

quietly on seeing the wonder of the Sisters, but said nothing.

After some brief but fervent expressions of gratitude, and praying that God would reward these benefactors of the poor and suffering a thousand fold—they, and all theirs—the Sisters took their departure, and, with rejoicing, went on their way.

They crossed the fields to the high road, which brought them, shortly, to the village, whence they had come on foot. Arrived there, they went to the presbytery, and asked to see the curé, whose permission to beg in his parish for their old people they had obtained before starting.

'Phrasie, who, in her black stuff gown and snowy cap, was the ideal of a comfortable, kindly housekeeper, had scarcely opened the door before the curé himself came in from the church close by, whither he had been to ring the evening *Angelus*, and to finish saying his Office, as he loved to do, before the Tabernacle.

By the light of 'Phrasie's candle, he recognised his visitors of the morning—not by their faces, which he could not see, but by their ample hooded cloaks—and cordially invited them to enter. As he led the way to the parlour, he glanced at their baskets, and expressed his fears that they had "toiled all day, and taken nothing."

Then they told him of their unsuccessful quest, until the wonderful surprise which had crowned their weary day with thankful joy, and which they related with circumstantial exactness.

"But," they added, "we do not like to receive so large a sum from one of your poorest parishioners, *Monsieur le Curé*, without asking you if we are justified in accepting so much from him."

"But, my dear Sisters," said the curé, with a perplexed look, "will you once more describe to me carefully the exact spot where these parishioners of mine live?"

They did so, and said that in order to reach the cottage they had to cross a rough wooden bridge over a stream at the bottom of the valley; that beyond the bridge the ground rose, and a few yards up the ascent brought them to the garden gate; and that there were no trees near, except a clump of firs at the back of the cottage.