

THE WONDERFUL FLOWER OF WOXINDON.

An Historical Romance of the Times of Queen Elizabeth.

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PUBLISHED BY PERMISSION OF B. HERDER, ST. LOUIS, MO.

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CHAPTER XXVIII.—(Continued)

"See there," he rejoined, Windsor and Babington again! Depend upon it, this is their doing. Well, they shall hear of it some time or other. How and when was the escape discovered?" he inquired of the messenger.

all night, had not yet ceased, and the roads were in a terrible state. This did not tend to raise my spirits or those of my companion. We were wet through and covered with mud when we reached Harrow, and stopped before the house of Sir Richard Page, the mayor.

"What?" I exclaimed, "can that be possible? Bellamy is not more than ten or twelve years old. How can Miss Judith have eloped with him?"

I inquired whether it was Mr. Babington? "No," the girl replied, "the gentleman who married Miss Anne, but another, who had often come with him; rather a short gentleman with a high collar and brown hair."

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C. testified to Miss Cecil's having been there. The only members of the family who were at home were the old granddame, very infirm and feeble, one of her granddaughters and one of her sons, a goodnatured fellow, but partly imbecile.

On the mayor inquiring as to the whereabouts of her son Remy and her two granddaughters, she replied with perfect composure, that their absence either was or was not connected with an event concerning which the authorities had a right to make investigation.

As soon as this was done, we proceeded to the house, Burghley, Page and myself, with a chosen band of pursuivants, and demanded admittance. The few old servants whom we found there were interrogated first. Not until the Lord Treasurer threatened them with the rack, would they admit that, while the storm was at its height, Master Frith, who had been for a time at Court, returned home, accompanied by a young lady.

To my faithful and dearly beloved, greeting and brotherly love! These lines, written in haste from the Thames, are to convey to you the joyful tidings that I have placed my sweetheart in safety on board the vessel in question, for which thanks be to God.

"The arrow hit its mark; the fire of jealousy, which such a slight matter kindles, began to consume my heart. The domiliary visit was not productive of great results. A handkerchief marked with the initials J."

"The fight apparently was not planned long beforehand," continued Walsingham, or I should be inclined to connect it with another event that took place only last night, of which I have just heard, the escape of a prisoner named Bellamy, the brother or uncle of that page, from the Clink.

"The rain which had been falling since the night of the escape, had now become a steady drizzle, and the roads were in a terrible state. This did not tend to raise my spirits or those of my companion."

"A PLAYFUL MIRACLE."

BY SUSAN L. EMERY.

(Father Coleridge, in his "Life and Letters of St. Francis Xavier," speaks of the incident narrated below as "a playful miracle.")

O Father of the trusty pen, Teacher of holy history! Hear thine own story told again, But set to other key, And pardon, to the least of men, The tale I bring to thee.

With fury on the Southern seas A mighty tempest came, God's Saint within a tiny barque, His heart with faith aflame, Took from its place above that Leat The crucifix he wore, Bent down, and dipped it in the sea, And all was calm once more.

Next day they land, and walk the shore Miles from the scene of loss, When lo! there runneth from the sea A sea-crab with a cross, And holdeth it up reverently, Uplifted and upright, And runneth unto Xavier And stoppeth in his sight.

It humbly waits, till he Hath taken from his grasp the prize, Then runs back to the sea; And kissing those dread wounds once more, The Saint lies prostrate there, For miracle so strange as this Uplifting thankful prayer.

O Father of the trusty pen, For once withdraw thy word! What "playful" wonder meets us here In this dear work of God? If, for a moment, we may smile, The hot tears swiftly rise, For thou has touched upon a chord Of mighty mysteries.

One, greater than all saints, has walked Upon a stormy sea, Fishers of fish, and then of men, His great apostles be; For Christ and His, with mystic coin, Behold, a fish doeth come; Their Easter mystical repast Is fish and honeycomb.

Yes, lower yet the heart bows down Before this mystery, Christ Jesus, Saviour, King of kings, Write on the fish we see; And words St. Paul full darkly spake Are ringing in our ears; 'The creature groans, and yearns, and waits, In hope of better years.'

—S. H. Review.

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