

**DORCAS: THE
DAUGHTER
OF FAUSTINA**

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Dorcas: the daughter of Faustina by Nathan C. Kouns

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NATHAN C. KOUNS

**DORCAS: THE
DAUGHTER
OF FAUSTINA**

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

DORCAS

The Daughter of Faustina

BY

NATHAN C. KOUNS

AUTHOR OF "ARIUS THE LIBYAN"

SAN FRANCISCO
JOHN HOWELL

1922

TO JMU
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PREFACE

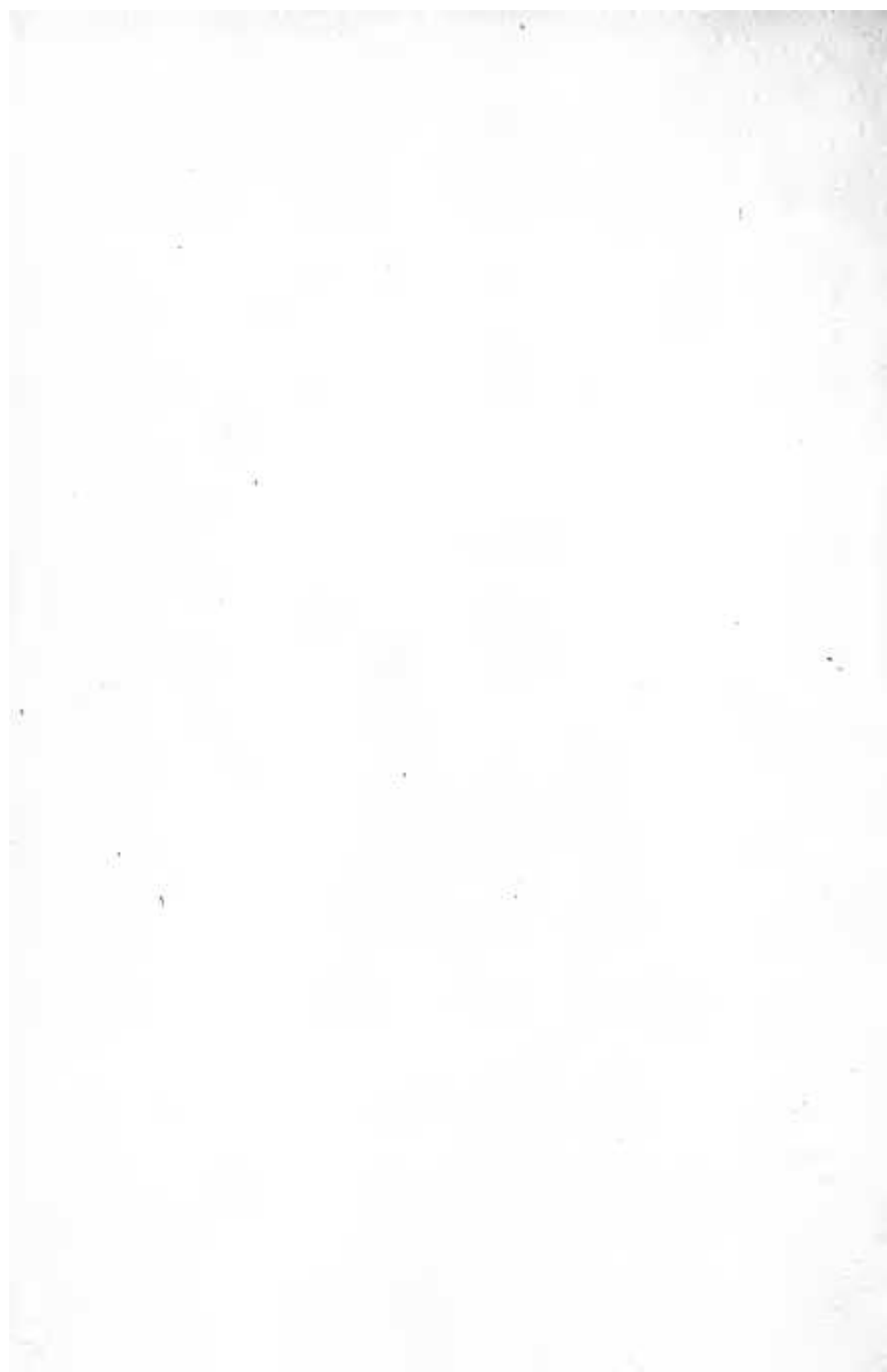
IN the Catacombs of Rome is an ancient tomb wherein repose the mortal remains of some Christian martyr. A slab of white marble closes the little crypt cut out of the rock to be her sarcophagus, and upon this slab a careful, but unskilled hand hath cut an inscription that readeth after the fashion shown in this book; the English of which is, "Here lies Faustina. In peace." The name is Latin, the inscription is in the Greek tongue, the word Shalom or "Peace" is in Hebrew. The character in the lower middle portion of the slab indicates that she died a martyr to her faith, and the urn at the left is a symbol of Christian burial. Who was she? How died she? When?

Musing alone beside this last resting-place of one who died for Jesus centuries ago, my lamp flickered and expired; and then in the subterranean

darkness of the catacombs the dead forms around me seemed to live again, re-peopling the past in which they lived, and loved, and suffered, and what I beheld, as in a vision, I seek now to reproduce in this story of ANTI-CHRIST. Those of whom I learned it knew whereof they spoke, and the reader may rely upon the verity of all things that are set forth as facts.

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DORCAS

DAUGHTER OF FAUSTINA

CHAPTER I

DORCAS, THE DAUGHTER OF FAUSTINA

IN the year 310, a villa stood upon the Appian Way in the suburbs of the City of Rome, which had been builded in the usual fashion of the better class of Roman houses of that period, and was owned and occupied by the Vice-Prefect Varus, whose command constituted a portion of the city guards, and was usually stationed near the Campus Martius. This man, a relative of that Varus who had been terribly defeated by the German barbarians in the forest of Teutoberg, in the days when Tiberius was emperor, and had fallen upon his own sword and died because of his mortification over that defeat, was a perfect type of the Roman officer, devoted to military life, thoroughly trained to his inhuman profession, and incapable of judging of the right or wrong of anything unless some military order or custom had first decided it. In other words, he knew