

PRISON OF APOSTLES.

Chains That Bound Early Christian Leaders.

William E. Curtis in the Chicago Record-Herald.

Rome, Jan. 24.—No spot in Rome is more interesting to the Christian world than the Mamertine prison, which is excavated from the solid rock under the capitol hill of Rome, for there the Apostles Peter and Paul were confined for nine months, bound by chains to a pillar which is still shown. There is no doubt as to the historical accuracy of this statement, although most of the traditions and legends connected with the place are probably fabulous. For example, visitors are shown a deep impression in the rocky walls of the dungeon which bears some resemblance to the profile of a human face, and the monk in charge tells them that it was made by Peter's head as he leaned against the stone. Another version accounts for it in an even more remarkable manner. One of the guards is said to have jammed Peter against the wall of the dungeon with such violence that his head made this deep impression.

In the center of the floor, which is of natural rock, is a flowing spring, a remarkable phenomenon which, according to the legends of the church, opened miraculously in answer to the prayers of St. Peter in order that he might have water to baptize the guards whom he had converted. Livy and Plutarch, however, mention this spring long before the apostles were confined here. Juvenal also describes it, and it is mentioned by Sallust who depicts the horrors of the prison in his account of the execution of the Catiline conspirators. A staircase leading to the dungeon is comparatively modern. At the time of Peter and Paul prisoners were lowered through a hole in the upper floor. It was from this prison that Cicero came forth and announced to the people in the Forum the execution of the Catiline conspirators by the single word "Vixerunt" (they have ceased to live.)

What is more interesting to us, however, is the fact that from here Peter wrote his second epistle, and Paul his second epistle to Timothy, their farewell letters to the Christian world. Peter said: "Shortly I must put off this tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ has showed me. Nevertheless, we, according to His promise look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness." And Paul said: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith."

The prisons are entered through a small church known as "St. Pietro in Carcere," hung round with votive offering and blazing with candles and lamps. It is the favorite church of the criminal classes, and upon the walls are curious contributions to the honor of the saints—rusty daggers, knives, pistols and other instruments of murder and violence, which are supposed to have been brought here fresh from use and hung up beside the altar to propitiate St. Peter. It is customary for the assassins, thieves, pickpockets and burglars of Rome to make offerings here as soon as possible after they have committed crimes, with the hope, no doubt, of securing pardon. Formerly, when the clergy had a stronger hold upon the people, the receipts were very large. Now they are much less and growing smaller every year. A most valuable and interesting contribution to criminal annals might be made if the priests of "St. Pietro in Carcere" had kept a record of the confessions that have been made in this little church. There is an impression that the priests have had frequent and close communion with the police authorities, but the secrets of the confessional have never been violated.

A little further up the hill is the church of "St. Pietro in Vincoli," in which chains worn by Peter in prison are now preserved and form one of the greatest attractions to pilgrims in Rome. In chapter 12 of the acts of the apostles we read, "And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers bound with two chains and the keepers before the door kept the prison. And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in him, and he smote Peter on the thigh and raised him up, saying, 'Rise up, quickly.' And his chains fell off from his hands."

The identical chains are said to have been recovered in the year 126 by the martyr Balbina and by her given to Theodora, sister of Helmes, prefect of Rome, from whom they passed into the hands of Pope Alexander. They were deposited by him in this church, which was originally founded by Theodora in the year 109, and here they have since been preserved. Both Helmes, the mayor of Rome

at the time, and his sister Theodora, who was a woman of wealth and high social position, were converted to Christianity by Alexander.

Many legends are told of miracles performed by these chains. The sick have been cured, the wounded have been healed, cripples have been made whole by kissing the iron, and in the early centuries it was customary for the popes to send minute flings from them in crystal receptacles as a reward to kings and emperors and others who performed great service for the church. They are preserved in a beautifully sculptured casket of gilded silver with glass panels, through which they can be plainly seen. There are two chains, each about four feet long, with links of unequal size, which is due to the many flings. At the end of one of them is an iron collar, which is said to have encircled the neck of St. Peter. According to one of the legends the chains were divided in the early centuries, one of them being taken to Constantinople by the Emperor Constantine, but after the schism which divided the church the chain in Constantinople was translated to Rome miraculously and soldered to the other by invisible power during the pontificate of Leo X, the Great. The Constantinople portion was not missed for several months, and the monks in charge of the relics in Rome were almost paralyzed with astonishment when they found what had happened.

The glory of this church is the tomb of Pope Julius the Great, whom nature intended for a warrior, but destiny clothed with the robes of a priest. He was one of the greatest men in history, and if his activity had been directed in secular affairs he would have stood with Alexander the Great, Caesar, Charlemagne and Napoleon. Under his pontifical tiara were concealed the brains of a great statesman and during his reign the church made rapid advancement. According to the custom of the time he designed his own tomb and gave an order for its construction to Michael Angelo. The original plan proposed a sepulcher 18 feet high and 12 wide, surrounded by 40 statues, including those of Moses, Peter, Paul, Rachel and Leah, but only three of them were completed because Leo X, his successor, did not approve of such mortuary grandeur. Fortunately, he did not prevent Michael Angelo from completing the most famous of all his statues, which represents Moses, with flowing beard descending to his waist, horned head, deep sunken eyes and a majesty which was not represented in marble even by the Greeks. On either side of this great masterpiece appear the figures of Rachel and Leah, and above them the Madonna with the infant Jesus in her arms. The worst figure in the group, and one which seems out of place in the presence of Moses, is that of Julius himself, who, through the jealousy of Leo X, was sculptured by an incompetent artist and lies upon an insignificant sarcophagus instead of that originally designed.

The famous "Quo Vadis church," which has aroused renewed interest since the publication of the novel of Henry Sienkiewicz, is on the Appian Way, and was originally built over the pavement to protect the impression of the Saviour's feet upon a stone. The original stone has been removed to the Church of St. Sebastian, but a facsimile is fitted into its place. The story, as told by St. Ambrose, is that when Nero accused the Christians of having attempted to destroy Rome by fire, Peter, then the head of the church, tried to escape. As he fled along the Appian Way about two miles from the city the Saviour appeared in his path. In his amazement he exclaimed, "Lord, whither goest Thou?" to which the Saviour, with reproachful sadness, replied, "I go to Rome to be again crucified," and vanished. Peter, interpreting this as instructions to submit to martyrdom, returned to the city, and, as a monument to mark the site of his momentous interview, the Saviour left his footprints in the pavement.

This old church stands among the entrances to the catacombs, which, as everybody knows, were the burial places of the early Christians, and consist of tortuous subterranean galleries, from two to four feet in width excavating the soft stone that underlies the hills in the neighborhood of Rome. The walls on both sides of these passages are pierced with horizontal niches like the shelves of a book case, and upon them the bodies of the dead are laid. The extent of the catacombs is enormous; they are supposed to contain over 6,000,000 dead, and the actual length of the galleries as estimated by the archaeologist exceeds 600 miles. If stretched in one continuous line they would ex-

tend the entire length of Italy. Originally they belonged to private families or individuals who had estates in the neighborhood of Rome and, having become converted to the faith of Christ, devoted their wealth to His service and furnished a burial place for their fellow Christians in these vaults, where their bodies could not be desecrated by the Roman persecutors.

There is abundant and indisputable evidence that Peter and Paul both moved among the best society of Rome; that they made converts among the nobility and the aristocracy and even in the imperial court. There was scarcely a patrician family which had not at least one Christian among its members. The majority of the early Christians were poor and often slaves, and Paul, writing to the Corinthians concerning the results of his ministrations in other lands, said, "Not many wise men after the flesh; not many mighty; not many noble are called." But in other places he frequently alludes to converts of conspicuous rank and position, and says, "Those of Caesar's household salute you." Tacitus, the historian, confirms the early Christian writers concerning the conversion of the nobility, and says that many of them were followers of a man called Christ, who claimed to be King of the Jews and had been put to death by the procurator, Pontius Pilate, on account of the detestable superstitions he had introduced into Judea.

While Peter was at Caesarea on his way to Rome he baptized the commander of a Roman legion named Cornelius, who belonged to one of the most powerful and aristocratic families of the empire. Scipio Africanus and Soylia were both near relatives. He gave Peter letters of introduction to his friends. In this way both Peter and Paul obtained a foothold among the nobility. In those days the intellectual and educated classes had already passed beyond the influence of pagan superstitions and were without religion. Peter brought them one that appealed to their philosophy as well as to their emotions, and Paul, who was the greatest of the controversialists of that day, was eminently qualified to explain and expound the teachings of Jesus to men of that stamp.

When Peter reached Rome he was the guest of a senator named Pudens. He and his daughter Claudia were among the first Christian converts in Rome. Paul mentions them in both his epistles to Timothy. St. Praxedes was a sister of Pudens, and gave shelter in her house to persecuted Christians, 23 of whom, it is said, were murdered in her presence. She was a woman of great wealth and of sufficient influence to defy the Roman officials, and her house was large and furnished plenty of room for guests. She buried the bodies of the martyrs upon the estate of her grandmother, Priscilla, and sopped up their blood from her floor with a sponge, which she placed in a well in her own house. A chapel was built over this well in the third century, and the site is now occupied by the Church of St. Praxedes.

Domitilla, niece of the Emperor Vespasian, was a Christian. She was a sister of the Emperor Domitian. Two of her sons were put to death by her uncle because they adopted the new religion, and she herself was sent by him into exile to the Island of Pontia in the year 97.

Cancer Cured by Blood Balm.

ALL SKIN AND BLOOD DISEASES CURED.—Mrs. M. L. Adams, Fredonia, Ala., took Botanic Blood Balm which effectually cured an eating cancer of the nose and face. The sores healed up perfectly. Many doctors had given up her case as hopeless, hundreds of cases of cancer, eating sores, ulcerating swellings, etc., have been cured by Blood Balm. Among others, Mrs. B. M. Guernsey, Warrior Stand, Ala. Her nose and lip were raw as beef, with offensive discharge from the eating sore. Doctors advised cutting, but it failed. Blood Balm healed the sores, and Mrs. Guernsey is as well as ever. Botanic Blood Balm also cures eczema, itching humors, scabs and scales, bone pains, ulcers, offensive pimples, blood poison, carbuncles, scrofula, risings and bumps on the skin and all blood troubles. Druggists, \$1 per large bottle. Sample of Botanic Blood Balm free and prepaid by writing Blood Balm Co., Atlanta, Ga. Describe trouble and special medical advice sent in sealed letter. It is certainly worth while investigating such a remarkable remedy, as Blood Balm cures the most awful, worst and most deep-seated blood diseases. Sold in Anderson by Orr-Gray Drug Co., Wilbitt & Wilbitt and Evans Pharmacy.

"I've never been able to save anything," complained the poor man. "You have probably saved yourself a lot of worry," replied the rich man.

—A Missouri paper has been trying to tell us why we sneeze. There may be some occult reason why the people out there sneeze, but in this vicinity we generally sneeze because we can't help it.

When you wake up with a bad taste in your mouth you may know that you need a dose of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. They will cleanse your stomach, improve your appetite and make you feel like a new man. They are easy to take, being sugar coated, and pleasant in effect. For sale by Orr-Gray & Co.

The Chinese in America.

It is the general impression among Americans that the Chinese in this country are parsimonious. This is not the case. The Chinese have earned enormous amounts of money, to be sure, but they have also spent largely. Their savings may be estimated as not more than 10 per cent. of what they earn, which is very often permanently invested in this country, and does not go to China. Laborers seldom save anything, and this is as true of the Chinese as of other nationalities. In the first place, the Chinaman is usually charged more for what he buys than any one else, and, again, he is inclined to be a spendthrift when he can. He is an epicure in his own way. He is also fond of silk clothes and expensive shoes. Very often he is a gambler. The actual needs of the Chinaman are greater in this country than in China. The climate in the Kwang-tung provinces is so mild that all he requires at home is a thin cotton blouse and trousers, and two extra garments for winter. His hat is of roughly plaited straw, and he wears straw sandals. In this country he must wear woolen underclothing, a felt hat, and leather boots, if a laborer. His boots in America cost four or five times as much as his whole outfit in China.

The food bought by the Chinese is often quite as expensive as that of the whites. Instead of living almost altogether on rice and shop suey, as is the general impression, Chinamen, being quite as fond of meats as Americans, buy pork, beef, and chickens. Chop suey is made to sell to curious white persons who visit Chinatown. In the vicinity of every large city where there is any considerable Chinese colony, there are truck gardens devoted to raising vegetables exclusively for Chinamen from seed brought from their native lands. These vegetables are unknown to Americans. But the Chinese also consume large quantities of the finer kinds of American vegetables. The Chinaman has a sweet tooth also; and in the best Chinese restaurants in San Francisco, New York, Chicago, and other large cities, the best of wines are served to Chinese as well as American customers, together with the finest and most expensive foods. In the average Chinese restaurant in those cities good board can be had by the Chinese for from \$15 to \$20 a month, and these restaurants are largely patronized. As a rule, the Chinamen are compelled to lodge in mean quarters; but in New York and San Francisco there are a number of well appointed homes, occupied by the families of well-to-do Chinese merchants, which the Americans seldom or never see. In New York there is no apartment house, up-to-date in every respect, occupied by Chinese families. The Chinaman sticks as closely as he can to the traditions and customs of his country, which are strange to the Occidental, and, therefore, a subject for comment and often for derision.

There are not many rich Chinamen in America; but some of them are very well off, with fortunes ranging from \$100,000 to \$500,000. There is one multi-millionaire, Chin Tan Sup, who is the richest Chinaman in the country. Chin Tan Sup owns whole towns, and employs hundreds of white men and women in the factories and canneries. He owns ranches, city real estate, gold mines, and diamonds; he conducts a real estate business, and he has several merchandise stores in San Francisco. He is a self-made man and very shrewd and progressive. He came to America in the steerage as a lad, and went to work in a kitchen. He married a white woman, and with their savings originated a "little lottery" business in San Francisco. He was largely patronized by Americans, and soon grew rich enough to become a merchant also. From this beginning he developed into a commercial and political power. He is called "Big Jim," on account of his size. He is six feet tall, and a well proportioned, good looking man. In business he is regarded as the soul of honor. His wardrobe is magnificent, and several vallets are needed to care for it.—Sunyow Ping, in The Forum.

Chronic Diarrhoea. Mr. C. B. Winfield, of Fair Play, Mo., who suffered from chronic dysentery for thirty-five years, says Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy did him more good than any other medicine he had ever used. For sale by Orr-Gray & Co.

Hints About Lamps.

Many housekeepers think that to turn down a lamp saves oil. In point of fact, it does nothing of the kind. The same amount is consumed, only that which is not burned in a flame passes off as gas. You can notice this at once on entering a room where a lamp has been turned low for any length of time. Besides the disagreeable odor, the gas is most injurious to flowers or plants that may be near it. If little light be required, a small lamp with a small wick should be kept turned up to its proper height.

—The pastor of the Methodist church at Ipswich, Mass., is a lucky man. One of the members of his church left \$150, the interest to be used in purchasing turkeys for the pastor every Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Rheumatism

The liniment bottle and flannel strip are familiar objects in nearly every household. They are the weapons that have been used for generations to fight old Rheumatism, and are about as effective in the battle with this giant disease as the blunderbuss of our forefathers would be in modern warfare.

Rheumatism is caused by an acid, sour condition of the blood. It is filled with acid, irritating matter that settles in the joints, muscles and nerves, and liniments and oils no nothing else applied externally can dislodge these gritty, corroding particles. They are deposited there by the blood and can be reached only through the blood. Rubbing with liniments sometimes relieve temporarily the aches and pains, but these are only symptoms which are liable to return with every change of the weather; the real disease lies deeper, the blood and system are infected. Rheumatism cannot be radically and permanently cured until the blood has been purified, and no remedy does this so thoroughly and promptly as S. S. S. It neutralizes the acids and sends a stream of rich, strong, blood to the affected parts, which dissolves and washes out all foreign materials, and the sufferer obtains happy relief from the torturing pains.

S. S. S. contains no potash or other mineral, but is a perfect vegetable blood purifier and most exhilarating tonic. Our physicians will advise, without charge, all who write about their case, and we will send free our special book on Rheumatism and its treatment. THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., Atlanta, Ga.

St. Phillip's Church is Also a Lighthouse.

The only church in the world, so far as is known, that is also a lighthouse is St. Phillip's Church, Charleston, S. C.

St. Phillip's, which is one of the oldest churches in America, is known as the "Westminster Abbey of South Carolina," because within and about its walls so many distinguished men lie buried, including John C. Calhoun. The history of the old church is closely interwoven with that of South Carolina, and many of the most celebrated events in the history of the Province are connected with it.

It is one of the sights of Charleston, and strangers are always taken to see it and shown its graves and monuments.

The most remarkable feature of the old church, however, is the fact that its lofty steeple serves the purpose of a lighthouse and is used to guide the seafarer and mariner safely into the port of Charleston. The use of the steeple as a lighthouse dates back to 1894, when the United States Light-house Department succeeded, by dint of repeated efforts, in inducing the vestry of the old church to allow a lantern to be placed in the upper story of the steeple, to be used as a range light for vessels entering the harbor through the jetties at its mouth.

The light used is very powerful, and is placed at an altitude of about 125 feet above the ground, so that it is easily visible thirty miles at sea. Ships making for Charleston Harbor at night always keep a sharp lookout for St. Phillip's light, and as soon as they sight it get it into line with the beacon on Fort Sumter and then make a straightway run for the mouth of the jetties and up through them into the harbor of Charleston.

The light is attended by the old sexton of St. Phillip's Church, T. J. Riley, who has occupied the position of sexton for more than fifty years. He has never failed in his duties, and, rain or shine, he mounts the high and narrow winding staircase of the old steeple every evening at sunset and lights the beacon in its lofty perch. His limbs are feeble now, for he is 70 years old, and the climb is a long and stiff one.

St. Phillip's Church steeple is considered one of the handsomest, architecturally in the world, and always attracts the eye of strangers entering Charleston from the sea by its commanding height and artistic proportions.

During the Civil War it shared with St. Michael's Church steeple the rather unenviable distinction of being the chief target for the "Swamp Angel" and other Federal guns on Morris' Island, that were trained against the city. Both steeples, however, escaped with slight damage, and, although terribly shaken up and shattered by the great earthquake in 1886, St. Phillip's gray old tower still stands and sends its light out across the sea to welcome the wandering mariner into port.—St. Louis Republic.

Mr. C. B. Winfield, of Fair Play, Mo., who suffered from chronic dysentery for thirty-five years, says Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy did him more good than any other medicine he had ever used. For sale by Orr-Gray & Co.

Hints About Lamps.

Many housekeepers think that to turn down a lamp saves oil. In point of fact, it does nothing of the kind. The same amount is consumed, only that which is not burned in a flame passes off as gas. You can notice this at once on entering a room where a lamp has been turned low for any length of time. Besides the disagreeable odor, the gas is most injurious to flowers or plants that may be near it. If little light be required, a small lamp with a small wick should be kept turned up to its proper height.

—The pastor of the Methodist church at Ipswich, Mass., is a lucky man. One of the members of his church left \$150, the interest to be used in purchasing turkeys for the pastor every Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**EVANS'**  
**Liver and Kidney Pills.**  
DIRECTIONS—One every night.  
**25c.**  
By mail.  
**EVANS PHARMACY.**

**Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company,**  
CHARLESTON, S. C.  
RICHMOND, VA.  
ATLANTA, GA.  
**Largest Manufacturers of Fertilizers in the South.**  
Importers of...  
**Pure German Kainit, Muriate of Potash, Nitrate of Soda, Sulphate of Potash.**  
It is important in buying your fertilizers, not only to buy goods of established reputation and high grade, but to buy where your wants of every character can be supplied.  
We are in position to furnish all classes of goods and in such quantities as buyers desire. It will pay you to see us before purchasing.  
Address **Virginia-Carolina Chemical Co., Charleston, S. C.**  
Send for Virginia-Carolina Almanac, free for the asking.

**Attention, Farmers!**  
We have just received one Car Load of  
**Fancy Winter Grazing Oats.**  
Come quick and secure some of them before they are all sold.  
**O. D. ANDERSON & BRO.**

**ONLY A FEW DAYS TO CHRISTMAS!**  
WE have a nice lot of Rockers, Pictures, Mirrors, as well as a large lot of Bed Room Suits, Parlor Pieces, Hat Racks, Wardrobes, Chiffoniers, Ladies' Desks, all of which would make a nice XMAS PRESENT.  
We realize the hard times and have made prices to suit. We want you to come in, take a look, buy if you can; but if you can't it will be all right.  
Very truly yours,  
**PEOPLES FURNITURE CO.**  
COFFINS and CASKETS furnished at any hour, day or night.

**LANDRETH'S**  
**Fresh Onion Sets,**  
FOR FALL PLANTING,  
— AT —  
**Orr-Gray & Co.**

**CHINA.**  
FINE FRENCH CHINA BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED.  
A VARIETY OF ODD PIECES AND NOVELTIES.  
**JOHN M. HUBBARD,**  
JEWELER,  
HOTEL FLOOR.  
\$9.00 WILL BUY A

**CELEBRATED**  
**Acme Paint and Cement Cure.**  
Specially used on Tin Roofs and Iron Work of any kind.  
For sale by—  
**ACME PAINT & CEMENT CO.**  
Reference:  
**F. B. GRAYTON & CO.,**  
Druggists, Anderson, S. C.