

THE MAKING OF A PRIEST.

— Alice Dease. —



PEGGY MACNAMEE all her life had one ambition, and that was to help in some way or other in the making of a priest. She was poor and old and lonely, and it did not seem that, except by prayer, she would ever have her heart's desire, yet year after year she still prayed and hoped on, and at last when she least expected it, her chance came.

Peggy lived four miles from Ballyowen, where every year a hiring fair was held, and as it was the custom for all the parish, not only those who sought employment, to go into the town and see their friends and do their shopping on that day, Peggy, like her neighbors, used to lock up her door and go off with the rest for a day's enjoyment.

She lived in a bog cottage in Carrigadurris, where a big family had been reared, but all the others had left the old country, and though they had settled down over the water, they liked to feel that the old home was there, ready to receive them if ever they came back to Ireland again, and so they paid the little rent of it and sent from time to time what supplied nearly all of Peggy's modest wants. This irregular income she supplemented by working now and again for Mrs. Hennessy whose husband owned the big farm on the hill, and it was on Mrs. Hennessy's car that Peggy journeyed in to the hiring fair of Ballyowen. The farmer's wife was looking for an extra servant boy, and though quantity of what she sought was not lacking, the quality to suit was harder to procure, and it was Peggy who at last discovered Christie Carroll and carried him off to where Mrs. Hennessy was interviewing a group of would-be servants. He was much