

assistant, that he was a man of great promise and very excellent, and all this was taken down by the shorthand writers who described the service. The services in those days, you notice, did not have the orderliness nor the dignity involved which we try to have nowadays. If the people felt agreement or disagreement they didn't ~~hesitate~~ hesitate to speak out. There was-- in some ways, it is a sign of life, I think, when there is that much interest in what goes on. But that was rather customary in the church ~~int-hae-~~ in those days. However, ~~this~~ man was appointed to be Augustin's assistant, and he turned over a good deal of the administrative functions to him, and tried to devote a good deal of his time, more of his time, to his "Retrapa-trionis", and to his controver~~sies~~sies, but right to the very end of his life he was engaged in~~y~~ writing against the Pelagian leaders, right to the very last; to the last week of his life he ~~was~~ engaged in working on these writings, and it was interesting to see how he could be working on these writings when we think of the situation in the last few years of his life. We must say a word here about the political situation. There was a general in North Africa named Barnabas<sup>face</sup>. And this general, in 418--in the year 418 his wife had died, and he was very much in sorrow about the matter, and he wrote to Augustin, and he was thinking about abandoning his position as head of the Roman government in North ~~Afri-~~Africa, and of becoming a monk, and devoting his life to Christian study and work. And Augustin wrote back and told him that he was--that it was very fine that ~~he~~ he should have these aspirations and these ideals, "But," Augustin said, "you are in a position as head of the Roman government in Africa, and the best general we have, and a very great force in the protection of the ~~land-~~ land and its administration. You are ~~in~~ in a position where what you are doing means a great deal to the welfare to all the people. And," he said, "I cannot but feel that it would be wise if you would remain in your position, and do your work to your very best, but privately take a vow that you will put the Lord's work first in your life and in your viewpoint at every place," and Barnabas<sup>face</sup> wrote him that he was doing as Augustin suggested. And to Augustin and to