

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

SEILLA'S CARES.

A Tale of St. John's Eve and the Annual Bonfire.

By Nora Ryan O'Mahony.

It was St. John's Eve, a soft, dreamy evening in June, and almost every man, woman and child in the townland of Gortaglas (the Field of Green), was busy at work in the hay fields. For, it behooved everyone to give a helping hand to get in the hay harvest while the fine weather lasted. It was in the old days, before new fangled farming machinery had come to take the place of the willing human hands and arms; and, out in Mattie Cart's long meadow, it was a very bright and cheerful sight that met one's gaze that evening, the girls, in their gaily-colored print frocks and sun-bonnets, merrily tossing the hay, and twisting and turning it in the sun to dry, talking and laughing as they went, while the men and boys gathered the dried grass into heaps, and built them into round, symmetrical cocks. From the merry chirping of the cheerful sound of the mowers whetting their scythes, the little children gathering about them, on the chance of their coming upon a wild bee's honey-comb, hidden away in the moss, at the foot of the fallen scythes, or perhaps, better luck still, a young corn-crake, with its mottled and mottled brown wings, and then a wild shriek of excitement broke forth from the bevy of little folk, as a young "corn-crake" black plumed and long-legged, broke away in terror from the brown grasses, and made for the shelter of the distant hedge with the whole group of youngsters in hot pursuit. The corn-crake, luckily for itself, had generally the best of the race.

So it was that Sheila's heart was heavy and sad whenever she thought of Con Sullivan and the kind blue eyes that had looked so often on her with a glance that was almost a caress. He and she both knew that his mother would never give her consent to a marriage between them. And he knew very well, too, that, no matter how he might urge it, Sheila would never be satisfied to live under the same roof with people who despised him.

And to defend it against its enemies, as has been taught us in the examples and writings of the great Augustine, of the Angelic Doctor, and other masters of Christian science.

OPPOSITION TO CHRIST.

Why is there so much opposition to Christ? He was a good man. Nothing in His life was done antagonistic to man. He did great things for us both directly and indirectly, and He certainly brought blessings to the world. And still many men protest His claim.

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A STRIKING REWARD.

Commandant Russett of L'Ecole Supérieure de Guerre, in his history of the Franco-Prussian war, lately published in Paris and crowned by the French Academy, gives a realistic picture of the battle of Loigny, in which the pontifical zouaves of Charette carried the banner of the Sacred Heart.

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THE FAMILY THE CRADLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY.

The family is the cradle of civil society, and it is for the most part in the surroundings of the home that the destiny of a State is prepared.

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THE CHARM OF BELGIUM CHURCHES.

Writing from Brussels, "Catholic Review" correspondent of the L'Espresso says: "The churches heavy and dark, with massive towers, at which one cannot look without a sickening sense of helplessness and our own insignificance.

REPROACH AND SHAME OF THE CHURCH.

The Church has no scandal, she has a reproach, she has shame; no Catholic will deny it. She has ever had the reproach and shame of being the mother of the Holy Church in the work of the devil, leading to have some corroboration of their leading idea.

"NON-SECTARIANISM."

A noteworthy illustration of "non-sectarianism" was presented recently in the city of Londonderry, Ireland, in the refusal of the Board of Poor Law Guardians to accept a gift offered by a lady member of the Board, Mrs. Moore, the gift being a copy of the famous "Ecce Homo" by the celebrated Italian artist, Guido Reni, and the donor's idea being that the picture should be hung in the hospital or infirmary of the Institution.

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WHY THE SEED SHOULD BE SOWN EARLY.

It is your duty, Venerable Brethren, to devote your assiduous care to scatter far in the field of the Lord the seed of your heavenly doctrines, and to cause the principles of the Catholic faith to penetrate early in the souls of the faithful, so that these doctrines may push their roots deeper and be preserved in that shelter from the contagion of errors.

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