

senate, who are recognized by all historians, as being men of very high character. Very fine men, this time, who were devoted to the ~~old~~ old pagan religion. And these men of very high character and great respect in the empire came to Milan to plead with the young boy Gratian to let them have the altar of victory, restored in the senate. And Gratian ~~xxxx~~ looked to Ambrose for advice in the matter and followed Ambrose' advice and declined their request.

When Gratina was murdered in 383, his younger brother, Valentinian II, who you can see was very young, his younger brother Valeninian II, who had been officially associated with him as emperor since 375, but acutally had been just a very young boy, became the emperor in his place in the west. And Valentinian, the young boy, being the new emperor in the west, a new committee was setn from Rome, to see Valentinian and to ask him to permit the altar of victory to be restored. And when they did this, he in turn looked to Ambrose for advice. And in fact, Ambrose acted as his spokesmand. It is very interesting to read the words ~~x~~ that were used by this venerable senator in addressing the emperor in the ~~xxxx~~ name of Rome. He said, coming to Milan there where the emperor had his seat of authority, he said "It appears to me as if Rome itself stood before you and spoke in this ^{wise} regard. Most excellent princes, father of your country, respect, I beseech you, the ~~xxx~~ ears to which holy religion has allowed me to ~~xxx~~ attain. Let me be permitted to f~~y~~ollow the faith of my fathers and you will not repent it. Let me enjoy the right of freedom~~x~~ and live in conformity with ^{customs} my ~~xxxxxxx~~ and tradition. This faith has placed the universe in subjection to my laws. ~~x~~ These mysteries have rep~~al~~led cannibals from ~~xy~~ walls and synomies from the ~~xxxxxxx~~ capital. Have I achieved all this, only to be turned adrift in my old age? Preserve me, I implore you, from so humiliating a fate". Ambrose answering him, declared that it was not the pagan ~~xxxx~~ religion that had made Rome great. He said other cities~~{x}~~ have been just as devoted to their idols and their pagan gods as Rome had ever been, and these other cities had been conquered by Rome. He said Rome's greatness had been in spite of the pagan rleigions, and not on account of it. ^And he said that it was not right that in the senate building in Rome this pagan altar should have its