

ed the old lady down, and soon the whole family, in tears, stood clinging together before the blazing edifice which had been for so many centuries the happy home of their ancestors.

The Count and his wife, though intensely thankful to find all their loved ones safe, were in despair at the loss, not only of their beautiful and historical chateau, which was very poorly insured, but of all the heirlooms and art treasures it contained. They were, in fact, witnessing the destruction of the greater part of their own and their children's fortune. The Count had managed to save most of the important papers, the Countess and her maid between them had rescued the family diamonds and lace, worth many thousands, and some of the members of the household had contrived to carry out a few of the most valuable pictures and tapestries, but the rest was now past all hope, for the whole place was a mass of flames. It must have been on fire for a considerable time before laborers from the village, seeing the flames from afar, had rushed up to give the alarm.

Meanwhile Jeannette as soon as she was out of the house and had been embraced by her parents in the joy of mutual safety, had slipped away unobserved to see if the chapel was safe. No ! the roof was on fire and the flames from it seemed to reach sky-high ! Should she run back to call for help ? That would cause delay, and she felt that they would probably say it was too late to enter the burning building. Yet the Blessed Sacrament must be save !

Throwing her cloak over her head, she dashed into the chapel, felt her way through the blinding smoke to the sacristy door, which happened to be open and tried to find the key of the tabernacle. For a few seconds she searched in vain, and the roaring of the flames sent such a terrible dread to her heart that she was almost tempted to run away. But to leave her dear Jesus there in the tabernacle. No ! never ! if need be she would die there at His feet.

With a fervent prayer of " Jesus ! Mary ! help me ! " she groped again, found the key, and, hastening to the tabernacle, seized the ciborium, and felt all around to be sure she was leaving nothing.