Miss B——— consented, and fulfilled her mission most honorably; she saw the girl every Wednesday.

On her entrance into the convent, the child was denuded of her new apparel, and deprived of her little ornaments; she received in substitution some dark-colored garments of a coarse texture, and a small brass crucifix. She was obliged to undergo the ceremony of confirmation according to the Catholic ritual, and a new name was assigned her, though she protested against the change. The worship of the Virgin, and the invocation of the saints, were strictly enjoined; and before a painted representation of the former, she was required to make daily obeisance within the convent chapel. To the priests, she was told that it was a paramount duty to make full and absolute confession of every thought and feeling, while total secrecy with the world was to be most vigilantly maintained. These doctrines were enforced with every rigidity of discipline. There were the usual penalties of compulsory fasting, and the repetition of penitential psalms; but a penance more to be dreaded was that of solitary confinement within a darkened chamber. Of the last-named punishment, mitigation could not be procured by tears, protestations, or screams. The utterance of a complaint against harsh treatment by a nun, and the revelation of the meanest secret, were only forgiven on pardon being implored on bended knee from every member of the establishment.

Confession to the priests was required weekly. The nuns prepared the girls for the ordeal. From the poor children they extracted their little secrets, which they reported to the priests, to enable them to extort more. Girls of ten and twelve years were directed by the nuns to state to the priests that they were actuated by certain desires and feelings, such as they could not possibly entertain, and could, indeed, hardly comprehend. Yet the repetition of expressions conveying such sentiments is fitted to debase the nature and corrupt the heart. Confession was proceeded with in a small apartment, in which the penitent was alone with the confessor. The penitent is taught that the priest is in the place of God; he may be a most unworthy member of the priesthood, but it is sacrilege to expose him. During the week-days recreation was forbidden; it was encouraged on the Sabbath. After canonical hours, the Lord's Day was appropriated to amusement.

From the outset, the subject of this narrative was unhappy in the convent. The rites, more especially the practices of the Romish Church, were obnoxious to her, and she anticipated a continuance of abode in the institution with apprehension and loathing. She longed for freedom, and earnestly desired to return to the