CATHOLICCHRONICLE

| L. Xx. |
| :---: |

## Josiah, Josiab, the fy is comiog. All ripht ; lia ready.

 sometho before you go. Jemima, bring in the
kelli. Your master will go milbout a taste or

 ready on the table
Meanmbile, a door slammed to up stairs, and
thp next moment Jostah appeared. He was the next moment Jostah appeared. He was ad
 tweote, detesed weil in back, whe be held to
crape band round be bat whe
band while heo ofered the other to bis sister. 'Grod.bse, Pen.'
' Not jet, Jossah ; ;ou must driak ihis seen Me cold out, and eat a bit of sometbine 'Mp dear Peo's salt
oulv tuy had breatlast?
Norertheless, he sat down wuth the air of man who does a thing to ilease another rathe than dinselt, and his surcher mas now drawing up to


 Josah ${ }^{2}$ 'she askec.
'Yes, thank you.'

- Hare jou the rug and knitted comforte and inse driving gloves which 1 lound for $g$ o hast ingh!
' you will want we to tare a boille of hot wate in the trap next.' Then be added, in a kinde and graver tone, © I am really sorry to feave
you, Pen, and on Cbrsistmas Evo. too; Gut pno see, if I did not anceptare theg go abraad an not see the Greysons
that rould be from so cld a friend as
myself. Besdes, you doa't mand it much, da you I I canoot deng, Josiath; answered the young ladr, nersnusly. 'that mumk his lefue a a tary place for two temales to be
but Trust on tharm nill happen 'o
brother: 'a bouse in Cheillegh has not
bruker, iuto within the menory of man.
are sufe enough on that score, and I hall tainly come back to-morrow, and eat mor Curic
mas dinner wuh pou. I would slars 'hongin but the weather really is so bad: and 1 sthicit
arrive tro late to render any ascistaice in case 'I hope jou will not think of corning be'or to morrow Josiah,' repled his sister, wris muc
affection, but erviently unable just tien to par licipale in any rallery on the subject of hir
fears.
' Well, I mill be bome in good time depend upon it ; and now I must go, or I sball miss the
tran. She followed bim to the door, and, when
was tauly on, returned to the wiodow, an matched the
it from view 'It is macb if the little soul hasn't a fit of the without one', sand the young man to himself, a he drove along. 'I wish. I bad told her to sen
for Jacob and his son to sleep in the boluse to night; but Jemima will thiolk of that, il she say anything to her.' And then feeling sure tha
any fears his sister might entertain were ground any fears his sister might entertain were ground
less, his thougbis naturally 'urned to his own af less, his thoughs naturally Tlie last six nonith of his life had befe
fairs. lost both his parents, who, ever snace be could remember, had lired in the old fashoned Mano House be bad just left, and he and hissister were now the sole representatives of the tamily nam
and property. The old foiks-partly from prid and parlly because be bad shown no incluation for farming-had educated bim for a professiona Iffe, and he mas now practising as a solictitor but for the last four taonths bad been fully oc ciupied to arranging his late father's affars, 50
looking out for a suitable teaat for the Manor looking out for a suitable tecant for the Manor
When be sbould have encomplished this task bin iofention Fas to return to his bachelor' chacmers in Loadon. The pisit to the Greysons wäs the first since his bereavement ; and had it iot been that a stronger feeliug than mer Fould bave been' spent ectirely in seclusion. gruef ond many businese anxietirs, there wa mites' drive to the station, sad the bad weaber
less dismal than the vould oiterwine have been less dismal than they vould other wise have been
'I canool think of maripigg for moother:

this time rith a sort of desperate calmaness.-
: Sure it cannot be any one mith bad ratestions
comang this may, and so soon.?

They both glanced at the clock and were it past seven. The three hours since the candles were lighted had seemed intermiaable.
You must go and open the dour, Jemuma,
and if they want your master, say he is not nome: but do not say that he is coming to Jemima ment as she was bidden, and M1s Penelope listened intently, but could only hea
the gust of wind when the door was opened, the gust of wind when the doar was opened,
confused hum of voices, and then the tread heavy feet along the lobby. Immediately alter - Ife's come io, miss ; I couldn't help it,' sa,
 me who was; and wheo I told him, he looked
bothered. jut said he would see you; and bis
name? - Is he a gentleman, or onl's a man ?' asked
on Miss Penelope. ، What is he like, Jemi' Vrell, miss, he's big enough and horrid enough, it think; and he looks like one from fur

## 'On, Jemima!' was alll Mis Panelope could

 ary as sbe luraed to leave the sicthen, and wen up the dark passage. It was not far to the parlor door, but quite far enough for Miss Peas lope to picture to herself on the way a sesies of
seasational tableaur.
'Suppose he should be standing on the hoarth, 'Suppose he should be standing on the harith
with a pistol pointed at the doorway, or he rana sacking the dra were, or demand the ley of the ler out into the wild ni ith ?"-as had bappened many a tume before to beromes to bonks, after
quite as litlle preparation, and will as litie ap quite as litile preparation, and wilh as little ap-
parent cause. When, at last, she opened the door, the object of ber fears, though aot engaged
to, or proceedding to, any of the above menticned
acts, seempd to her formidable enough. He rose from a chair as she entered; a a tall, stout
man, lonking all the taller and stouter just then through, wearing a rough piot coat. aud stand ang in the dun, flickering light of a fire and on
candle.

## 

## beard. Miss Pen lope bated benrds. 'Your brother is not at home just now h-ar,' he ween or, lookng as though the thought glie would hare spobent; bul I dare say you

## 

## Chrivimas with him. If he got my letier, bnow Jos well ynongh to be sure that he souid

" me a aplenpe; atsd a heartf one, tuo.'

- My brother did not montion is whien his let


wea, more embnyrassed than he, sat down in
lopeair by the fire. It would be imp\{ssible t
say exactly what ber thoughts were as she glanc-
ed at him, standing with lis back to her, and evidently in a stite of much perplexity: H did not look altogether like a gentleman; a
least, there naz a roughoess about his appearanc Which seemed incorpatible with such a preten-
son: but perhaps bis travelling dess, and a lons Mon: but perbaps his tra relling deess, and a long
journey on a story night, might account in some journey on a story night, might account in som
measure for tbat.
'Will he be lorg?' lie asked, after a short


## " pause <br> pause Th ill

This was a posing question.
'It I as ' No, he will offer to stap till he
comes ; and il I tell the truth, it is admittiog a comes; and II I tell the truth, it is admittiog at
once how unp:otected we are,' thought Miss Penelope; but there was no escape-be wa waiting for an answer. 'It is possible that be

Is as she could. . Well, Miss Oluburgh?' rejoined the siranger - I bave travelled from London this ofternoon and hare written to your brolber yesterday,
felt he would be' expectiog me. As thinga are, felt he would be expectiog me. As thinge are
I see nothing for it tut to go back as I cameand the prospect is not pleasat-or to stig brought me from the station, and don't think 2
could find my map back io the dark; and if youl brould find my way back in the dark; and if yo
coul direct me to an lan, or suggest any otter
can place by which 1 could a aralt your brothers re
 Penelope bad ventured a look at the speaker
tace, she would hare seea there a geodi-natured

guessed ber thoughts, and
amused than offend
i $T$,
mused than offended at them.
'The nearest inn is at least two miles off, sai Miss Penelope, 'and 1 have no one so send with
yon. Besides, ff gou are a friend of Jocial's's"yon. Besides, if you are a freend of Jociah's'-
(she was loo agitated to note how expressive was the doubt her words implied)- - he would not like you to go there. $1-I$, will make ar
not 'Thank you,' sail the stranger, promptly, and witb another smile; ' 'but pray do ont put your
ciff at all out of the way $-I$ am used to rough self at
$\log \mathrm{i}$.

This was an unfortunate adnassion; and the careless way to which he stripped off his grea
coat, and seated bumself in a lounging-char, a thongh relieved that the question was sellled,
and be had now a rigint to marse bimself at home. id not mend matter
'I only reeched England hast night;' he sart,
'Irom Nem Zealand, and Jos is about the only rrend I have in the world, so I went at ince to
Ischambers, and found that he mas bere, and learnng the cause' - he elanced at her black
dress-' I made up my mind to follow him. A he letter has miscarried, I suppose it will no - There will he no delive

There will he no delivery of letters hare to ausible slory. 'Carist mas Day is kept like Sunday.'
She rose as she spope, and Jeft the room nurmuring something about getting bim refresh 'By Jore,' said Mr. Sowler, to himself, a fellow in such a fix as this? It is impossible t arn out, and yet ] bulleve she thinks I am a
curgar in disguise. If she were not Jos's sis er I stould be tempted to carry on the joke
od, as it is I doubt my best enileapors to un eceire her will only make matters worse ; fo daresay I look more like a bush-ranger than a gentleman. It isn't flattering to a fellow on
coming back to his native country to be tiken
lor a ticket-of-leave man. Hnwever, I must he
as polite as I can to mr prim litle hostess, and - morrow will set all right.' Mpanwhile Miss Penelope, with a sinking
hart, had made her way back to the kithen. Her worst fears were realizetd. Here, under the her own invitation - was a man whom she ha
nerer beiore seen or beard ol, preparing to spen he night. It was the begrnang of some haritu
ragedy, and she saw no possible means of arert 'Oh, mise, cried Jemima, seeng her white
This was easler asted than ansmered; bu
Jemima soon kness all her mistress could tell her
and was requested to take io a tray will some
Tlen Miss Penelope sat dours by the fire, whits
sent way-uttering many yacelations-and winh
a confuse, notion that if sho mere not quirk
enough, the man in the parlur would come and
hold a pistol to tier hea! while stee did ut.
'1 shall let it fall, mise, I'm sure I shali, she iid, when her task was completed, and with her
tands agann pressed to bet stays. : I'm jusi
'Come, Jemima,' said Miss Penelope, rising
the occasion $;$ t must be done, you know ; and if he really means harm to us, our only chance of
escape is to be cival and not vex him. 1 will go
The supper, as may be supposed, was not
ery social meal, though Mr. Sonler seemed bect on doing justuce to the viands; and, to tre 10 his hostess.
'This is a fine old place, I should think,' said
e, I lise the room we are in esceedingls - -1
is so thoroughly Eiglish,' He glanced round a
large, , oiv roofed room, mith an oak. mainscoting
round tbree sides of it, and a handsome stone
round tbree sides of it, and a handsome stoge
rullif ned mindow filling up the fourtb; such a nulli ned window filling up the fourtb; such a
com as one sometimes mects with in the beiter class of old-fashioned country houses, and no-
'Yes,' said Miss Penelope, 'it is a pretty
place in summer ; but this is the oldest room in
the house. The others are mostly new or mo-
derozzed.?
'I should bave thought it a pity to alter them,' said. Then, after a pause, 'Does your bro
iher think of living bere? ${ }^{\text {a }} \mathrm{Na}$, he is prep
Mr. Sowler looked thougbtful.
'Is it a large farm 3' he asked
'Ah, a bice size,' was the reply, ad then ere' was another pause
Can be be speculiting how in
ghought Mur Penélope
' It is very lon:ly, is it not? I con't thrink
we passed a single bouse for the lays mle e passed a single bouse for the last mile or 'Yes, it is rather lonely,' adenitred Miss Penelope ; 'but some of This mas an allowable fection, founder on the act of racob's one cottage being withina mole. Muere was a more ank vard pause than ever
ter thas, broken ar last by a tap at the door ad Jumuna's voice, • P'tese, miss, rou're manted, followed up, the gement her mistress
bad imned ber, with' Oll. miss, l'm so glad!'
'Jacob's come.'
Mass Penelope. Tas plad, oo. It was a load
Following Jemima ioto the ritchen, she found labnring man, who bad been in iate Mr. Oldburgh's service from ths south, They had brought in an ennrmous yule $\operatorname{lng}$ for two of spiced ale, and a Clisistmas bar, as in former gears. Havig alreally heard from Je-
muma a detalled account of the sisifor's arrival -and the tale had lost nothing it the telliog Jacob had ready his opinton, expressed with alt
the emphasis of dogged convietion. ' You map tak' my word for it, miss, the man's A consullation . was now herd as to what Penelo miglte posesbls be true, that no steps stould be he wds suspected, but they would be is
 aud saac would sit up all night by he kilchen her mittrea's room, and they would retire at - His ohject is, miss,' said Jacob, who prided humself on his renutation as the cutest man in the
villaip, ' to wait until all is quat this

To guard against lisis possbinty, Ranger, the
 Me:nothle, the :narent, but not altozether nake a pipe in the nithor before retimos. Ilis mednaldna, as he sat hy himpols in the olddat after fire rears of meessan actiocy in mang second migh in Enqlant, in hisq seriludud village, nd unter cercementances the troughts of which -Ho JJo will haugh to mueros when । teil
 riends with me un Christmas day than she has been on Christmas Eve, I'll warrant? The had come into his hend whilst talking to Miss
Penelope was now lo ked mat more c'oselg. He henelope was now lo ked at more c'nselg. He larn, of course; and it seemed to lum that Chadleggb Manor nas just the place he wanted; and he should cement still closer his friendship with the owner by becoming his teanat, and
farming bis paternal acres. 11 is possible that he pursued the dea appropriating his friend's and to an extent of mhich Miss Penelope was happily unconscious; for, after pulfing away for what a fool I am! But if I like the place as well by daylight as, I do now, I mill make a bid Haping arrived at bis conclusian, be laid his apartment. Of cource, this movement was not lost to the four pair of ears that had been anzlone. 'He's comigr ' shakedown, where ghe sat bold-upright;-㑊ef having forasen her eyes.
They heard his uncertan steps aloug the lendpge. He stopped at the door and tried it. Mise Cenelope aprang to the bell.
and the atep pased ote: 'He's only mistaken the ro
Penelope, with a sigh of relief.

