

## Through Death to Life.

Harry Harbough.

Have you heard the tale of the aloe plant,  
 Away in the sunny clime—  
 By humble growth of a hundred years,  
 It reaches its blooming time;  
 And then a wondrous bud at its crown  
 Breaks into a thousand flowers.  
 This floral queen, in its blooming scene,  
 Is the pride of the tropical bower;  
 But the plant to the flower is a sacrifice,  
 For it blooms but once, and in blooming dies.

Have you further heard of this aloe plant,  
 That grows in the sunny clime,  
 How every one of its thousand flowers,  
 As they drop in the blooming time,  
 Is an infant plant that fastens its roots  
 In the place where it falls on the ground,  
 And as fast as they drop from the dying stem  
 Grow lively and lovely around?  
 By dying it liveth a thousand-fold  
 In the young that spring from the death of the old.

Have you heard the tale of the pelican—  
 The Arabs "Ginel el Bahr"  
 That lives in African solitudes,  
 Where the birds that live lonely are?  
 Have you heard how it loves its tender young  
 And cares and toils for their good?  
 It brings them water from the mountains afar  
 And fishes the sea for their food;  
 In famine it feeds them—what love can devise!  
 The blood of its bosom, and feeding them dies.

Have you heard the tale they tell of the swan,  
 The graceful bird of the lake?  
 It noiselessly floats on the silvery wave,  
 It silently sits in no brake.  
 For it saves its song till the end of life,  
 And then in the soft, still even,  
 Midst the golden light of the setting sun,  
 It sings as it soars to heaven!  
 And the blessed notes fall back from the skies;  
 'Tis its only song, for in singing it dies.

You have heard those tales; shall I tell you one,  
 A greater and better than all?  
 Have you heard of Him whom the heavens adore,  
 Before whom the hosts of them fall?  
 How He left the choirs and anthems above  
 For earth in its wallings and woes,  
 To suffer the shame and pain of the cross  
 And die for the life of His foes?  
 Oh, Prince of the Noble! Oh, Sufferer Divine!  
 What sorrow and sacrifice is equal to Thine?

## LEAGUE OF THE CROSS.

The following is President Duffy's speech at the annual meeting of the League of the Cross:

To the Officers and Members of the League of the Cross.

GENTLEMEN—I congratulate you on the prosperous condition of our sodality at this the close of our first year. If the past year is any criterion for the future, then the triumph of the great cause of Temperance is assured at least in St. Paul's parish.

Our sodality was organized on July 24th, 1892, by our first Spiritual Director, Rev. Father Minahan.

At our first organized meeting our numbers were about sixteen, officers and members all told. Our membership at the present time, according to our Secretary's book, is one hundred and eighty. Our constitution provides that we shall hold meetings once a month, with special meetings at the wish of the Rev. Director. Acting on the advice our then Director, it was decided to hold meetings once a week. During the year we have had fifty meetings; our meetings were held on every Sunday, for the year, with the exception of two—those two exceptions being Christmas Day and Easter Sunday. I, as President of the Society, have had the honor of presiding at forty-eight of the fifty meetings. We have attended Holy Communion in a body three different times, viz: the last Sunday in October, the last Sunday in January, and the last Sunday in April. We will also attend on the first Sunday in August, thus satisfying the requirements of the Constitution, which provides for attending Holy Communion four times a year. Medals were bestowed on members twice during the year. On each occasion the members attended St. Paul's Church in a body. The Society also turned out in a body on three other occasions, viz: the visit of the Rev. Father Ryan, of his Grace the Archbishop, and Rev. Dr. Barry of London, England.

The members of the Sodality have been untiring in their efforts to devise

means for the advancement of the good work in which we are engaged. Notably amongst these was the formation of a Zelator's Committee. The parish has been divided into twelve districts, and two Zelators appointed to each district. The object of this committee is to look after absent members and induce new members to join the Society. The committee has been productive of much good, and we hope to see it resume its good work immediately after the warm weather. Another good work was the formation of a choir, to sing Litanies and other sacred music. The choir, under the able leadership of our Secretary, has made rapid progress during the short time it has been organized. We hope also to see them resume practice immediately after the warm weather. Nothing can be more edifying than to see our young men spending their evenings in such Christian-like exercises.

It is more in accordance with the teachings of our religion than lounging in pool rooms or getting off the latest slang on our street corners. We would therefore invite our young men, as soon as the choir resumes practice, to come forward and give all the assistance in their power.

Another good work was the formation of a labor bureau. A committee was appointed to have the names of all members of the Society out of employment registered, and to procure the names of all the employers of labor in the city; so that now we are enabled to recommend to such employers sober and reliable men. All these ways and means for promoting our interests we sincerely hope will have a beneficial effect on our future.

On the 4th of June the Catholic Temperance Union of America held a convention in Chicago, to which they kindly invited us to send a delegate. The Society elected W. H. Cahill to be our delegate. That he ably attended to the interests of the League of the Cross is best attested by the fact that, from being an obscure local Society, our name has become well known all over the United States and Canada, wherever a Catholic Temperance organization exists. Mr. Cahill also agreeably surprised us by bringing with him to Toronto the learned Dr. Barry of London, England, who delivered an able lecture to the members of the Society. We have also received an invitation to send a delegate to the Catholic Temperance Convention to be held at Springfield, O., in August. We have accepted the invitation, and appointed our Rev. Director to be our delegates.

We have also received a kind invitation from Mr. Ray, Secretary of the Royal Templars, to send speakers to the Camp of the Royal Templars to be held at Centre Island in August. We have accepted the invitation and have appointed Mr. Cahill, Mr. Moran and myself to represent the League.

Such is a brief and imperfect resume of the work done for the year. Now, the great and all-important question is: have our efforts been productive of good? Have we accomplished anything? for if not, then our efforts will be unavailing. We will have failed to fulfill the aim for which we were established. But I claim we have done good. Our efforts have not been barren of fruit; we have fully justified the expectations of our founder, for it is not by numbers alone, or by public display, we can judge of the good work we have done. If we have but reclaimed one fellow-being we have done a good work. If we have saved one soul from being eternally lost we have done a good work. If we have been the means of making one home happy, we have done good work; and I think there are those among us who will say that their homes are happier, their wives and children better fed and better glad, since they became members of the Sodality—and I ask of such to be as steadfast in the future

as they have been in the past year. Resist the temptations that may come in your way; pay no attention to those who, with oily tongues, would turn you from the path you have marked out for yourselves. Some of their are who may scoff at you for being total abstainers, but that is their only argument; they cannot deny but that you are right. Remember that your own welfare and that of your family is more to be sought after than the good opinion of any hotel or saloon-keeper. A man's greatest happiness consists in the knowledge that he has done his duty. If you continue to do your duty as a member of the League of the Cross, living up to its rules, and fulfilling its obligations, you will find that you will be better off in the years that are to come.

Before closing I must not omit to mention the kind interest taken in our Sodality by our Rev. Director. If our members have increased rapidly it is in a great measure due to the zeal he has displayed in bringing the cause of temperance before his congregation, and impressing on them the advantages of being members of the League of the Cross.

I am sure I but express the heartfelt wish of every member present, that he may be long spared to guide and direct us. He will always find the members of the Sodality ever ready to aid him in any work he may undertake for the benefit of his people.

## August Lilies.

The month of August, with its gardens of flowers, gives us its love in the White Lily, emblem of Purity, and the Church gives to August the devotion towards the Immaculate Heart of Mary, whose life, like the Lily which belongs to her Eastern home, breathes that richest of incense which comes from the virtue of purity. Is there not a divine order in the Passion flower which in July tells of the Precious Blood, preceding the Lily which in August symbolizes the Immaculate Heart of Mary who was the first to receive the abundance of Redemption from Him who was to be her Son? A bunch of lilies, then, for our Queen Mother! Find them in the sweet titles which tell of the affection of that pure Heart in which God found the virtues which merited for her the dignity of Mother of God.

"Lily of hope!" O, Mother of holy hope, how sweet Thy name to the despairing sinners! Sin depresses the heart, the cross seems afar off and man's unworthiness and ingratitude hinder him from expecting mercy, Mary, the Mother, like a bright star of hope appears, the cloud is dispelled and the cross is brought into man's life. How often has this star of hope shed its beams on sinful hearts and brought to them the sweet rays of mercy from the Heart of Jesus.

"Lily of Help!" We love to call our Mother Mary, Help of Christians. From the cross of Calvary, Christ gave her the motherhood of man that she might be to men and aid in the battle against all that is not God and might bring Him into their lives. Her Heart is filled with the love of the Heart of Jesus that she may be our help in trial and temptation, our strength in reaching to Jesus.

"Lily of Refuge!" "Refuge of sinners" is Mary's cherished title. When sin threatens with death eternal, when the Father's house is closed against his erring children, the Mother's Heart still beats for them. The mother's loving pleading stays the Father's angry hand and wins the child back to favor and pardon. How many have been sheltered by the loving Heart of Mary, who is proud to be called on as the Refuge of sinners. O Lily of Israel! O Lily among thorns! This bunch of lilies, we lay at thy feet; they bid us be pure like Thee.—Rev. T. J. Conaty, D. D., in *Catholic School and Home Magazine*.

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