

I f referred yesterday to the letter which Jerome wrote to Eustochian.
~~xxx~~ It is quoted for a whole page in Foakes-Jackson, on page 483. ~~xxx~~ His letter was called "On the Preservation of Virginit^y". It is remarkable for its exaggerated praise of virgin life. In Jerome's opinion the only good that any marriage could do was to cause more to be born into the world who might take the vows as celibate. (laughter) In the letter which he wrote to her, he had quite a description of his early experiences, some of which we are surprised that a man would write to a young lady. And then we have a furious attack on the Roman clergy. And that is the part of it that Jackson quotes, here, and I want to read to you the description he gives of the wealthy people of Rome and of the attitude of the Roman clergy as early as 380 A.D. Written by a man who was considered one of the greatest saints of the Roman Church, today he is one of the four great doctors whose ~~xxxx~~ picture stands at the very entrance to St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome. Here is what he ~~s~~ said:

~~xxxx~~ He thinks of one of these great aristocratic Roman women, just at random, just as an illustration. He says, "Imagine one of these women, she is in the grief of early widowhood, with rouged cheeks she reclines on luxurious couch, a cross is bound in ~~x~~ purple and gold in her hand. Her rooms is filled with parasites who entertain the ~~lady~~ with scandals ~~xxxx~~ concerning worldly and spiritual things, but she is especially proud of being the patron of the priests. ~~xxxx~~ ...^{matron} (14½) entered to pay the noble ~~xxxx~~ a visit, kissed her on the head, and with outstretched hands receive her gracious arms....(end of record)

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.....(continued quotation....can't hear it very well)

Now that is an extract of the letter which Jerome wrote to Eustochian, and it was published along with the other letters that he wrote. And you can imagine how the Roman clergy came to love him. And it is strange to think that he is remembered as ~~xxxx~~ one of the great saints of the church today, and his picture is there in the entrance to St. Peter's Cathedral. But he left there ~~afterxxxx~~ after only three or four years of stay there. Pope Damasus had defended him from the others, Pope Damasus died, the clergy detested Jerome, and Jerome said that he was so disgusted ~~x~~ with the attitude of the Roman Clergy