6

#### THE COMING OF THE SWALLOWS.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE.

tre of the swallows activity. Here they held consultations; here they rethey. lated the history of their wanderings, of their exploits by land and sea.

of their exploits by land and sea. So at least Owneen thought. For each night, after the swallows had re-tired to rest, he entertained his as-tonished mother with vivid descrip-tions of strange lands, and of the people who inhabited them. One day the parish priest paid a visit to the cottage. After the usual ealutations, he asked: "Where is Owneen today, and how is he keeping these times?" "He is in his usual place on the rooff," answered she mother. "He has been growing weaker in health and

"He is in his usual place on the rooff," answered she mother. "He has been growing weaker in health and paler in appearance for some months past, but for the last week or so he seems to be improving. There is a nice, bright color in his cheeks, which I have mover sent there before." The priest glanced sharply at her,

but he saw that she had no suspicion of the real state of things. Her great affection was blinding her to the truth. He, too, had noticed the tell tale blushes, but he was not deceived. He knew that these bectic spots were the danger signals of an advanced stage of

pulmonary decay. After saving good bye to the widow, the priest went to interview her boy. He found him on the top of the great The found nim on die top of a staten-boulder, listening with absorbed atten-tion to the twittering of the birds. "Well, my boy." he said, " are you dreaming, as usual?" "No, Father; I am talking to the

swallow And what do the swallows say to

"Oh, they tell me such beautiful you ? stories. Do you see that little bird that skimmed past us just now? She is the cloverest story teller of the lot. Last year she made her nest in the ivy just over my bedroom window, and she has laid her eggs there again this year. She has another nest in the outhern World thousands and thousands of miles away. What a strange thing to have two homes in places so far apart 1"

And in what country has she the other home ?'

I see it now, when I close my eyes. It is a wild, wild country. There are no trees, no hills, or mountains, or valleys. It is all covered with sand-sand, sand everywhere. Here and there are little green spots like islands in the middle of the ocean. On one of these I see a huge rock, as if it been stricken by lightning. In crevice there is a nest. It is the h In the in the Great Southern World, of this little swallow." Thus did the boy ramble on, weav

ing airy webs from his imagination, until the night fell, and the priest departed for home. " Poor mother ! Happy child !" was

his only comment as he walked away

from the widow's cottage. Summer had melted into autumn, and as the last days of August were ching the swallows began to approaching the swallows began to departure.

As the time drew near, a great change became visible in the child. His health grew still feebler, and his Fits meath grew still beoler, and his countenance assumed a fixed expres-sion of melancholy. He seldom spoke, and every night, when he kissed his mother, there were great tears in his

eyes. One evening, before going to bed, he said ;

Call me early in the morning, darling mother. The swallows will be leaving to-morrow, and I must be awake to bid them good-bye. But I Sennot stay behind them long. I must follow them to the great land where the sun is shining always. They are ever whispering in my ear, ' Come with us. Come with us to the Great Southern World.' "

"The swallows have come and gone bourne, Australia.

#### FIVE-MINUTE SERMON.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost. FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN.

To-day, my brethren, is Our Lady's birthday. She who is the type of all unfading beauty was this day born into unfading beauty was this day born into our ugly world nearly two thousand years ago. May God be praised for ever! and may every soul alive feel some deeper stirrings of heavenly joy this day which made glad the bright company of the angels and told of the approach of man's salvation! Her birth meant the birth of Him Who is the first-horn of all the regenerate. and S. received a letter from an unknown S. received a letter from an unknown hand. It was written from 14 Rue Cadet, Paris; and under the illegible signature were the words, "Secretaire aux Affaires Gouvernementales." It merely requested the Captain to call at the foregoing address on a certain day. Captain S. had spent the best years of the first-born of all the regenerate, and his life in distant lands. The words "14 Rue Cadet " conveyed no special meaning to bis mind; and the lines ac in Whom all the elect are born again unto newness of life, Our Lady herself being the noble queen of men that she is by reason of her Son's foreseen companying the signature made him think that he was summoned to one of merits.

In the government offices on the subject of his future post. On the appointed day, therefore, he rang at the house, which, as the Grand Orient, is the well-known central lodge It seems to me that we should say a prayer for the Jewish people on this day: "Let thy dwelling be in Jacob day: "Let thy dwelling be in Jacob and thy inheritance in Israel, and take root in my elect " are words applied to Our Lady by the Church in her offices. Mere worldly honor, my bre hren, whether of wealth or family, is by spr of the French Freemasons — a fact of which Captain S. was totally ignorant. He owned to us that the aspect of the house struck him as somewhat strange; "but," he added, "I have lived so much in foreign parts that these things whether of weath or family, is 0 spin-itial writers of assed among the varities of this 1 fe. But the children of Israel were a chosen people and the house o David a royal family, and both in a sense far above what man can give. If do not impress me as they would a Par-isian." A soft-voiced, courteous gentleman received him, and began by I am the son of a rich man I may still warmly congratulating him upon the distinguished services he had rendered die a pauper, and if the son of a freat man I may still be a mea enough little wretch or even an idiot. But to be of to his country-services which the gov-ernment was about to reward as they deserved. This flow of compliments the blood kindred of Jesus Christ is a very different sort of aristocracy, and from a stranger somewhat astonished the gallant soldier, and, as he listened, is the unique honor of the Jewish people -an honor not quite forfeited, let us he wondered vaguely to what his host hope, even by their apostasy and their wss leading. "Yes," continued the latter, "we nope, even by their apostasy and their many a 'ditional crimes. Our Lady was, and is, a Jewess: "I took root in an honorable people—I was established in Sion." It seems to me that our very first thought on a day of hers like this, sincerely report that a distinguished military man like yourself should be ap-pointed to so good a post. No doubt you fully deserve it ; but nevertheless, it is proof that the Government wishes should be a prayer that she may hasten the time when her kindred according to to favor you. And you, on your side will, we feel sure, be glad to give the Government a proof of your allegiance. Your appointment will be officially an-nounced to the public next Tuesday. the flesh may rend the veil which covers their faces and their hearts, and come to her Son and to her, and to the true religion, the holy Catholic Church. "The loss of them," says St. Paul, " is the reconciliation of the world; what nounced to the public next Tuesday You may henceforth consider it as a country. Only we want you to be-come one of us, and to give us your ad hesion to - day. It is only fair that the Government should demand a spec-ial mark of fidelity from those whom it shall the receiving of them be but life from the dead?" Surely for no cause would Mary of Nazareth plead with her Son more gladiy than for that gr at,

strange and everlasting race to which appoints to posts of some importance. she belongs herself. Another peculiarly fitting prayer th's "To become one of you !" exclaimed Captain S. "What do you mean? day and during its cetave is for the female sex. The Mother of Jesus is the Who are you ?" "Surely you know that you are now at the Grand Orient?" was the reglory of the entire race, but she is the woman of history and of revelation. From her and on account of her comes all the dignity of her sex. "I am the Mother of fair love, and of fear, and o. by. 'I know nothing of the sort,'' was the soldier's answer. ''I came here knowing nothing of what was required knowledge, and of holy hope," are the words the Church speaks for her in her office, using those words of the Wise Man. And indeed Lye and fear and knowledge and hope, t. gether with all the other beneficent forces of nature "the case is simple enough. You are at the Grand Ocient, and we want you to become a Freemason—" "Never ! I have never belonged to a secret society, and will not do so now." and grace, are in the custody of woman. Who aught you about Christ and para dise? Your mother. The mother of the family is the original and directly-We ask for your adhesion, your name-that is all. Surely there is nothing in appointed vicar of God n this world. what we propose that can wound your feelings. We ask simply this: that you become a member of our brotherhood. What form of error so miserable as that which has so totally failed to convince The Government requires this proof of your devotion to its interests ; and you men that the true religion can exist without a great moth r? What city of refoge so sweet to the pancing fugitive from divine justice as the bosom of that

THE CATHOLIC RECORD. "I understand perfectly," he said ; 'and again I distinctly refuse to be

tege's claims when, a few months ago, the latter decided to retire from active service. No objection was raised to the officer's demands; on the contrary, the justice of his claims and the value "" We will no take you at your word." "We will no take you at your word." they replied. "Think the matter over, and on Monday you will, we feel sure, give us another answer. We shall ex the justice of his claims and the value of his past services were fully recog-nized by the Government, and in due course of time he was promised the im-portant poet of curator of the Chateau of Compiegne — a post that brings with it a comfortable salary. His appoint ment was duly made known to bim. It seemed absolutely certain; for he was informed that he might count upon the appointment being officially announced to the public on the following Tuesday. A few days before this date, Captain S. received a letter from an unknown pect to see you here that day, and we are certain that by that time you will see thin, s in another light."

"You need not expect me to return. My answer on Monday would be the ame as it is today."

"Captain," they persisted, "remem-ber your children." "My children," was the firm reply, "would blush for me if I were to yield to your proposal."

And, with these words, Captain S And, with these words, Captain S walked out of the Grand Orient. The soldier, who had seen much hard ser-vice, probably never fought a flercer battle than the one from which he is-sued, with his conscience at rest but his earthly hopes rained and broken.

his earthly hopes ruined and broken. Needless to add that the promised appointment was given to another, and that Captain S. was left to face pov erty. Some anxious months followed, during which the gallant soldier sought high and low, far and wide, for a situation that would enable him to provide for his family He has found one at last. A society has lately been provide for his tamily his has found one at last. A society has lately been organized in Paris with a view to help-ing the officers and the civil officials whose religious principals have led them to be deprived of their employments. Among them are many military men who last year declined to break down the doors of the churches during the agitation caused by the inventaires.

This society - " Honneur, Conscience"-undertakes to find situations for the victims of government oppression: and, although it has not been in existence for many months, it has al ready achieved much good and useful work. One of the first to benefit by its organization was, naturally enough Captain S., whose generous allegiance o his principles was thus rewarded by Him who has promised to crown, even sincerely rejoice that a distinguished on earth, those who seek above all things "the Kingdom of God and His justice."

This true story emphasizes the fact that the Freemasons no longer take the trouble to conceal their close conpection with the French government. The letter that Captain S. received was written by a Mason who openly signed himself the "Secretary of Gov-ernment Affairs" thus proclaiming ernment Affairs," thus proclaiming that the Grand Orient now a government office.

What to Forget.

Forget evil imagination. Forget the Forget the lander you have heard. eanness of small souls. Forget the faults of your friends. Forget the misunderstanding of yesterday. Forget all malice, all fault-inding, all injur-ies, all hardness, all unlovely and dis-tressful things. Start out every day with a clean sheet. So be lovely, by lov-ing. See how much sunshine you can produce. "Well," continued the unknown,

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SEPTEMBER 7, 1907.

it is a wise course to make proper pro paration for the coming months of Winter, and so in youth-the Summerwinter, and so in youth-the Summer-time of life-it is only right that pro-vision should be made for the Winter months of old age. Nothing is more pitiable than an old age of want and helplessness, especially where it fol-lows a youth of plenty.

In those prosperous times, every young man should make preparation for the future by securing an Endow-ment Policy, which, besides providing for a mature age, free from care and anxiety, would give protection to those dependent upon him in the meantime. See one of our representatives at once, or write to-day to the

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# SEPTEMBER 7, 19

# CHATS WITH YOU Young Men and the

The persecution of the France, and the false an news that is cabled to t and American newspap through sources that a e f the absolute need of a vi through solute need of a vi olic press to champien to of religious liberty that a ernment would deny to subjects. If our young m come the leaders of opinion in this country paper offers them unlimit ties in this great apos we consider the far reac of the printed word, and splendig Catholic press boast of; the wonder gre it receives such scant the great mass of our Ca Constantly we hear of societies resolving that " nalism is the greatest p in the world, and it shi support and encourage resolutions, however, pl every instance to be phases and empty won nothing real or tangible If there was the prosper olic press would be com its great mission the w instead of a few thousa as each paper now has, newspaper would have newspaper would have thousands of readers in everything that concern At times certain states in the daily and weekl flects on Catholic belief yet nowhere is anythin Catholic organizations

misleading articles. For years, in France

tators have been allow tators have been allow and distribute broadcas among the working c only too well do the country realize the s propaganda that has a faith of so many in tha The question, then, n For what object are banded togenher if not banded together if no ion and morality aga attacks of newspapers Societies of Catholic ized for social purp themselves ; better st a litt'e of their energy up a strong Catholic ence for good would nock and corner of the A good Catholic pape of the school or colleg-its readers an educa and deep. What imm and deep. What imm then, there are in fields that some day of ties will till for this Not only the press works that wait sho young men, and which port-such as the So pagation of the Fait Extension Society. value their religion ate the magnificent theirs, they can read need for these in lands that sit in the v of death without the home that is supp newspopers in "whit the family are int will find a high or that makes for the b Many of our young their valuable time paper, with its scar -time that is waste see to it that the se see to it that the se ularly the Sunday si from the Christian unclean thing. Catholic societie supporting Catholic

press, can no mu our cities centers and activity. In are rapidly drift through the re theories advanced daily newspapers. these vicious teac these victors tend press representing authority of Holy moral power in the of education is people realize to necessity of sup paper. Close to Leo XIII., of hap olic journalism, understood the wholesome reading doubt and unbeli Catholle youn made to each an Give your earned Catholic journali and able Catholi be proud of, an and teacher in e hold and sustain our Catholic edi for the honor of the Church. Be ary in helping to olic thoughts i by circulating among your non-young men, your with success and work of the apo become a reality the Parish Mon



directed

It was with a sad heart that the poo mother retired to rest that night. In the silence of her little room sh. asked God to give her resignation, and to take the future of her darling boy into

His holy hands. Scarcely had the first streak of dawn sent its golden rays into the child's room than he ross feebly from his bed, dresse', and went slowly to his accus-comed seat under the ash trees.

His appearance was the signal for a Boud and prolonged outburst of twitter-ing from his little friends. They wished to show him, in their birdlive fashion, their sympathy with him in his weakness, and their sorrow at parting with the gentle child who had won their affections. Numbers of them left their perches and skimmed past him, touch-ing him lightly with their wing, as if to bid him a long, last farewell.

Then, in the same order in which they had come, they set out for their jour-ney to their home in the Southern world. At first they went in twos and threes, then in larger companies, and finally in multitudes so vast as to darken the atmosphere. The last to leave were the two brds which had made where the two brus which has had had been nears in the ivy over Owneen's reindow. Several times they rose to a great height, then returned, chattering incisity all the time. Then, as if brac-ing themselves to a great effort, they rushed passed him with the rapidity of rushed passed him with the rapidity of lighting, rose higher and higher, uttering plaintiv shrieks, until they because mere specks in the blue dome of the heavens, and their cries were

The boy uttered a feeble mean. His whether heard it, and clasped him in her What is it ?"

"Good-bye, darling mother. Don't be lonely after me. I am going with the awallows. I hear them calling, calling: "Come with us, to the land where the sun is shining always.""

The gentle boy close 1 his eyes, gave one last sigh, and his coul was carried on the wings of angels to the land of sternal summer.

That night the voice of wailing was heard from the widow's cottage. When the neighbors came, they found her, a picture of woe, seated beside her dead child, and as she wept she crooned ;

great mother? She watches over the female sex. She gives them their pat-tern in every relation of life, virgin, entitle you wife and mother. She consecrates their joy, hallows their grief, dignifies their modest retirement, asserts and secures

modest retirement, asserts and secures their rights in the home ard in the state. Now let us pray her most fer-vently that she may stand by the sex these days mo e than ever before. For it is just now that many women are tools of stan to corrupt the minds of the young with foul reading, to lure them to hell by obscene plays, to make them flippant and frivolous by pagan amusements and by vanities in dress, to drive families to ruin by waste and ex-travarance, and to scatter and disgrace

arive families to run by waste and ex-travagance, and to scatter and disgrace them by divorce and worse. Let us appeal to the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, on this day esp ci-ally, to obtain purity and secateness and good sense, and, above all, deep volicities that for all the sec religious character for all her sex.

#### THE REAL KINGS OF FRANCE.

AN INCIDENT WHICH PROVES THR CLOSE

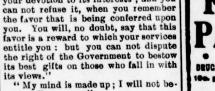
CONNECTION BETWEEN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND FREEMASONRY. y the Countess de Courson in the Ave Marie.

We have sometimes noticed the scep tical smile with which English and American Catholics are inclined to re-ceive our assertion that at the present moment the real kings of France are the Freemasons. It is they who hold in their hands the reins of government, who control the elections, and who dis pose of every chance of preferment or advancement to which their fellow-citi zens may aspire. Examples are daily brought forward that illustrate this fact

A fresh instance of this tyranny has lately been brought before the public The incident we are about to relate has been told in certain French papers those especially whose object is to unmask the Freemasons; it was our good fortune to gather it from the lips of the hero of the tale.

nero of the taile. Captain S. served with much distinc-tion in the French colonies; he took a prominent part in different encounters, was publicly praised and congratulated by his chiefs, received the Cross of the Legion of Honor; in fact, rendered such signal service to his country that he found himself entitled to claim an important civil port on his retirement

from the army. A well-known French general, one of the most prominent military leaders of the day, was keenly interested in Cap-tain S. He brought forward his pro-



"Think the matter over, Captain.

ome a Freemason." At this juncture the door opened and another man entered. He laid himself out with consummate skill to conquer the visitor's objections; and Captai. S. realized that the men before him were accurately informed of every circum-stance of his situation.

"Remember," they urged, "you have not enough to live on unless you two children are young, and you must educate them: the appointment that has been promised to you is all that you could wish : it means affluence, security, confort, for yourself and your family; but it is our duty to warn you that in order to obtain it you must be

Captain S. arose.

one of us.'



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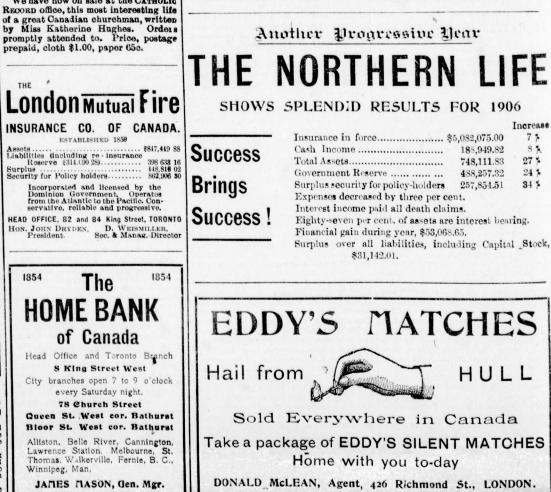
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Reassuranc

James G. Bla degree, the abil to him, to bind shake hands warm grasp an only put the m dissipated even but also made found a friend to see. There is not

sonal populari straint, reserves shyness, overse of antagonism heart run out very finger-tip with a hands of giving too