BY MARY ROWENA COTTER.

CHAPTER II .- Continued.

In the secrecy of her own room Ag-

gladly have given up all her wealth

to be back where she was a year ago.

but she closely guarded her sorrow

her mother now, for

ald not bear to have her see how

ould break her poor mother's heart

to let her remain where she was.

husband's knowledge she stole

jest in a distant and secluded part

of the city. To him she told all,

and as long as her health permitted

paid him regular visits; so her

closely watched that no opportun-

ity presented itself for her to attend

ament of the Blessed Eucharist.

Mass or receive the strengthening sa-

A companion was hired who gave

ed of her in her social position. So

well did she learn that her husband was proud to present her to his

iends, and he listened in triumph to

uty. He represented that she be-

longed to an aristocratic family, and

hat only in part was the truth

nown even to the maid. She was

well paid for keeping the secret of

At her first ball, Agnes rebelled

gainst the low-cut, sleeveless dress

was given to wear, but her hus-

nd and companion insisted upon it

so she had been obliged to submit. It

s an hour of triumph for him

but that

when he saw the many admiring eyes

night struck the first blow for his

paration from his fair queen.

heated from dancing, she sought

se for a time on a cool veranda

caught a severe cold, which con-

ned her to her house for several

ly partial, she was ready to enter

ciety lady, and all that season he

liant beauty and rich dress arous-

bined with the tender love of a

st devoted husband and the hom-

ge of a gay social world, have made

eal happiness, the joys of Agnes

ad sacrificed her peaceful home and

ady, and far more than she

e was far from happy, and

we been restored to the life

i known before she met him.

, happy life to become a grand

ed had been given her. But still

uld have given all she possessed to

Spring came, and with it the re-

rn of the birds and the flowers in

beautiful gardens, but the sweet

te of the little teathered songsters

inded Agnes so much of home that

years gone by, and the very odor

the flowers often sickened her. Her

est task was to keep a smiling

e in the presence of her husband,

om she still loved most devotedly.

n the summer a bright boy was sent o cheer her life. But as she/ held

m in her arms and gazed upon his

was filled with strange emo-

world was all brightness; then

she thought of having him bap-

zed her heart sank within her, and

other's tears bathed his head.

one was conscious that her

ret. She had hoped to brighter for wain.

Mrs. Daton's

lead of the cleansing waters a

s was not happy, and in her love

t her she would willingly have done

in her power to have helped her,

She had hoped that baby

it she could not penetrate her se-

ung mother, but in vain. Slowly

surely Agnes' health was failing,

nd it was not long before that dread isease consumption had carried her

ond all earthly help. Baby, too,

as very delicate, and it was thought

sary to separate him from

he could not be taken from her.

Agnes said to her husband:

ant to see mother."

I wish you would take me home

faithful companion

the

welcomed them not as she

she

she

n would have been complete. She

ed the envy of not a few of the reign

ing belles of the season. Could riches

On her recovery, which

ain upon the glittering life of

nd heard the compliments

artfully did he cling to this

mistress' origin.

nds paid her

the comments passed on her rare

lessons daily on what was requir-

did wisely. Without

he knew, so she felt it was far bet-

she

It

n her husband. She could

ew that her husband would

approve of it; even if he did,

she was neglecting her religion.

way from home and called on

faith was kept alive, but she

One thing she

spent many sad hours and would

istic Japanese se nation has assimila-in Christian civilizae Christian rengion and of morality. ipped to hold its science, in industry, in erce with any nation in it it does not accept pecause it considers the osophy superior.

nese mind there is no no ideals to be realizal and patriotic ones plomacy Japan has ennpathy of the Anglo in her war with ominion of the is proclaimed that battle of Western civi-

admitted that Japan and for the material incivilization, but she never will, stand

viction that the Japais the most insidious ever menaced Christiapanese philosophy is opposed to Christian all Cardinal points. It which completely pos-ho believe in it with a hypnotic. One has only white men who have mese to see how it oral character of

the Japanese philosoain of the European or ot unlike that of . a It perverts all and poisons the very y thought and action, man who falls under is mystic power Chrisn with its ideals, ap-also Quixotic. He has entempt for the men of and is even ashamed of s skin. It is only nah an individual should n kind, don a kimono, anese and try to lose great yellow mass

ning in a small city Sea, far from of tourists. I ear that a white man he place with a troupe ctors and was to give at a local theatre. Out witnessed the performn and subsequently in-dine with me. As flow, who called him-Black, was completey the Japanese philo-s an Englishman, edu-rrow, and his father, d, had been one of the of Japan. He pre-

erse with me in Japaan in his own mother burse, he spoke enthu-he Japanese life. He ne was supremely hap-ainful for him to meet said, because they did Japanese life use they reminded him otible Christian civilid to forget. He asbefore he had accepted he had inquired whepeak Japanese in him in Japanese he not been satisfied hy the tea-house peoave stayed away. This to touch the foreign pefore him, explaining nly eat Japanese food panese philosophy has Yensaburo Black hers of stronger minds

mystery about eter as Sir Edwin Arfcadio Hearn and ave us believe, solute lack of what world understands and ral ideas. The inherosophy of the Japannot permit it to con-I, and, while it 'canin the Japanese chaem together do the absence of true

and more distinguish-

pathy of the United sarily with Japan in ggles with Russia, is the people of this ider the character of hom they have given and to what extent to let these sympainjustice in any dis-

apanese character not to the excuisite es-of the Japanese of orks of art. charming and dis-er traits common to

To-day

"Wait until spring," he said, "then | able when you objected to my maryou will be stronger.'

Without a word she turned away to hide her tears, for she knew that her husband's strong will could not be broken. She had really hoped that at home, under the care of her own dear mother, she might grow strong again, or if she must die baby would be baptized and brought up a Catholic, but her hopes were all gone now. Once she begged her husband to send for a priest, but the request was met with such an angry frown that she dared not repeat it, she silently prayed that God might not let her died unprepared.

At last her prayer was answered Fortunately her on business which would keep him out of the city for two days when her beloved cousin Thomas was an nounced. A bright light such as had not been seen on her face for many months overspread her features, and she tried to arise from her but sank back exhausted.

"Please send him up to my room at once," she said to the servant, "and you," turning to her companion, who seldom left her, be excused as he is my cousin from nome and I wish to meet him alone

The woman reluctantly retired, for she had been warned by Mr. Daton to be very careful about admitting strangers to his wife's room. and not to allow any one to remain long for fear of tiring her. As she passed out Agnes, with one powerful effort, arose and tottered towards the door but fell in his arms and he had to carry her back to her chair. he glanced around and took in every

Wealth and luxury were everywher visible, and he saw it all; but his attention was fixed upon the costly cradle, where reposed the sleeping of whose existence he had infant. been ignorant: then he looked at the nother, so changed in little over a year, and he found it hard to be before him were the same that had bloomed with the roses of health when last he saw her. But that was not the worst; he saw, too that she was unhappy. He had not expected to find her in such poor health, but the rest was no more than he had anticipated. She could not speak but held his hands in a firm grasp Almost instantly a faint cry the cradle aroused her, and her first words were: "Please give me my

baby." The young priest brought the child to her and she soon soothed it to sleep again. Then she whispered. "I am so glad to see you. Thomas

I know God sent you here when

needed you so much."

He looked at her windly, and said: "I am glad, Agnes, that I have been permitted to come to you, but sorry to find you thus."

"It is all my own fault, and God has punished me for the wrong I have done. I wanted wealth and I have it, and I have a kind husband. too, but-" She buried her face i her hands.

"But what, Agnes? Tell me all You can trust me now as you did when you were at home."

In to nes of bitterness she told him what had happened since last they parted, but he was painfully cons cious that it was not as the little of other days had talked to him. Then she had spoken in tones of unaffected childish trust, now it

ocent face for the first time her was not his innocent little cousin A true mother's pride and but the broken-hearted woman of so ss on the advent of her first ciety. was hers, and she hoped that might live to see him a man, for

"Poor little Agnes! Poor child." he said, "God has indeed punished

"Yes, Thomas, He has, but I deserved it for refusing to take your advice as well as that of our kind old priest."

"You have suffered much for you sin, but God will forgive if you are

truly penitent.
"I am, I am, and I pray that I may make one more good confession and see baby baptized before I die, but Edward has no watched closely, and will not allow a priest to come

near the house.
"Agnes, do not forget that I have een ordained and have the power of complying with your request if no

complying with your request if no other is allowed to come."

"Will you baptize my baby, Thomas?" and her face brightened. "I was so glad to see you that I had almost forgotten the dignity to which you had been raised. And will you hear my confession? I am not afraid, for I have always trusted you though I thought you were unreasonher in order to save his life. But ing so closely to her darling

riage. The sooner it is over the better, for my husband will be home to-morrow and he must not know even that you were here.

As he took the purple stole from his pocket and was about to put it around his neck she made an effort to kneel, but seeing her weakness her cousin objected. Covering her own face with her hands she made what was to be her last confession. after which she insisted upon kneeling while he pronounced the absolution 'At her earnest request he remained that night at the house, but left before daylight to say an early Mass, returning with the consecrated Host before any of the servants were aware of his absence. He went to her room as early as was prudent, and while the companion was out giving orders to have breakfast sent up, Agnes had the great happiness of receiving her first Holy Communion since leaving home. Baby was also baptized, and before noon the young priest was on his way to his missionary labors in a heavy heart when he thought of the great change in his dear little cousin. and under different circumstances he would have been sorely grieved to see her so near death, but now he felt that it was all for the best. Had it been possible he would have remained near her until the last, but duty called him and he must go. He knew that in a few weeks it would probably be all over with her, and believed that baby would soon follow his

nother to the grave. Agnes, too, thought that the child could not live, but he was such a comfort to her that she earnestly prayed that he might be spared until she was called, and then she hoped that with his baptismal robe unsullied he might be taken home. was her one earnest prayer, but baby was destined to live and become man.

On Mr. Daton's return he was inlieve that the pale, sunken features formed by one of the servants that a priest who was a relative of his vife-s had spent the night at the house, and it was with difficulty he controlled his anger on entering her room. He found her looking brighter than for many days, but he imagined that she shrank from his em brace.

> "So you had a visitor, Agnes," he said. She looked at him, but said noth-

> "I know all about it Agnes, so you

eed not deny it." "Yes, Cousin Thomas, whom you met at my home, called to see

me on his way to the West, but he left on the noon train."

"The best thing he could do," her husband could not refrain from saving, "When I married you, Agnes, it was for yourself because I loved you, but I did not marry your relations. You promised to give up all for me and I expected you to do it. Since your cousin's visit was short, and I was not put to the unpleasantness of meeting him whom I know well tried to keep you from me, I will nothing of it; but it did hurt me to be told by a servant that a Catholic priest had remained over night at

my home during my absence." "I am sorry, Edward, that you are offended, but it was such a pleasure for me to see some one from home.' He looked at her, and seeing that into her face. "Do you know the bright light had faded from her face he changed the subject, but he determined to remain at home and watch her more closely. Our own are often the blindest, and so it was with him, for he still hoped for his young wife's recovery, and he thought the watch would be a long one. Before another week had passed God in His infinite mercy had taken her

clasped her child to her bosom, show ered tears and kisses upon his inno-cent face and renewed her earnest prayer that he might soon be with

Like the social life she had joyed for one short season, the funeral was a grand one. The minister from the most fashionable church in the city preached a glowing sermon on her who in the bright beauty per youth had thus early been taken away from a loving husband and dar ling child; then a long prayer wa ed by the pastor of Mr. Daton's church,, not for the poor soul that stood alone before its God, but, like the sermon, intended to console and flatter a rich husband. Could Agnes have spoken from her costly casket she would have cried out in rebellion

and begged rather for one simple the prayer which from the lips of even a poor beggar might have brought her nearer her eternal reward. The ceremony over, the funeral cortege wended its way to the cemetery, where in a magnificent vault beside the parents of Mr. Daton Aghes was

laid to rest. The husband returned home and for a short time sadly mourned the death of his fair wife; but he was still young and his sorrow was, alas ! short lived. His child, which he at first feared he would lose, strong after the mother's death, and his whole affections were centered on the little one. Aiter a time he grew tired of leaving baby Edward entire ly to the care of servants, and he, too, growing lonely again without a companion. Accordingly in less than two years the grand home which had named "Innisfallen," had another mistress, a young Protestant woman of wealth and position. Happily there was one tender spot in her proud nature for the baby whom the far West. He carried with him she loved as ardently as she would had it been of her own flesh and blood.

CHAPTER III.

"Oh, Nellie, I have such news," and little Cecelia O'Kane's dark eyes grew larger and brighter as she burst into the room where her only sister was busily engaged with several letters which must be written before to-morrow.

Without laying down her pen, Nellie glanced up from her work, noting the bright expression upon her sister's face. That pretty smiling counten ance remided her so much of mother that she could have lost hours in gazing upon her, and in her own eyes might be plainly seen fact that Cecelia was all the world to her, as she should be, for the two sisters were all that was left of once happy family.

"What is it, little sister?" asked Nellie.

"Little sister," repeated Cecelia, throwing her hat on a chair; "that is one of the misfortunes of being small. Do you forget that I almost sixteen ?" and she drew herself up proudly. "How I wish could be tall like you. But never mind, there may be time enough for

me to grow.j'
"You are tall enough, Cecelia, and I hope you will remain just as are, because mother was small like yourself."

"And I suppose I should be content to be like poor mamma, but it sometimes inconvenient, especially when one has one's own living to

"Time enough to think of that Cecelia after you have graduated. But the good news of which you speak, what is it?"

Cecelia's eyes fairly danced as she took up the morning paper and read: "WANTED-A young lady as com-

panion for a middle aged widow; one who understands French preferred. Apply at No. - avenue between 1 and 5 p.m."

"What can that have to do with

asked Nel:ie. "A great deal, Nellie," said Cecelia seating herself on a low stool at her sister's feet, looking smilingly up me."

"No. How should I know when no

name is given?'

"And you cannot guess?"

"No, not being acquainted in that part of the city

"Then I will tell you. It is Mrs Daton, who lives alone with her servants at Innisfallen, the grand mansion on the hill."

"Yes, but what has she to do with

"I have applied for the position and she has partly promised to engage

Nellie looked at her sister in blank

"Cecelia O'Kane, what do am tired of seeing you work as you my little sister, and as her could to support me while I am in ion you are risking your faith, school, only a burden on you, for it I have always heard it said that the is costing so much for you to educate Datons are bitter enemies of the Ca

"Do not think, Cecelia, that you are a burden to me, for I never thought of it in that light. It is too great a pleasure for me to fulfil my promise to mother by keeping you in school, and I have such a go position that until you finish I can

"But I am no help to you, Nellie, to say more. She could only pray and it seems unfair for you to be do-ing all of the work while I do none." "You help me a great deal, Cecelia by writing so many of my letters for Indeed, if it were not for you I would hardly be able to keep the vast correspondence which the company has left in my hands."

PATHS

"I have a way of helping you far

more now, and I intend to do it." "Not until you have graduated. Remember, Cecelia, 1 promised mother that I wopld keep you in school, and I intend to do it."

"I have another year to go, that would be all foolishness and selfishness as well, when I can get such a good position now.'

"If you wait another year you can do as well, perhaps better; but you have not told me about how you applied for the position at Mrs. Da-

"I called there this afternoon, and oh, Nellie, if you could have seen the grand reception room where she received me. I could hardly describe it to you now, but it was furnished beautifully and just like what we sometimes read about in stories."

"Never mind about that now; it is yourself I am interested in."

"Well, when I was left alone that room by the servant I really trembled for fear; then after a few minutes Mrs. Daton came downstairs dressed in an elegant black silk, but she smiled so kindly that I was not at all afraid of her. When I told her my errand she looked at me in amazement and said that I was far too young to be out of school.'

"She was right," said Nellie. "She was more than surprised when I told her my age, and she said I did not look over fourteen. Her man ner was so discouraging at first that I felt like running from the house but that kind smile was still there, and I found courage to tell her that I had a good French as well as English education. That seemed to sur prise her, but she asked me a question in French and she was so pleased with my answer that she continu ed her conversation in French for You should have heard how she praised me for speaking so well. She took a French story book

from the table and asked me to read which I did." "A French novel, 1 suppose," said

Nellie, slightly frowning.
"Well, yes, and after I had read the first chapter she was so pleased that she told me she had had several applicants, none of which suited her as well as myself. She asked me about my family, and when I told her was an orphan and had only you she seemed more interested in me. and told me that her only objection was my age, but that I might call again to-morrow and she would make

arrangements." 'But Cecelia, you cannot, you must not go. I could never consent to your leaving school until you have finished .-'

"Not even when I have so good a position in view? You certainly cannot refuse. It is well enough for girls who have their parents plenty of money to think of graduating, but I realize as well as yourself that we are poor, very poor, and I am not blind to the fact that you are

"Do not say that Cecelia; I am young and strong and it is a pleasure for me to work for my little sister, especially since I promised mother that I would do it.'

wearing yourself out working

"I know you are willing to work for me, sister, and I appreciate it so her work she had almost won from much, but I cannot permit it when I have means of doing for myself, and Mrs. Daton that she could not I am sure if mother were here could speak she would say I was doing right.

"I am afraid not, Cecelia, so you had better give up all thoughts of Mrs. Daton and apply yourself more closely to your studies.

"Why not. Nellie?" "Because it seems to me that Mrs.

Daton, with her many vain, worldly mean: what have you been doing?" ideas and her French novels, would "Just what I told you, Nellie. I hardly be the proper companion for my little sister, and as her compan tholic Church."

"I cannot believe that of her for so many false things are told about people. I told her I was a Catholic and she did not seem to care, but if she did she could not change me. I od | would fight to the last."

Nellie understood too well the enthusiastic nature of her little sister for her and leave the rest to the de-velopment of time, when the girl would have leisure to think for her-

self.
"We will say no more on the subject now, Cecelia, for I have a great many letters to write this evening and I wish to get them finished. Besides, I am getting very hungry."

Cecelia took the hint and hastened to prepare the evening meal, which was soon ready. She was an excel-lent cook for a school girl, and in the bright prospects of her own good luck she prepared a much daintier repast than usual. But in spite of the fact that Nellie had declared herself hungry, her heart was too full to eat much, and for once Cecelia's thoughts were too much occupied to notice it.

After the supper was cleared away the girls sat down together, Nellie to continue her writing while Cecelia applied herself to her school work. At ten o'clock the younger sister laid aside her books and prepared to retire, but Nellie still worked on with increased zeal. Cecelia knelt at her bedside, said the Rosary, then going to her sister said:

"Nellie, are you not coming to bed now?'

"Yes, in a little while; I have just a few more letters to write."

"It is half past ten, and you will tire yourself out. Do leave them until morning and try and get some

"They must go by the first morning mail, and it will not take me long to finish them. Go to bed darling, and pleasant dreams."

Cecelia kissed her sister and soon was sleeping soundly, but Nellie, poor tired Nellie, worked on. It mattered not to her if she were tired and her head ached; she was working for her Cecelia, her darling little sister whom she had promised her mother she would care for until she educated and could do for herself .. Cecelia was all she had to love and do for now, and she truly loved her with more than a mother's love; but unknown to strangers there was another who was daily remembered in her prayers and for whom see many bitter tears in secret. At last the clock in the city hall chimed the hour of 2; the last letter had been finished, and putting it in the envelope she prepared to retire. Several times she had nearly fallen asleep over her work, but tired as she was she would not omit her evening prayer, so she knelt before her mother's favorite painting of the Sacred Heart one of the relics left from better days, and prayed earnestly for little sister. Arising at last as the clock struck the half hour, she bent over her for another good night kiss. Cecelia was sleeping soundly, with the sweet smile of innocence on her

lovely face. "Dear little sister," thought Nellie, "how much more like poor mother she grows every day." And now the sleeping figure reminded her forcibly of the face she had seen in the coffin for her mother in death, relieved of the cares of a sad life, had worn a sweet, peaceful smile.

"God protect her," she murmured, "and keep her as good and pure as our angel mother was; but spare her,

dear Lord, from such a life."

As late as she had retired, Nellie was the first to awale in the morning, and she had breakfast ready be fore arousing Cecelia. The subject of the preceding evening was again, referred to, and before Nellie went to her sister a promise to go and tell and cept her offer. It was hard for her to do it. for life in such a beautiful home and in company with such wealthy and refined woman was just what Cecelia's bright, ambitious nature craved. All night she had been dreaming of the stately mansion, even that she herself was Mrs. Daton and the mistress of Innisfallen. This she told to Nellie in the most glowing terms, but it only made Nellie , the sadder.

(To be Continued.)

NO POLITICS.

No more political meetings in Catholic Church school halls, no more interference in purely party politics by priests—that is the edict which has gone forth from Archbishop Mess