

## THE ROMANCE OF A JESUIT.

From the French of De Beugny d'Hagerne.

## CHAPTER V. (continued.)

Another result of these retreats is the recruiting of the Company's novitiates. Many young men only come in here, as Father de Keradec says, to pass a week in prayer and meditation, but nothing is left untried by the Fathers to gain these men as novices, specially if they be young, rich and belonging to an influential family. Although the young men may have an attraction to the army, to commerce, to law, &c., they are so skilfully handled by these Jesuits, who represent to them that the religious state, specially that of a member of the Order, presents the only means of fleeing from the dangers of the world and securing eternal happiness, that eventually they succumb and consent to all that is suggested to them. The unfortunate creatures enter the novitiate, pronounce the terrible vows and thus become mere things, mere obedient tools of Jesuitism.

Friday. My letter lengthens out terribly and I seek in vain for some means of sending it. Meanwhile, I am becoming a thorough Jesuit. I talk in the most edifying way of self-abnegation, sacrifice, humility, zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. I sometimes deceive even myself. Father de Keradec has just been explaining to me what are the necessary conditions of a good vocation, and it appears that the principal one is an attraction to the religious state. Now, it is very unfortunate, but I am altogether wanting in that qualification, though I have made great progress in lying, duplicity and many other Jesuitical qualities. I am no longer at all afraid of being found out, they are all of them well duped.

I have made a plan of the house and know the whole distribution of the premises, having profited by Father de Keradec's taking me all round the establishment. I now know all about the life I shall have to lead as a novice.

Saturday. Bad news. Father de Keradec has just announced to me that my probation is drawing to an end. To-morrow, he told me, I will give you the meditation on the Two Standards in which St. Ignatius looks on the world as a vast battle field. The Two Standards are those of Jesus Christ and of Lucifer. The Christian must choose under which standard he will place himself, and which captain he will obey. After the meditation on the Two Standards comes one on the Three Degrees and that is the meditation which will decide your vocation.

"But it is decided: I came here expressly in order to consecrate myself to God in your Company."

"I am pleased with your ardour, my son, but my duty is to moderate it. You must weigh well your own motives. You must scrutinize and thoroughly sift what considerations influenced your will and turned it one way rather than another, you must ask yourself whether these considerations are all sufficient to decide your choice, or whether others might not modify your decision; for you must have no fear, no doubt, no hesitation; in a word, you must have a moral certitude of never turning back."

"I must also warn you that if after making this meditation on the Three Degrees, you still persist in your decision of entering the novitiate you will have to put in writing the reasons which have determined your choice. This writing will be submitted to the Father Rector and another Father of the house, who will examine it and decide as to your admission."

"This idea of writing down my motives, makes me somewhat afraid, for the document will be thoroughly discussed. However, I think I can get over this difficulty, and the Father has explained to me all the little ceremonies that will precede and accompany my entry into the novitiate. Amongst other things I asked him what was to become of my little belongings that I have here with me."

You will receive a religious habit furnished by the house, and what belongs to you will be put away in the vestry to be given back to you, later, if you should renounce entering the religious state.

My thoughts immediately turned to the two volumes of Voltaire and some other equally heterodox books which are

locked up in my trunk; only fancy, if they were discovered! If there were a fire-place I might burn them, but there is none. And my letters, too, which I have not yet been able to send!

"I must manage to get out of my difficulties somehow."

Saturday Evening. I have made things right. The two wonderful meditations are made, or, at least, Father de Keradec believes they are made, which amounts to the same thing. I told him that they had produced a wonderful effect on me, that they had confirmed me in my resolutions and had also made me discover a number of fresh motives which had not struck me before.

I then told him that some of my father's affairs were still unsettled, and that, since my sister's interests might suffer thereby, I would like to return to Paris to see to them. I added that as soon as I had concluded my business I would return to St. Acheul to consecrate myself forever to the beloved Company.

The Father swallowed the bait and approved my plans, so I am to set out this evening.

How delightful to taste the fresh air once more and find one's self at liberty!

(To be Continued.)

## THE SIX DOLLAR CONTROVERSY.

The Anti Jesuit uproar, ushered in by a flourish of trumpets at the Evangelical Alliance Conference last Fall, and culminating in the Queen's Hall meeting, has dwindled down to a matter-of-fact dispute about dollars and cents. In furtherance of the Queen's Hall programme a series of public meetings was to be held in the churches of the pro gentlemen who had displayed most zeal in the agitation. The first took place last Monday in the American Presbyterian church and was reported in the morning press as "large, influential and enthusiastic." An enterprising evening journal, whose wont it is to gauge events by the dollar standard, undertook to submit the meeting to the test, reasoning after this fashion. "The best criterion of a large, influential and enthusiastic audience is the amount taken up at the collection. Now, the collection at the anti Jesuit meeting footed six dollars. Therefore it must have been large, influential and enthusiastic." The major proposition the journal in question laid down as self-evident, and in its present application at least nobody thought of gainsaying it. The minor it established by contriving to place a reporter over the collection plate as counter. It held the ground stubbornly in the face of all attacks. When it was objected that 65 dollars represented the proceeds, it parried the blow by a subtle distinction between the dollars laid on the plate in the collection, the sums superadded by zealous persons who came to the rescue during the singing of God Save the Queen, and donations promised. The journal in the end bent its adversaries from the field leaving on the public mind the impression that six dollars was about the just estimate of the number, influence and enthusiasm of the meeting.

Whatever breath of wind was left in the sails of the Alliance has been taken out by the action of the Protestant Education Committee in accepting from Mr. Mercier the sixty thousand dollars grant for the educational fund. The Committee is composed chiefly of Protestant clergymen and represents the responsible Protestant sentiment of the Province. By accepting the grant it has ratified the Jesuit Act. Mr. Mercier now has the kick on his side as well as the foreign potentate. He was shrewd enough to forecast that the money argument would stand by him in the end. The acceptance of the sixty thousand by the responsible representatives of the Protestant body means the sudden collapse of the agitation.

J. J.

The death of Mr. Allen Thorncliffe Rice, the editor of the *North American Review*, was very sad. Young, he was only thirty six years old, rich, he was worth a half million, ambitious, he studied for ten years by reading and travel to fit himself for a career, he died just before leaving St. Petersburg whither he had been sent by the government as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary. Evidently Providence does not dispose things with an eye to this world.