

E. de M.

BY THE REV. MATTHEW RUSSELL, S. J., AUTHOR OF "EMMANUEL."

"Child of Mary." Name of honor, Prouder far than kingly crown— God himself to win that title— From His heavenly throne came down. He the First-born Child of Mary— Chose us to His dearest treasure: Shares with us His dearest treasure: "Mother, 'twas for these I died."

THE TWO BRIDES.

BY REV. BERNARD O'HEILLY, L.D.

CHAPTER XXVII.

BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.

"What would we give to our beloved? The hero's heart to the delicate and sweet? The poet's startled harp, to sweep— The senate's shout, to patriot voices— The monarch's crown, to light the brows?— He giveth life to the beloved sleep."

"We must hope for the best, dear madam. And I think we are now justified in hoping confidently."

"Dr. Ambrose was saying to Mrs. Hutchinson some ten days after that on which the reader parted with her in Mr. Lancaster's."

"And youth, with the pure blood formed by life as he led, must offer a precious resource to medical skill," added Mr. Bingham.

"Ah, you know the dear boy from infancy," Mrs. Hutchinson said. "Whenever I saw him in his mother's arms I could not help thinking of the beautiful 'Madama and Child,' from Leonardo da Vinci, which we used to go to see at the Louvre, in Paris. Did not Mrs. D'Arcy remind you of the delicate and spiritual features, and of the sweet and modest melancholy eyes?" she asked of the priest.

"She was, in truth, an angelic woman," replied he.

"And she reared him as if he were a something divine, given her to love and to form," Mrs. Hutchinson said.

"You certainly had every opportunity of studying her methods of education," Mr. Bingham said.

"Yes," replied the lady; "though I was a strict Presbyterian and she so strict a Catholic, we and our children loved each other as if we were near and dear relatives, of the same blood and of the same faith."

"That is precisely how we all ought to live together. True Charity, surely, ought ever to go hand-in-hand with that true Religion," said the priest, with a smile.

"Ah, Dr. Ambrose, but all ministers are not like our friend, Mr. Bingham. He is so devoted to his own Church, and yet my husband and myself, and all our children, love him as dearly as if he were not the terrible papist he is."

"I fear," replied the doctor, "that if he does not make haste to return to Cincinnati, he will make a papist of me."

"Let us not get on this subject, my dear Doctor," Mr. Bingham said, blushing. "When can you hope to say that your patient is out of danger?"

"I think, if these remedies continue to produce their effect, that by this evening, or to-morrow morning, we can judge pretty surely of his chances of recovery. We have had to amputate all but the thumb and forefinger of his left hand, and the right arm was dreadfully shattered, and then the face, disfigured, and several minute fragments of shell were lodged in the cheek and neck. It was altogether a most complicated case. And as you say, nothing could have saved him but his youth, his splendid constitution, and the perfect purity of his blood, unimpaired by vice or excess of any kind."

"He was the finest youth I ever looked upon," said Mr. Bingham. "And if he is only recovered, I know he will be still, though maimed and disfigured, one of the truest men to be found in the country."

"Even though he continues to be a rebel?" inquired the Doctor, laughing.

"He did not think it was rebellion," said the priest. "Before the war began, his grandfather wrote to me in great affliction of spirit. Gaston, he said, during his law-studies, had become deeply imbued with the notion that the doctrine of States Right was the true constitutional doctrine, and could not see the wrong of secession when the federal compact had been openly violated. I had just returned from Europe, and was overwhelmed with business, so that I deferred an elaborate answer to Mr. D'Arcy. The family meanwhile were broken up, and obliged to take refuge with their relatives in South Carolina. Circumstances did the rest. I did not believe that any of Mr. D'Arcy's children would knowingly and deliberately do wrong under any force of temptation—so strong in their souls is the sense of duty towards God."

"What were you saying about Gaston?" said a low voice at Mr. Bingham's elbow as the speaker laid her hand softly on the old gentleman's arm.

"Ah, Miss Lucy," said he, "you would not hear your friend's brother ill-spoken of. We were saying all that is good of him, as you may well imagine."

"Yes," she answered; "I know you could say nothing else. Only I thought you might be blaming him for being a rebel. But you know, too, dear Mr. Bingham," she continued, "that Gaston was also a brother to me."

"And you have done a true sister's duty by him," said the priest. "How much Rose will love and bless you and your mother, for your devotion!"

"Oh, I don't want the thanks," said the girl. "But I do want her love; and I know I shall have it."

"A Sister of Charity from

Ennabitzburg, who had taken Lucy's place by the sick-bed, appeared suddenly in the doorway, and requested the Doctor and Mr. Bingham to come at once to the patient. He had just awakened from a sweet sleep of several hours' duration, and seemed to be no longer delirious. In a moment Lucy, without waiting for the others, was by the sufferer's side, having glided into the room as softly as a sunbeam. She bent over the bandaged face and the sightless eyes, as if she could read in every one of the loved lineaments what was passing in his soul.

"Dear Gaston," she said, in a low, distinct voice, "are you better? I do not wish to speak," she continued, "if you would only hurt your jaw. Squeeze my hand; it is that of Lucy." And he did press it, while indistinct murmurs came from the maimed mouth.

"Oh, thank God!" exclaimed the enraptured girl, falling on her knees. "Oh, Doctor, he knows me!"

"Gently, prudently!" said Dr. Ambrose, approaching his patient, and scrutinizing the countenance imparted to his own.

"You are decidedly better," he continued, "bringing his mouth close to Gaston's ear, 'but we must keep very quiet,'—with a shake of the head and a look at Lucy. 'You will soon be able to use your tongue, if we can only keep down the inflammation. Does it tire you to have me talk to you? No! Well, but there must not be too much talking yet awhile. You are here with your good friends Mrs. Hutchinson and her daughter, so you are in good hands. And, besides, there is a good Sister of Charity, who comes to help the doctor and your kind nurses. And here is also a dear old friend from Cincinnati, Mr. Bingham, come all the way to see you, and I verily believe he has brought 'healing on his wings.' So now be happy. You must sleep as much as we can make you, and leave the rest to God."

At Mr. Bingham's name, the poor sufferer made an effort as if he would rise, while the disfigured features seemed to beam with a new light.

"Gaston, my dear boy," said the priest, "do not stir, nor let this excite you. I shall remain with you till you are entirely out of danger. So now be very calm. God has been good to you, my own brave boy. And I shall give you further good news from home to-morrow, when you are more rested than at present. With all my heart, I bless you!" he whispered to him. "And now put yourself wholly into God's hands."

By this time Mrs. Lancaster and her daughter had entered the room, and shared in the common delight at the change in Gaston's condition. So it was a very happy household that night, in spite of the multitude of sufferers to be found on every side, and in spite of the echoes of war which still came feebly from across the Potomac, like the last muttering of the thunder, as the storm passes away beyond the distant mountains.

"I must avoid you, Lucy," said Mrs. Hutchinson, as soon as she found herself alone with her daughter. "I shall see you to-morrow."

"For what? How can you ask such a question? Are you not conscious of the impropriety and the imprudence of showing so openly, and before strangers, your love for Gaston D'Arcy? Going down on your knees by his bedside to thank God that he was better?"

"Oh, mamma, you are cruel. Surely, after having watched him for ten days and nights in his dreadful sufferings—even if he had been an utter stranger—I should have done a thing that was quite natural, in so thanking God for this favorable change."

"But, my dear, everybody in the house knows that Gaston is not a stranger."

"Just so, mamma. You have said, time and again, that he was dear to you as an own son, and so has papa, for that matter."

"But no young lady can say, or even show by her actions, that a young gentleman is as dear to her as if he were an own brother."

"Have we not been brought up together, mamma? Has not Gaston, being several years my elder, shown me, when I was a sickly, helpless child, the tender care that my own brother never once cared to show me? Do I not owe to Rose and Gaston, after you and dear papa, my recovery from worse than mortal disease, and all the happiness I have ever known?"

"Very true, dear, but you are no longer a child, and Gaston has long since ceased to pet and caress you, as when he used to carry you about in his arms."

"But I have not ceased to love him for all his goodness, all his nobleness."

"Do you not see the impropriety of speaking of such love before strangers, or of showing it so openly?"

"Oh, mamma, if Gaston were only what we saw him at Fairy Dell, the handsome, graceful, accomplished gentleman whom everybody, young and old, admired and loved, I should be now more reserved than I was then. But to see him crushed and maimed, and lying unconscious at death's door for weeks and among strangers, how could you, and how could I, help showing all helping sympathy and love to our dear Rose's brother? Oh, to remember what we saw him, and to see him now, the sad wreck that he is!"

And the generous girl burst into tears.

"I did not wish to distress you, darling," her mother said, as she embraced the really distressed Lucy. "I only wanted to make you more prudent, and thus prevent uncharitable comment."

"Mamma," said Lucy, with a flash of the old impetuosity, "I had not thought of love as you mean it, in watching over Gaston. Had my own brother been to me, since I was a child, everything that Gaston was, how lovingly I had watched by his sick-bed, if wounded and maimed like this! I only did for Gaston D'Arcy in his need what I should have done for Frank Hutchinson. In what am I to blame?"

"In nothing, dear; only in showing him openly a sisterly interest which others will mistake for the love of a maiden for the man of her choice."

Lucy paused a moment, with her head on her mother's shoulder. "Mamma," she said, suddenly, "I should have died before betraying voluntarily my affection for Gaston D'Arcy, were he still treading his own lawn at Fairy Dell, the comeliest man between the Blue Ridge and the Smoky Mountains. Now that he is only a wreck, I love him a thousand times more. Oh, mamma, how have you

forced me to say this, even to you?" And she again burst into a more violent fit of weeping.

Mrs. Hutchinson allowed the tears to flow. She had not hitherto thought seriously of the childish admiration of Lucy for Gaston D'Arcy. But Lucy was now sixteen, and the sickly little girl had become a tall and most beautiful maiden. Then, again, the sudden meeting of Lucy with Gaston on the verge of the battlefield, with all his young manhood's glory forever, could not create in Mrs. Hutchinson's mind any fear of seeing her daughter's girlish friendship for the handsome youth suddenly ripen in devoted affection for the maimed and disfigured soldier. She was, therefore, startled by Lucy's confession of love. Still, she was too much of a woman to see much of a true woman—not to admit her child's generosity. Whatever the reader may think of the writer's lack of romance, truth will have it that this true-hearted mother, after listening to her child's avowal, only pressed the latter to her heart more fondly and lavished on her the sweetest, tenderest praises Mrs. Hutchinson particularly, whose praises Mrs. Hutchinson had never ceased to sound from the beginning. Mr. Bingham's arrival, and the history he gave of the D'Arcy family, raised Dr. Ambrose's interest in the Carolina friends—in Gaston particularly, whose praises Mrs. Hutchinson had never ceased to sound from the beginning. Mr. Bingham's arrival, and the history he gave of the D'Arcy family, raised Dr. Ambrose's interest to the highest pitch.

So he devoted to the young Confederate every hour he could spare from his other patients, and applied all his ripe skill to hasten a cure which he now deemed certain.

The bones of the shattered arm were soon firmly set, and Gaston could move it gently. The maimed hand also began to show signs of healing, and the sad wounds in the face yielded, by the aid of the physician's art and the admiring nursing that seconded the efforts. The fracture in the jaw-bone also, though giving the Doctor much fear and trouble, was in a fair way, and the inflammation of the tongue and mouth subsided so as to enable the sufferer to swallow a greater quantity of nourishment. Of the left eye there was no hope whatever. It required the utmost medical skill to preserve it from fatal inflammation. The right eye was sightless, and presented only a lump of raw flesh. Still, the tenacious sufferer to swallow a greater quantity of nourishment. Of the left eye there was no hope whatever. It required the utmost medical skill to preserve it from fatal inflammation. The right eye was sightless, and presented only a lump of raw flesh. 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