

LIFE AND CATHOLIC JOURNALISM

—OF THE LATE—

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CHAPTER X.—CONTINUED.



ABOUT that time Mr. McMaster met the Rev. Father M., and almost the very first word he said to him was: "Father M., guess what great present St. Alphonsus made me on the day of his feast, the

2nd of August?" "I answered, I could not guess." "Well," said he, "on that day St. Alphonsus obtained for my daughter Gertrude the grace of vocation to the Carmelite sisterhood." In saying this, a heavenly joy beamed forth from his countenance. He communicated this news also to Father Denny, S. J., who went to him about that time. "I shall never forget," said Father D., "the last time I saw Mr. McMaster; it was on the occasion of his only remaining daughter entering the Carmelite Convent in Baltimore. This act of his daughter, though it broke up the home which would have been so comforting to his old age, gave the father the highest degree of happiness. He turned to me and said: "I am amazed at the goodness of God, that has allowed me the joy of beholding three daughters espoused to Christ." Father Denny adds that he was struck with the remarkable example of Faith which the incident disclosed. He himself led this last daughter to the door of the enclosure. When Miss Gertrude McMaster was on the point to step over the threshold into the enclosure of the convent, McMaster said to her: "Gertrude, allow me to share in the meritorious act which you are about to make." And saying this, he took his daughter into his arms

and put her into the enclosure of the convent. Only once more he held her in a last embrace on the day when she was clothed in the Holy Habit of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. On this occasion, Cardinal, then Archbishop Gibbons, compared his sacrifice with that of Abraham.

"I have seen," said Father Ryan, S. J., alluding to McMaster, "calvaries in Christian homes, and here in this very shrine I have seen calvaries in parents' hearts. I have seen here a man of wondrous daring, fearless courage and heroic faith; I have seen him tremble and humble himself in spirit, his great heart heave, and the tear-drop glisten in his eyes when he severed himself from the children of his love and sacrificed them to God."

"I could spend hours," says Fr. M. Egan, "in the relation of incidents that came under my personal observation, which show, in all the varying lights and shades of changing time and circumstance, the true and noble qualities of McMaster's heart and mind. No language that I could command would adequately express the tribute that my feelings pay to that beautiful character, nor can I convey any idea of my estimate of it. He was a grand and noble man, and never swerved from the path which he believed to be that of truth and duty. St. Paul says Abraham showed his faith by offering up his only son Isaac; and in his Epistle to the Hebrews, commenting on the faith of the patriarchs, he says the faith of Abraham commends itself in this, that he offered up his only son Isaac. Our friend gave up his daughters, taking away the light, so to say, of his widowed home, depriving himself of the consolation of their presence, because his faith made him recognize the voice of God in the call to a higher life."

It may be well to remark here that Mr.