

Poetry.

THE SONG OF THE IRISH.

(From Felix Farley's Bristol Journal.)

Bread,—Bread,—Bread!
Mercy send us aid;
Famine looks with a ghastly stare
At the havoc Death has made!

STORIES ON THE LORD'S PRAYER.

CHAPTER IV.

"Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."

Who is there that is not in the frequent habit of using the prayer, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven," and who is there that knows fully that it is meant by it, and the extent of that great Christian duty of resignation, which it calls upon us to perform?

These were my thoughts one morning as I paced up and down the gravel-walk in front of my windows, thinking of a sad affliction which had befallen one of my old friends, and which I had only just heard of, and whilst I was picturing to myself his great suffering, and the faith which I saw he would exhibit under it, I was told that a little boy had just come in under his coat from Mary's cottage, to say that her child had been taken extremely ill during the night, and was becoming every moment worse; that the doctor had seen her, and seemed to think it a very bad case, and that Mary was in such a state of distress at the prospect of losing her, that she would hear no words of comfort.

I was not surprised at this summons; for I had often remarked, that when we fix our hearts too fondly upon any earthly object, God, in His mercy, most frequently removes it from us; and Mary's doating affection for her little girl was such as to amount almost to idolatry.

"Do speak to her, sir," whispered the woman, whom I knew to be Hester Williams, one of the best nurses and kindest hearts in my parish; she has been sitting in that way for the last four hours, ever since the child became senseless, as if no power on earth could move her.

"Does the doctor give up all hope?" I asked. "Not quite," was the reply; "but it is a desperate case, sir, and if she lives, it will be all but a miracle—so it is as well for the poor mother to prepare for the worst."

MARTYRDOM OF CYPRIAN BISHOP OF CARTHAGE. (From "The Life and Times of St. Cyprian," by the Rev. G. A. Poole, M.A.)

The report soon spread through Carthage, that Thascius was apprehended, and crowds assembled to witness the spectacle; melancholy even to the Gentiles, for the honour in which Cyprian was held, but glorious to the Christians on account of the devoted constancy of the Martyr.

I hoped my words had made some impression on her, for she half raised her head; but the effort was too great at that moment; and, receiving no answer, I went on. "I could wish," I said, "to speak words of consolation to you now, and tell you of my infinite

love of God, and His purposes of mercy in afflicting us, but I fear my words would be quite thrown away upon you; you will not think of Him as a Father; and yet"—Here she interrupted me, looked up, and asked wildly, as she pointed to the bed, "Why should he take my all from me?"

"Oh, Mary," I replied, "is it you who put such a question? have you so entirely forgotten what you felt after your first severe loss, and how often you said that if it had not been for that, you never would have thought of God?"

"I am sure it has," I answered, pleased to see that my words had at last made some impression; "and why will you not take advantage of this opportunity for gaining a heavenly mind, and ask God to assist you? It cannot be because you distrust His power, or His willingness to support you in the hour of need, or that you have had so much experience of both; and it cannot be because you think He cannot feel for you; unless you have forgotten what His own holy word says, that He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities."

"But what shall I do when she is gone?" asked Mary, bitterly: "it is very easy to talk, sir; but none but a mother can tell the feelings of a mother's heart."

"I can tell," I answered, "what you most desire for your little girl, and how it is best to be obtained." "How, how?" exclaimed the poor woman, starting up, and eagerly clasping her hands together, as if she believed that I had discovered the means of restoring her child to health.

"The poor mother did not speak; but her lips quivered, and she leaned back against the wall to support herself." "Mary," I continued, "it is now four years since you carried your child to the font, and there solemnly gave her to God, and He, on His part, did then most assuredly receive her as His own: He made her a member of His holy Church; He forgave her the guilt of that original evil nature which she inherited at her birth, and He implanted in her heart His holy heavenly Spirit. She is too young to have lost that purity, she is too young to have known sin; and now God, in His mercy, calls her to her home."

"I waited for an answer, yet none came; but Mary's eyes glistened, and one large solitary tear rolled slowly down her pallid cheek; the stony heart had been touched; and, sinking into her chair, she wept bitterly; but I could see that her feelings were very different from those which had before caused her stern, unamiable composure."

For a short time I allowed her to give vent to her grief; and then, after it had a little subsided, we knelt together by the bed-side of the dying child, and offered up the beautiful prayer of the Church to Him "to whom belong the issues of life and death."

At length Galerius Maximus assumed his place in the judgment-hall, and Thascius being brought before him, he said, "Art thou Thascius Cyprian?" "Yes," answered the Martyr, "I am." "Art thou he," said Maximus, "who hath borne the highest offices of thy religion among the Christians?" "Yes," answered the Bishop. "The most sacred Emperors have commanded that you offer sacrifice," said the Proconsul. "I will not offer sacrifice," replied Cyprian. "Be persuaded," said the Proconsul, "for your own sake," Cyprian replied, "Do thou as thou hast received orders for me, in so just a cause no persuasion can move me."

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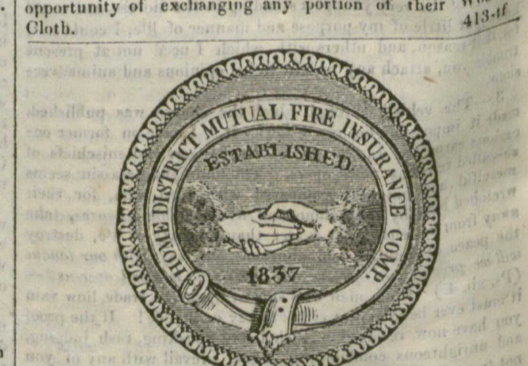
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