain that Eusebius did not feel himself under any restraint in that direction.

20. ^h "Duty." We assign this meaning to a word which has the sense of "retribution," "recompence," "suffering," "dissolution," etc.

21. ⁱ They did not require to be driven by blows into the arena, like cowards.

22. ^j Or, "a specimen."

23. ^k We are not sure that the foregoing sentence is correctly rendered throughout ; it is certainly obscure and irregular in its construction.

24. ^l The special allusions here seem to be to Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The phrase rendered "resurrection of the confessor Christ" is ambiguous.

25. ^m Although this sentence is not very plain, there is no doubt that Peter has ascribed to him all the honour mentioned above.

26. ⁿ We are really uncertain as to the precise idea of this place: possibly the "minister" is one who honours the memory of the saints.

27. ^o Obscure again. Eusebius appears to mean that Paul, instead of persecuting the churches, narrates his conversion in the exercise of that true hope which God gives, and which he has received and avowed.

28. ^p Or, with their lives attested the faith.

29. ^q The eminent saints and martyrs whom Eusebius mentions will not, even in name, be all recognized, owing to the loose way in which their names are spelled in the Syriac. A reference to the *Martyrs of Palestine* supplies the names of Zebinas, and Paulus, but whether they are the same as those in our text does not appear (*Martyrs*, p. 31, 39, 47). Of the rest, we find the names of two or three in other works of Eusebius, and more in the old martyrologies; but we are not about to investigate them here, and will only remark that all the martyrs mentioned in this part of the oration may be such as suffered in Palestine, but are not named in the larger work.

30. ^r Another ambiguous phrase.

31. ^s There is a paronomasia in the original here, which is at the same time obscure and abrupt. The whole piece abounds with remarkably crabbed and doubtful expressions, possibly because the translator was not sufficiently master of Greek.