

mily mainly depend for their means of subsistence, is carried on by his sons. One room in their house is set apart to serve as a chapel, and it is here that the priest says Mass whenever he passes that way. Far removed as they are from any church or chapel, and able only at long intervals to approach the Sacraments, these people are all exemplary Catholics. The mother especially is an excellent woman, and Heaven seems to reward her piety by extending over her household a special protection.

"Whilst I was there, I was told that, not long ago, at the time when their corn was ready to be cut, the sky suddenly became overcast, and it was only too apparent that a heavy thunder storm was approaching. Alarmed at the ominous sights and sounds, the eldest son hastily entered the room where his mother was sitting and exclaimed : ' Mother, there is going to be a terrible storm ! Our crops will be destroyed,--we shall be ruined ! ' The mother rose and looked out of the window ; she saw that her son's fears were indeed well founded. In fact, rain mingled with hailstones was already beginning to fall. Turning to her children, she said, with unruffled composure : ' My children, we can do nothing to avert this catastrophe. If Almighty God is pleased to take from us what He has given us, may His holy will be done ! ' She then ordered the shutters to be closed ; and, after lighting the blessed tapers before the images in her little oratory, she called together all the members of the household and kneeling down, recited with them the Litany of Loreto. This ended they sang some hymns in praise of the Blessed Virgin. Meanwhile large hailstones were pattering upon the roof and beating violently against the shutter ; and when, their prayers being concluded, they once more looked over the fields in the near vicinity they bore the appearance of a sheet of ice.

"As soon as the storm had sufficiently abated, the eldest son mounted his horse and rode out to the farm to ascertain the extent of the damage that had been done. To his astonishment, he found that his crops had not sustained the slightest injury ; whereas the surrounding lands were in a most pitiable condition, whole acres of beautiful corn having been beaten down and entirely spoiled by the violence of the wind and rain."