SKETCHES OF RELIGIOUS LIFE.

truth an angel with us," said the Mother Superior. "Indeed she was an angel before she came to St. Hyacinthe as a student. Her story is a beautiful one and proves to me the divinity which guides our actions where we are wise enough to follow the hand of God pointing the way. The kind old Sister filled my tea

cup and pressed another dainty cake uuon me before continuing the story she knew I so longed to hear.

"Dear child," said she, "you are mother,-you have had your sor-I love to tell the story those whom I know will understand and sympathize. Some day when we send your dear little girl home you, grown up, and beautiful in mind and soul, you will tell her the story of our Sister Agnes. It will be an inspiration to her as it is to us all.'

The sweet accent of the Mother Superior, speaking her own soft tangue, was like dreamy music me, and I felt within a restful peace, and happiness as I reflected on the fate that brought my fatherless little one to this old convent and into the care of these good sisters.

My tears answered the tender pres sure of the old Suster's hand and the Vesper songs that came drifting through the open windows, from the chapel across the lawn, seemed fit into the story, just as the rich draperies of the holy pictures about us seemed to accent the thought in the mind of the painter

"It is a far cry indeed," continued the sister, "from these old convent walls here in Quebec to the green hills of that Killarney where Sister Agnes first saw the light of day, and strange fate indeed was in store for her as she patiently took up the task her poor mother had found too hard for her, and to which after a long struggle she succumbed.

"In her home Agnes had never known aught but poverty and sore Her father was a poor farmer without education, and as the result of an accident his health was not of the best. The mother was a sad, gentle creature more fitted for a convent life of prayer than the grinding duty put upon her. Agnes had gone to a convent as a child, and had some knowledge of books, although her real reason for going was to learn to sew and knit make laces in order to help out the family

"She was the oldest of the four children, and when the poor mother died she naturally took the place made vacant. It was a hard task, for a child of twelve, to care for her little brothers and sister, but uncomplainingly she took up the work. Her only comforter was the good priest of the village.

Often did Sister Agnes tell me, when she first came to us, of her struggles to provide the family with food when the crops had failed, and how the old cure gave her of his own scanty store, and how, when her father was sick he sent the village doctor with medicines, and how once, he had sent some of the holy prayed for the good priest; and when years after, she heard of his death for a month she scarcely ate drank, praying constantly for his soul's repose. Ah! dear lady, she angel always. For three years she gave her heart to the work and she had her reward when er father restored to health. able to till his farm sufficiently provide for his family.

"The second oldest child, a was sent to the convent near laces. Between the two sisters many pieces were made, and through the old cure they sold the product their labors to the rich ladies near Agnes lived until she was fifteen, and then the hand of destiny was made She has told me how the good cure came one day to her humgreat fortune that had come to the

is a city in which are many great where thousands of people work at the looms making cloth of kinds. To-day has come a good man from one of these mills, and he will fully, and I have great confidence in all he says. I intend to select a number of my best girls; those I'll be safe in letting go."

SISTER AGNES. - "She was in out there to America you will hav good wages and will be able to help your family far more than if you stay here, and maybe some day we will send them all to join you.

"'At any rate,' said the cure, 'I'll see that they are taken good care of here while you are away, and now that the father is doing well, manage with God's help.

"It was thus Agnes came to Am rica, together with some hundreds of other poor girls like herself to work on the looms in one of the cities of New England.

"The man who had been sent a the agent of the great mills had been a brave soldier; and as he was good Catholic and an Irishman, guarded his charges most carefully until he brought them safely to the city of Nashua. There was at that time a scarcity of the right kind of help to handle the looms, and Major O'Grady had suggested the advisability aof bringing from Ireland some girls who would take an interest in that kind of work. He had been led to this idea through the advice of one of the priests of Nashua, who having come from Ireland, knew only too well the needs of the poor girls

"Major O'Grady was selected to go to Ireland and gather up from the various villages the girls needed. And thus came our dear sister. Two distress... years she worked in the mill before anything happened to disturb the quiet life. Each day was like the others, a continued round of work It was not that it was hard- after the eye and hand had become use to the work .- but t was tiresome and the life was very lonely for the poor child, far removed from all she loved.

"Sundays were her joy; for spent almost the whole day m church. Early she attended Mass and when her simple dinner was over and her work done, (she had her own room and got her own meals, order to save for the distant ones) she hastened to Vespers. Long sh stayed to pray and to thank God for her good fortune, and long she thought of her dear ones at home Each Sunday evening, as well as she could, she wrote out her simple story and sent it to the good priest as sh had promised. Every month she sent all the money she had saved and often she left herself scarcely enough to bring her through , the

The receipt of the money always brought a word from the cure, for she never failed to tell him to serve a little to repay him for all he had done for her. Now and then some extra economy would emable her to suggest a Mass for her dear mother's soul; and the cure never forgot to send her his blessing and his advice whenever she asked guidance

"About two years after she cam to Nashua she took cold and for a week could not go out. The good Major O'Grady, who had always at heart the interest of his girls, as he called them, was not long in sending the doctor, M. Deschenes, a young French Canadian of noble origin. I knew his people well; indeed my own mother's people were of the same blood. He had been educated here in Quebec, and after finishing studies in France, he had returned to she recovered and learned the story America, and, following many of his people, had settled in Nashua, bring these two children together.

"Doctor Deschenes attended little exile and from the first he was interested in her. He soon grew to know her well, and caned on her, bringing books from his library. He was a devout Catholic, and many times he walked with her from th church to her humble home. had brought with him from Canada his mother and sister, after the deat of his father, and as good fortune had come to him, it was not long be fore he had gathered a goodly com

"His family was looked upon as age.

'being very superior and his interest
'Far away in America,'' said be, in the poor little Irish girl was not long unnoticed. I need not tell you that Agnes was a beautiful girl at that time. I have a copy of photograph that the doctor had h pose for. It was the only touch take away with him many of our of vanity she ever permitted herself and when she came here she gave the one picture she had left, asking me to burn it in order to put aside the last thoughts of the world.

"As she was at that time uneduca "'Agnes,' said he, 'your work here is hard and you have but a poor chance to better yourself. If you go family. He had introduced her

called on her and invited her to com to see them, but her modesty sensitiveness kept her aloof. of her companions at the mill mis understood the kind attentions Doctor Deschenes, and spoke harsh things amongst themselves. Some of the most gross-minded even passe remarks in her presence. Her natural modesty was turned against her and her quiet ways were pointed out by her petty tormentors as an evi-

"Doctor Deschence had learned through Major O'Grady all about the history of the little flower, and of her family at home. He knew her conomies and her faithfulness to he people, and one Christmas in the ful ness of his heart, through his sister, he had given Agnes a pretty dres of plain dark silk. In her innocence of evil, she told one of her friend of the present, and when the silk was made up she wore it to church This incident gave rise to much talk at the mill, and the poor girl was not long in learning the cruel sus picions of many of her companions Her pure mind could not conceive o the distorted stories that were pass ed around.

"It was whispered about that th good doctor was not honest in his intentions towards her: for it did not enter the minds of her detractors that her pure character and modest ways could be attractive to a young nan of wealth. They saw all about them a sinful life, and knew only too well the signs that indicate the pathway of sin. It was a sad day for the gentle Agnes when her eyes were opened to the deceit and slander about her, and in her honest way she told the Doctor's sister of her "When the story came to M. Des

chenes, he was much troubled and took counsel with the priest of the He told the good Father that he loved Agnes and if she would consent he would make her his wife Father Reardon pointed out the ob jections to such a course at the time She is too young,' said he: 'and be sdies her station in life is not equal to your own. It is too much of a sacrifice for you, and she never be able to understand you. But I can wait,' said the young 'I am rich and can well ford to send her to a convent for a ew years.' 'What of her people at home?' asked the priest. "I'll be only too glad to send them even more help than they get now, said doctor. The priest thought it all over for a long time before replying. He knew the conditions in the mill, and that the poor girl's life would be a torture there. He knew that the doctor was a most honorable man and that his wealth permitted him to carry out the plans he had suggested. His only fear was that the delicate, sensitive girl would not understand the life before her and that it might in some way interfere with the future work of the young doctor. After much reflection he pro mised to visit Agnes and talk it over with her. 'I must act like father to the poor child,' he said : 'as soon as I can I will see her, then we can arrange what is best to be done.' Within a few days a most terrible affair happened that brought the matter to a crisis.

"Father Reardon had not found time to see Agnes before news came to him that she was at home sick having been openly insulted and beaten by one of the girls who worked near her at the mill. No one knew just what had occurred, for Agnes was too much overcome to speak of the affair.

"Father Reargon visited her when but he never divulged it; nor to Agnes ever say any more about it. but the good priest and Mother Su-I learned from the priest these facts when he came here with Agnes to arrange for her education. Doctor Deschenes had a desire to have her educated in his own native dity because of his acquaintance us. She was to be taught as fa as possible in French, as his family used that language altogether in th home. From the very first seemed to love me more than the rest-perhaps because I was like a mother to her-I was not then the Mother Superior. For five years she stayed as a student, and she de veloped into a beautiful woman... Of a studious character she soon made great progress, and her greatest de

later on "Each year Doctor Deschenes came to visit her and I could see that he went away deeper in love with her than when he came. It was a pure exalted love, almost adoration; for he realized the depths of her mind and soul.

"Her progress in her studies surprised him, as indeed it did all of us; for she was never content unless she was employed at some task. Her to old training in making laces came Donahoe's Magazine,

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into play, and she soon became our teacher in that art. I will show, some day, much of her work; keep it to guide the work of students. Before her day of graduation arrived, the Mother Superior, Sister Alexis, realized that Agnes was not intended for the world. too from my confidential talks with her, felt that it would be a sad day for her when she had to go

"While she never permitted herself to dwell on her love for the convent life, yet many times she would say to me that our work was truly no ble. and that she would go out into the world and take up her duties full of inspiration. Her love for her people grew stronger as she realized how much she would soon be able to do for them. Letters from hom brought glad news to her of continued prosperity of them all. heart-felt gratitude to Doctor Deschenes for his noble kindness was touching to behold.

"Ah ! my child, I could dwell for hours on the loveliness of her ways It is sweet for me in my fast declin ing days to reflect on the soul that God put into our hands, to cherish to foster and to love. How shall I tell you of the mysterious ways in which God performs His wonders? We are as children in His divine hands.

"The glorious end came just before the day of graduation. Doctor Deschenes and Father Reardon come from Nashua, and after a long talk with the Mother Superior, Agnes was called to this very room Sister Alexis told me of it rong after It seems that Father Reardon the young man had long since divined the truth, and although M. Des chenes was quite broken-hearted that his hopes were shattered, the good his duty.

"It remained for Agnes to tell them of her hopes and aspirations. was prepared to accept the advice of her friends as to her future course, perior were wise enough to her that the choice lay with self. Doctor Deschenes most nobly held himself aloof.

"Thus it was that Agnes on that summer day more than twenty years Heaven. The doctor went away full of religious resignation. He realized that he was but the humble agent of a Divine Power and he'went ack to his duty, impressed profound ly. For a year Sister Agnes cor tinued her work in the convent be fore she took the veil.

"Doctor Deschenes gave himself up to deep meditation for some vime and we learned later that he enterlight was to master the French and ed one of the missionary orders, after indeed she excelled us all in its use providing for his people and for the family of Agnes. glorious one, as you may well be

> "Five years ago he came here read a Mass for our beloved Sister Agnes when she died after a life of holy works. Each year he returns to say a Mass for her on the anniversary of her death. You saw him this morning, and when you asked me who he was I felt I must tell you the story." —Lucie Lechasseur, in

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OBITUARY,

MISS LIZZIE McCARTHY- The most heartfelt sympathy of the peo ple of St. Gabriel's parish, and of a wide circle of friends in this is extended to the family of Mr. Jas. McCarthy on the death of his young in life had won by her mild and amiable disposition and stirling qualities the love and respect of all quaintances. The deceased young ady, whose demise occurred on 6th instant, in the 22nd year of her age, was a sufferer with lung trou ble for the past eight weeks, sustained the pain of her brief illess with patient, even cheerful re signation, and fortified by all the rites of the Church, she peacefully

She is the seventh member of an honored and most exemplary family whose edifying death we have re-corded in the columns of the True

morning to St. Gabriel's Church,

in which the deceased young lady and her family are held.

Rev. Father Shea, cousin of the deeased, chanted the solemn Mass Requiem, with Rev. Father E. Polan of St. Patrick's, at deacon, and Rev Father P. McDonald, of St. Gabriel's as sub-deacon. Rev. Father O'Mears P.P., and Fathers Cullinan and Cal lahan, of St. Mary's, occupied sea in the Sanctuary. After the the remains were conveyed to Cote des Neiges cemetery for interme May she rest in peace.

TYRANNY.

There has never been a tyrar that did not eventually end aster.

No matter how many years we man ave been practicing the spiritual life. the day on which we begin to lour pride, the day we realize loathsomeness, that day we begin



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is If the English-spea best interests, they would powerful Catholic papers i

NOTES

AT ST. ANN'S .- C the parishioners of S their annual processie leading thoroughfares when the Most Bles was borne by the ne Father Rioux, C.SS. canopy with an esc wardens and officers of cieties. The pupils schools, boys and gir T. A. & B. Society; th der of Foresters; St. A Men's Society; Holy F St. Ann's Society, for other parish organizat the line of procession i religious convictions. haymarket square a and repository had bee the house of Mr. J. clerk of the market, and loyalty to religion are well known. He of the Most Blessed S given. The male choir Church and the young duates of the convent with the parish contrib

Rev. Father Strubbe, charge of the arrangen of police officer, Ca rendered good Ann's parish is to be on the magnificent succ monstration.

ST. PATRICK'S S green flag was unfurled on Friday last from th the Catholic High Sch so long vacant, as an the classrooms were to by the pupils of St. Pat the parish school under of the Brothers of the Schools. The building grounds, which were School to St. Bridget's weeks ago, have been re churchwardens of St. Par for a term of two years classes have taken poss premises and at the beg next school term all the be installed

VACATIONS. - We he invitation from the Rev tor of St. Ann's Sche Prudent to assis closing exercises of the ; historic educational es has rendered notable serv grand old parish of St. alone in the training of ing their school day caree watching over them in they quitted the instituti

NOTRE DAME DES This establishment, a bra Laurent College, under t of the Fathers of the Hol: young boys, is one of th teresting in its appointme said that the sum of \$20 been expended in lands ah Every feature calculated the religious, intellectual sical development of yout able. It is beautifully lo the view of the surround try is inspiring. The jud ous in locating their estal whether their aims be cha ducational, are again stranglified in this College of Dame des Neiges. It is