Cecelia in the meantime sat think.

ing, not altogether of herself and the

disappointment her mother's words

and the intention for which she had

prayed for years. Her mother had,

after giving her a hint, thought that

Cecelia was positive she knew.

during her aunt's illness had

trayed all, and she knew that he

those prayers. She would liked to

have gone to her aunt and talked

the matter over with her, but con-

sidered silence the most prudent until

With slow footsteps that betoken-

the grotto, and kneeling where she

had ever been accustomed to carry

very secret sorrow, she prayed ear-

nestly for a long time. When she

her heart was light and

half smile illuminated her face, for

her Heavenly Mother had, as it were,

breathed words of sweet consolation

and hope in her ears. She believed

herself to be unobserved, but ever

window, and in the change which

Cecelia's explanations had wrought

in her heart, she would gladly have

knelt at her side, but the pride, stub

born price, still prevaled, and she

thing. It was a lost grace which

would not be seen doing such

the poor woman lived to regret.

CHAPTER XV.

To the human heart there are few

things more terrifying than the

ound of the fire alarm, especially

when it breaks upon our slumbers in

the stillness of the micnight hour,

and we awake to find the horizon lit

It was early in the autumn follow-

ing the events of the preceding chap-

ad been spending several weeks with

home, the beauty and charming

for

relatives in a distant city. Here, as

er many ardent aomirers of both

tes, and grandmother, whose one

darling admired and happily settled

in life, had purposely extended her

visit much longer than was at first

aticipated. But Cecelia, with the

old as stone, had failed to be touch

d by any of the flatteries she had

deeply buried in a supernatural love and what was often believed to be

iness on her part was , rather s

sort of secret communion with un-

The house where they were visiting

was in one of the prettiest and most

hickly populated parts of the city.

It was a one-story red brick struc

Pithers. The rear of those buildings

were almost at the edge of the cliff,

thich had turned a few rods in front

ling heroine would often stroll out

et, for only one large building, a

rch property, was there to ob-

ning how soon her desire would

gratified. Then she would return

the way, never

ats below. At the rear of and the pleasant homes, on , the

was out of

Here Cecelia had at-

the

n spirits.

Her young heart was too

earance of one whose heart is as

nners of the girl had won

great object in life was to see

er, and Cecelia and her grandmoth

ntly thousands of times larger

up by a lurid glare brighter

than the midday sun.

watchful grandmother was at

a burdened mind she went out to

she might be told alr.

Uncle Charlie was the object of

r secret was hidden from her, but

had conveyed,

But of Aunt Nellie

The

the

BY MARY ROWENA COTTER.

soty Deroctory

AY, JUNE 18, 1904.

RICK'S SOCIETY. -Estab farch 6th, 1856, incorpor. 63, revised 1846. Meets in. rick's Hall, 92 St. Alexan. est, first Monday of Committee meets last Wed Officers: Rev. Director, Callaghan, P.P.; President, r. Justice C. J. Doherty , F. E. Devlin, M.D.; 2nd J. Curran, B.C.L.; Treasank J. Green; correspondcretary, J. Kahala; Secretary, T. P. Tansey.

RICK'S T. A. AND B. SO. Meets on the second Sunvery month in St. Patrick's St. Alexander etreet, at Committee of Manage ests in same hall on the esday of every month at 8 ev. Director, Rev. Jas. Kilresident, W. P. Doyle; Rec. no. P. Gunning, 716 St. e street, St. Henri

S T. A. & B. SOCIETY. ed 1863. -Rev. Director ther McPhail; President, D. M.P.; Sec., J. F. Quinn, . Dominique street; M. J. reasurer, 18 St. Augustin Meets on the second Sunevery month, in St. Ann's rner Young and Ottawa at 3.30 p.m.

S YOUNG MEN'S SOCIE anized 1885.—Meets in its 57 Ottawa street, on the unday of each month, at Spiritual Adviser, Rev. Flynn, C.SS.R.; President, nan; Treasurer, Thomas l; Rec.-Sec., Robt. J. Hart,

OF CANADA, BRANCH ganized 13th November, ranch 26 meets at Hall, 92 St. Alexander every Monday of each The regular meetings for saction of business are the 2nd and 4th Mondays nonth, at 8 p.m. Spiritual Rev. M. Callaghan; Chan-J. Darcy; President, W. Recording Secretary, P. C. 139 Visitation street Secretary, Jas. J. Cos 25 St. Urbain street; Trea. H. Kelly; Medical Adviser J. Harrison, E. J. O'Con-Q. H. Merrill

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On the evening in question the d all were soon in sound sumiper. t glare in the heavens. Brought pite her keen mental and physical dis-she had been in a large city, tress, Mrs. Daton followed svery

CHAPTER XIV .- Continped.

> gown, she went to the window to watch. "No danger here," she thought, "for it is too far away; but it must be a terrible fire, and in the poor part of the city, too. God protect

impulse was to again seek slumber

but her eyes were again attracted by

the flames, which seemed to be spread

ing rapidly. Slipping on a loos

fragments of conversation overheard any one who may be turned out of their homes this night." Could it be possible! The conflagration appeared now to be quickly advancing toward their part of the city, and she hastened to awaken her grandmother and the family, not that she had any strong fears, but she felt safer in the knowledge that she was not the only one awake in the house. Her warning seemed none too soon, for almost before she was aware of it the devouring demon had reached the valley below them, and they seemed to be doomed. In fright the family rushed from house, Mrs. Daton clinging to Cecelia as her only protector, and scarcely heeding the panic-stricken crowd them. Not far from the around house stood a carriage in were two nuns, and the proud woman who in times of safety would not have deigned to recognize a Catholic religious, whispered to Cecelia to ask them to transport herself and the girl to a place of safety, adding they would be well paid. The mark was overheard by one of the Auns, but at the same instant she saw a young woman in the garb of the Salvation Army vainly trying to

> ren into the carriage and sent them away, while they themselves started away on foot. Mrs. Daton greatly amazed, but Cecelia only miled admiringly upon the noble deed of charity. Cecelia glanced back at the house they had just vacated and saw long tongues of flame leaping furiously in and out through the porch and tween the fluted pillars, a terrible warning that in a few minutes the pretty residence would share

protect four small, half-clad children

who clung piteously to her skirts.
Without a moment's hesitation the

nuns hurried the woman and child-

ther also saw the apparently resistless march of the flames, and , was almost overcome by fear. "Cecelia, what shall we do?" she tremblingly asked.

fate of many others. Her grandmo-

"To the Church," the girl firmly answered. "Come grandma, do not hesitate.

"Child, have you gone mad entirely? If we go in there we shall surely perish. We can easily escape in the open air."

The great doors of the church had been flung wide open, and the people were already pouring in. Eagerly grasping the trembling hand of grandmother, Cecelia urged her on. She seemed to lose all control of herself until they had reached the entrance.

"Don't, Cecelia, please don't," the was a one-story red brick struc-ture, with a long veranda in front, and stood at the brow of a small tody cliff. Below, as well as on the level, were several pretty houses, and at the opposite side of the street a short distance away, stood the church and house of the Dominican pleaded the frightened woman. "Can you not see that the church is in a direct line of the fire, and we are

"Come grandma, do not fear, for

ch and home of the Dominican Him." There was no time for argument now. Inwardly Mrs. Daton called herself a fool as she followed her grandchild, but she felt that ded Mass daily, and many a hap- to her without Cecelia would not be w helf hour had been spent before the altar. On pleasant mornings our worth living, and if Cecelia, even through her own foolishness, die, she would die with her. to watch for the first sign of life way down to the altar she allowed Halt herself to be led, then while Cecelia knelt in fervent prayer she sat th the landscape was the pretti- right and tried to nerve herself meet a certain and terrible fate. She rkshop, not connected with the felt at first that she must certainly faint away, but excitement kept her truct the view, and she orten wished up. Over and over again she called herself a fool to be thus led by young religious fanatic, as she now called Cecelia, but terror made her immovable.

ime to breakfast with her grander, who arose quite late. Seve-They had scarcely taken their place times Cecelia had expressed a dewhen the white-clad figure of a Dominican Father ascended the altar etty church with her, only to be et with a refusal, for grandma had steps. In one hand he carried the golden monstrance. Calmly and gone in an opposite direction.

reverently he opened the door of the Many who had retired to rest in desire to be seen in a Catholic tabernacle and took therefrom the peaceful homes the night before had Sacred Host. A few seconds later had retired a little past 10 the monstrance was raised to the niche above the tabernacle and the congregation were in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed. Des-

where fires were numerous, her first movement of the priest. Now she aright? In the dim morning light may surprise you. With the exception of one or two unimportant items asl. were kneeling, were kneeling, some with bowed heads, others with their eyes fixed upon the mysterious white object. Cecelia was among the latter. The light of the candles on the altar il-

lumined her face with a heavenly glow. Outside the flames were roaring furiously, with now and then the crash of a falling building; within the Church was heard only the sound of the grand organ and the voices of the congregation singing the "Miserere." Now the flames leaped up to the windows, filling the darker portions of the church with a lurid

glare, and threatening at any moment to ignite the edifice. For time it seemed that all must be lost, for human aid was now of no avail and those outside who had failed in courage or ability to enter the edifice looked on in terror, expecting to see hundreds of human beings buried in the smoking ruins.

Once Mrs. Daton thoroughly frightened, laid her hand on Cecelia's arm and said imploringry:

"Come, Cecelia, I wish you would leave this place while there is still a chance for our lives."

Cecelia's beautiful voice, which even in her own home had never sounded so sweet as now, ceased only for a minute. Grandma," she whispered, "can you

not see that God is protecting us? This will soon be over, and I know we shall be all saved. There was such perfect confider in her tone and manner that the

frightened woman's courage revived. In any event she was giad to with Cecelia and willing to share her fate.

After what seemed to many long hours of terror and suspense, one o the fathers again ascended the altar steps and announced the joyful tidings that the danger was passed; the fire had taken another course was rapidly being extinguished. He also announced that as it was most daybreak, a Mass of thanksgiving was to be offered, followed by the singing of the Te Deum.

Cecellia turned to her grandmothe and smiled. The woman's pride was conquered and she whispered softly "Child, you were right this time and I wish I had your faith."

"I wish so too, grandma. Now will you please do me the kindness to kneel during the Mass?

"Certainly, Cecelia, if it please you.' "No, grandma, not to please me

but to please Him who has saved us from a terrible death."

Conquered by the miracle she had beheld, Mrs. Daton bent her knees for the first time, and her attention during the Holy Sacrifice was divided between Cecelia and the priest at the altar. When it was over she stood with the others as they sung the hymn of thanksgiving, and, not know ing the words, she hummed the air. It was her first visit to a Catholic place of worship, and one not to be forgotten.

Away over in the eastern horizon the first red streaks of morning were just beginning to show themselves as the vast congregation emerged from night that was to leave an indelibl mark on the minds of all. It was a terrible sight that mef their gaze as the sun cast its first rays over the scene of devastation. The smoke laden air was stiffing, and in a nar- no reply. row line five miles in length might be seen masses of smouldering ruins, the homes of rich and poor alike were gone, and, strange to say, many stately buildings of stone and brick had been completely demolished, while other poor houses of wood had escaped untouched by the flames.

The fire had reached the very walls of the church, and where the shop had stood at the rear was only pile of burned timber and a stones, which before many weeks completely disappeared, leaving trace of where the building had once stood. As a strong proof that He her effort, and so enraptured who had been exposed on the altar she become in the occupation

not wherewith to go for shelter now, and Mrs. Daton and Cecelia believed theirs to be the same fate. They stood at the church door undecided what to do, when Cecelia took courses the might have done so. age to glance toward the house. Could it be possible that she saw

structure. Clasping her grandmother's hand she said:

"Come, grandma, let us thank God

we have a shelter to go to."

It was true, for the house, as well as several others in the vicinity the church, was virtually unharmed. Like the church, it had stood in a most dangerous place, and those who had witnessed the playing ,of the flames among the pillars greatly marvelled that it had been saved. The family, who had been accustomed to open their doors to only a select circle of friends, entertained strange company of guests during the next few days, for rich and alike came there to seek shelter until suitable quarters could be provided for them elsewhere. It had never seemed before that the house possibly hold so many. Mrs. Daton would have gone home by the first morning train, but Cecelia insisted on remaining a few days to assist the sufferers, and her grandmother would not leave her.

After a most successful tour the "Clintons," whose opera Cecelia had whose opera Cecelia had attended at home less than a year before, had returned to the East and were expected in the city three days after the fire. Their advent been eagerly looked forward to by the society people, but now it was feared they would meet with ill-success, until the announcement was made that the entire proceeds of the evening's entertainment was to be given for the benefit of the sufferers. The generous offer met with great applause, and hundreds of tickets were sold, not only in the city, but to people of wealth for miles around, some of whom paid fabulous prices so the Grand Opera House would be almost too small to hold the vast audience expected.

The troupe arrived in the city early in the morning, but there was great uneasinees among them on ac count of the sudden and severe illness of one of the leading ladies, whose voice would be greatly missed. Worst of all, there was no one who could take her part, and the manager was obliged to seek a substitute for the evening. Some one referred him to Cecelia Daton, and he called upon her in the forenoon, asking her she felt able to take the part, to which she firmly replied in the negative. Her rare beauty, and the ound of her sweet voice, made him eager to secure her services, and he lingered long, finally asking her to Her first impulse was sing for him. to refuse, but her grandmother, who had entered the room shortly before and was ever ready to show the talents of her favorite to strangers motioned her to obey. Cecelia dropped a child's garment on which she had been working and, taking her seat at the plano, sang a simple little ballad she had learned in school.

"Thank you, Miss Daton, allow me to compliment you on your fine voice," said the manager, and then tioning a difficult piece from his own opera, he asked her if she had ever heard it.

the church, where they had spent a it sung in Boston by a member of company last winter and admired it very much."

"Perhaps you have learned it and can sing it?" Cecelia colored slightly but made

"Yes, she sings it very well," proudly answered Mrs. Daton

vor, Miss Daton, to let me hear it?" "I have only learned it to sing for my own amusement at home, arcannot do justice to it."

ability. I assure you I will not lic and admired. criticize you unjustly."

A look from her grandmother commanded obedience, and, determined before were desolate now, and only to do her best, she returned to the one place gave her a welcome— the plano and put her whole soul in the words she sang. Success crowned would not forsake His own in the enjoyed more than anything else in the had turned and the world, that, forgetting for the with the exception of two or three abrupt corner at that point and had time that she was in the presence of a stranger, she sang song after song as he called for them. When at last she turned and saw the admiration on his face, she inwardly so reluctantly promised to do

tion of one or two unimportant items you have most beautifully rendered not only the part I wished you to take, but several others. The lady in whose place I am looking for a substitute could not have done bet-

ter. Mrs. Daton smiled proudly, but the color deepened on Cecelia's face and her eyes fell to studying the figures on the carpet.

For fully five minutes the manager sat in silence, for he had found prize which he was determined not to let slip through his fingers. Penetrating that veil of modest reserve, few acquaintances, none knew who he knew she would be a hard character to conquer. He admired her the more for it. At length he said:

"Where, may I ask, Miss Daton did you get your musical education?' She told him the name of the convent, to which he replied that the nuns were certainly deserving great credit and might justly proud of having sent forth so talented a graduate; then finally his conversation turned to the object of his call, and he asked her again to assist him that evening.

"I am sorry to disappoint but I cannot think of appearing be fore the public. I fear my parents would not like it."

"I see no reason why you should object, especially for so good a cause; but this lady here, your grandmother I understand, is your guardian at present, and she ought to be to speak in the name of your paronts."

Cecelia turned to her grandmother as for protection, but the lady replied:

"My granddaughter may do as she likes, but I see no reason why her parents should object to her giving her services for one evening for so worthy an object of charity."

"Would it be any great loss have that one place vacant?" asked Cecelia.

"Yes, a very great loss; it would spoil the entire programme, and we were seldom more anxious to have our opera a success. If you mise to take the part. I will you any price you may ask."

"Money is no object to me. I have plenty and would not sing for that, much less would I think of taking what should be given to those who are homeless to-day. I will sing just this once for charity, and that alone

"You are a noble woman," said the manager, as, after having completed a few necessary arrangements, he was about to depart.

"Grandma, have I done wrong?" Cecelia asked, when he was gone. "I am almost sorry I promised, and if you think it was not right, I shall send him a note in time to get some one else to take the part.'

"You will do no such thing, celia. I am only too proud of the honor conferred upon you. To be recognized by the Clintons is a great thing.'

"I know it, grandma, but I dread to appear in public, and among strangers, too, I almost wish I, had refused."

"Fear not, Cecelia, it is perfectly side. "Yes, sir," was the reply, "I heard proper and you should only be too happy to have so splendid an oppority of helping a work of charity. "You will accompany me, grand-

"Certainly, Cecelia, and I'll remain at your side every moment ex-

cepting when you appear on the York the purposes and advantages of stage.' "Would you please do me the fa- in perfect reassurance Cecelia put away her work and went out. Never Catholic interests all over the Unit-

her grandmother's underlying mo-tives consisted of only a proud am-"Perhaps you undervalue your own bition to see her put before the pub-The pleasant paths where the girl

had loved to stroll only a few days church, which still stood unharmed by the flames, and there she went, did as she had been accustomed when at home to go to the grotto when in devout persons who had dropped in for a visit, she was alone, alone to think of the great miracle she had witnessed, and of the work she had evening. She had been there half an hour or perhaps longer, when her devotions were interrupted by her sent she might have done so.

"Miss Daton," said the visitor, luncheon was awaiting, and she must "I have something to tall you which hurry so as to be ready to go to that

The manner in which Cecelia acquitted herself that evening betrayed only to the experienced theatre-goer the fact that she was an amateur. If the deep blush of embarrassment which had mantled her face when she had first confronted the vast audience was noticed, the melodious tones of her voice caused it to be soon forgotten, and the sight of her grandmother's smiling face in the box nearest the stage helped keep up her courage. She was happy in the belief that, with the exception of a she was, but the grateful manager would not have it remain thus.

Just before the close of the entertainment, in speaking a few words of thanks to those who had generously helped make the proceeds the largest ever realized in a single evening, he also took occasion to state that the success of the entertainment had been largely due to the kind assistance of Miss Cecelia Daton, one Boston's leading society ladies, who had taken the place of the prima donna, who was ill. Cecelia, having finished her part, had just taken her place in the box, and many eyes were turned upon her as hearty and deafening applause arose. She made an effort to draw back and hide herself behind the silken curtains, but she was prevented by her grandmother, who firmly held hand.

It was a moment of supreme triamph for Mrs. Daton, whose only regret was for the absence of Ce. celia's parents and Boston friends, but to Cecelia it was a moment of deep embarrassment, and she glad when it was all over.

To be Continued.)

Catholic Federation.

A preliminary meeting of representatives of Catholic societies in New York City-Manhattan and Bronz boroughs- to arrange for County Federation of Catholic Societies, was held recently at the Catholic Rectory under the presidency of Mgr. Mooney. Societies represented, among others, were the Catholic Benevolent Legion, Catholic Knights of America, Vincent de Paul Society, German Catholic Central Verein, Holy Name Societies, Ancient Order of Hibernians, and various clubs, sodalities, literary societies, already united in the Archdiocesan Union.

Delegates from some of these associations reported that their organizations wished federation, and the others all expressed a wish that there should be a public meeting, at which prominent representatives of the movement will express their views and set forth the advantages of the federation. Father Wynne spoke of its benefits, and it was decided to organize a meeting, at which His Grace Archbishop Farley will pre-

It is the intention of the committee to have representatives from the parishes of Manhattan and Bronx and from all the Catholic societies , without exception in the same te The meeting in question is intended

to place before the Catholic of New the American Federation of Catholic 'Grandma, you are so kind," and Societies, which has for its purpose the protection and advancement of for a moment did she suspect that ed States. The founders of the federa ation believe that united action by all Catholic societies upon the inter ests affecting the common welfare of all the Catholics of this country is an urgent necessity and the federation is laid down on the plan outlined by Leo XIII. in one of his encyclicals, in which he arges that the work of all Cathol,c societies their influence on behalf of the Catholic Church would be greatly augmented if all the societies, while the autonomy of each would be absolutely preserved, would act together under the intelligent direction of some central body, which itself would under the supervision of the Bishops.

THE OLD IDEA.

Russell Sage, 88 years old, worth 15 million dollars, writes in the In-dependent condemning what he calls "the injustice of vacations."