HRONICLE. CATHOLIC

VOL. XIX.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1868.

No. 1.

FATHER CLEVELAND: CR, THE JESUIT.

By the Authorese of "Life in the Cloister;" Grace O'Halloran;" " The Two Marys," etc., etc.

From the Boston P.lat.

" Maids, matron", pay, the secrets of the grave This viperous slander enters."- Cymbeline.

PREFACE.

In the spring of the year 1864 we attended a Retreat given by some of the Fathers of the Society of Jesus, in - Cathedral, London, and in one of the Mission Sermons a touching circumstance was narrated, from which we have composed the little work now presented to the public. The Reverend Father who related the following painful facts was by birth an American. though his name proved him to be of Irish extraction; and the amiable, but most unfortunate. victim to a grave slander, and whose life he briefly sketched, was a young Irish lady of high birth, driven by adverse circumstances, which involved the utter ruin of her family, and under an assumed named to seek a maintenance for herself and her aged parents in the Far West. And we beg to add, that though clothed in language of our own, we have adhered strictly to the melancholy parration of the good Father O'R-.

We have related simple facts, merely adding a few slight touches of our own, to relieve the more sombre coloring of the picture presented to the view of the reader.

Thus, to render the finale somewhat less painful, we have had recourse to fiction, for the little alleration of a subscription for the desolate parents was not granted; in losing their child they lost, as the good Father expressed it, the staff of their old age,"-they lost their all.

We trust that no excuse will be needed for bringing before the notice of our readers so sad a tale. To the Eternal God and His Angels alone are oftentimes known the results of this sin of slander. Men is often not cognizant of the fatal consequences; may it, not unfrequently, end in a broken heart and an early grave? as in the case of the unbappy young lady to whom we have given the name of Desmond.

If ther, our tale shall perchance evoke a tear, we yet hope to be pardoned on the score of our good intentions, for have we not done far more wisely in weaving the painful truths narrated by Father O'R ____, than by putting forward a merely imaginative work? We will conclude, then, in the words of the immorta! Bard of Aron-

"No, 'tis slander, Whose edge is sharper than the sword, whose tongue Outvenoms all the worms of Nile, whose breath Rides on the posting winds, and doth belie All corners of the world."

We are indebted for the lines "My Sunny Days are Past," to a member of a Religious Community.

CHAPTER I -THE SQUIRE'S FAMILY.

Welcome to Alverley, dear Aileen, a hearty welcome to the Grange, daughter of my good old friend" said the Squire of Alverley, pressing his lips with something of fatherly affection, on the ing to his daughter, he added, 'I commit her to same steps as my late brother.' your charge, Maud, for she must need rest and refreshment as well as myself, seeing that we July sun.' Maud Cleveland, the only daughter of the Squire, needed not, however, for a few moments the observation of her father so lost was she in surprise at the change the last eight years had made, having forgotten that in that time Aileen had passed from childhood to womanhood. Then recollecting herself, she has- day. tened forward, and extending her band to Aileen, she passed her arm affectionately round her waist, and bade her welcome to the Grange with as much warmth as ber father.

With a smile of satisfaction the Squire watched the two young women, as they passed through the hall and up the stone staircase, till they disappeared from his sight; and then, entering the library, he threw himself into an easy and the opportune entrance of Aileen and his sischair, and weaved out in his own mind one of those many chateux en espagne, which we all are so fond of building up, even the most sage the young squire with the refined and delicate amongst us, young and old alike; for, are we not right, reader, if the sanguine dreams of youth are over with yourself, and age, with its experi Aileen Desmond become the bride of Herbert ter of the Convent, whither she was to return pressage of coming misfortune; yet see, Aileen pened that the mention of those early days ence, has sobered you, and you have settled Cleveland. The latter effected his escape on calmly down, amidst the stern realities of life, do the moment after the entrance of his sister; nor you not still, ever and anon, build up some airy was his departure noticed by the Squire, who judge-and we often do from outward signscastle some dear one, who is more than all the had reason to be glad at his withdrawal; for cer- formed a strong contrast to that of Aileen, bodings of coming evil be realized in her regard, the room, having seen Edward cross the park world to you?

Phus it was then with old Squire Cleveland, prepossess those who were present. as he traced, in his own mind, a future for Aileen,

clasped hands, while the last rays of the sun shed son of the Squire. a golden light on his venerable head, he exclaimthe death of her parents, which surely cannot be, as a son of the Society of Jesus. I should still wish her to be the wife of my son; I have watched her narrowly whilst her father's guest-she is as good as she is pretty, and may in time teach Herbert to amend his life and sow his wild oats. I only wish friend Desmond had not insisted on Aileen's return to the Pensionaat of the French convent for another year. but for that I would have hastened the match with all possible dispatch.

'A very foolish conclusion to have arrived at, my good friend,' said an elderly gentleman in the she whispered to Maud: garb of an ecclesiastic, whose quiet step had whilst man proposes God disposes; and call to mind the conversation I held with you a few months since, reminding you that things were what you had anticipated; for, were you not almost immediately one of the colleges of the which I am about to return. carving out a future for bim, whilst God was Jesuits. Do you remember those days when, as designing him for the Church.'

'Very true, as far as he is concerned,' remarked the Squire; 'but if I have made a mistake sworn chevaliers? When each would strive to with Edward, I yet do not see why you are to augur disappointment for me in my hopes con- ther Hugh,' she added, turning to the priest, 'I cerning Aileen and Herbert.'

stole through the latticed windows of the Grange, they declared that, when she grew to be a wolighting up the withered face of the old man, man, she would wed whichever should climb the whose countenance was now raised to that of his friend, with something of a sorrowful expression, as though reproaching him for thus cruelly prophesying destruction to the hopes he was forming for building up a race, which should transmit his name to future generations.

The priest looked pitying down, for, whilst circumstances led him clearly to read what the future would be, he still sorrowed for the pain his words had caused.

'I know well what you think, my Revernd friend,' said the Squire, after a long pause : and even become ridiculous when relating to others. understand you well: you have so little faith in serve and delicacy was wounded, by the allusion bands; and that, in years to come, Cleveland have taken possession of her mind. She with-Grange will probably be sold, through the recklessness of my spendthrift son ?"

fast, urged the Priest; whilst there is life there of the full moon, its bright beams gleaming over is hope; only do not count with too much confidence on Herbert, for, should he not realise days to which Maud had so playfully alluded .your expectations, the disappointment will be a Alas, alas! the planets in their onward course the reverse, and was not sorry when the time her as she disappeared. severe one.

The Squire did not reply, but yet gazed forth on the fair landscape, now becoming less discernible in the fast waning light of departing day: the evening was soft and tranquil; scarce | the depths of her own heart, or realize to herself a leaf stirred in the breeze, and a sweet perfume arose from the flowers which filled the oldfashioned terrace without. The note of the to the Grange, which she had not visited since sky was studded with stars, and the pale light of marriage. nightingale and the voice of the old man then the days of her childhood. broke the silence, as he murmured, almost inaudibly-' The mortgage money-the morgage brow of the young Aileen Desmond; then, turn- is scarcely paid up; and he will tread to the

As these words fell from his line, the crashing of boughs was heard in the distance, and the have travelled several hours beneath a burning figure of a young man, attired in a gay hunting suit, appeared, as be leared lightly down an eminence, formed by the undulating ground, startling the timed hare, and breaking the stillness of the night with the slashing of the whip he carried in his hand, willst he shouted forth snatches of one of the fashionable airs of the

The next moment the produgal heir of Cleveland Grange bounded up the steps leading to the terrace, and stood before the irate old Source. betraying by his appearance that he was somewhat the worse of a too free indulgence at the festive board. Somewbat abashed, Herbert Cleveland drew aside on finding himself so unexpected in the prence of his father and the Priest. ter Maud alone spared bim a severe rebuke.

The Chaplain drew aside, mentally contrasting girl who stood before him, asking himself the kite and the dove might not as well mate together as tainly there was nothing in his appearance to

A little later the sound of the great bell anand as he leaned back in that luxurious chair nounced a visitor; it proved to be one long ex- caught up in a blue ribbon, and confined by a and her oil in readiness.

enjoying the repose so delightful to his weary pocted, and who pevertheless, had at last taken small pearl comb; we question much, however.

ed, 'Yes, let it be so ; Desmond is poor, but of young man on a Continental tour; and he had pliances of a fashionable toilet. But Maud apenable him to bequeath Aileen a small fortune, his father had anticipated, but to become a sol-

> Edward Cleveland was tall and commanding in person; his countenance was full of expression; he had strong aquitine features, and eyes dark and piercing; his dress, already half clerical betrayed the sacred calling he bad determined sparkled in her raven hair. to follow.

With a something of shyness in her manner, companiou and playmate of those childish days

Is it possible that Edward has decided on enbeen unheard by the squire. 'Bemember, that tering the Church; his dress resembles that of a compassion.'

'Truly, my father tells me that such is the case, Aileen,' replied her friend; ' very much to children, we all rambled together in the woods of outvie the other in rendering you a service. Facan remember one day, a violent quarrel between | consider and treat you as a child?" The sun was setting, and its last faint rays my brothers, about Aileen. In boyish sport topmost branch of the loftiest tree in the park beyond. How shall it be, Aileen? Herbert is running wild after horses and bounds, and Edward about to forswear the sex for ever.'

' Peace, Maud, hold thy silly chatter,' angrily exclaimed her father; whilst Aileen, in much Maud, the bough broke, and both my valiant

Squires hurled to the ground.'

It frequently bappens that remembrances of days long past are very painful, and sometimes cerned. was situated, and gazed wistfully out into the the foliage of those lofty trees, as in those far off altar not; the old park at Alverley are still the same—it is we who alter; we the creatures of circumstances; we who who are ever changing. Thus felt Aileen Desmond ; yet failed to sound the cause of the depression of spirits under which

Had Aileen changed herself? She fancied not; the fault anyhow rested with others, not with her; all the immates of the old place seemed altered beings: the old friends, then it was who were changed; those whom she remembered as youths and playmates were now men-and one even the most prosaic and unsentimental persons reserved and dignified as became the sacred calling to which, Maud had told her, he had devoted the days of her childhood, and before her mind's himself; so thet poor Aileen seemed half afraid eye came up visions of the past, in which the to address him, and shrank from grasping, as she would fain have done, with the affectionate lightly touched her own; the other-ob, one miniscences of the past, was blended in her vi- others. hasty glance had been sufficient, and carried with it death to the Squire's hopes; for it had told ber that Herbert, daring and reckless as a boy, and from whom she had often turned, ball in fear. to seek protection from the milder, studious Edward; was speedily becoming what may be term. refined Aileen sbrank from him with somewhat of

Maud Cleveland, too, was altered for the worse; thus thought the simple, innocent girl, whose years of separation had been passed within the walls of the old castle of her ancestors-for ber father was the proud but poor descendant of a noble Milesian race-or else, beneath the shelshortly for one year more.

Truly, Maud's appearance, if one were to

limbs, his eyes wandered over the rich lands the inmates of the Grange by surprise—this was if Aileen could have appeared to better advanaround the Grange, and bending forwards with none other than Edward Cleveland, the younger tage had she studied less carefully simplicity of attire; her faultlessly fair complexion, delicate Tre last three years had been spent by this features, and deep blue eyes needed not the apancient race f he has yet enough, I suppose, to returned-not to enter on a military career, as peared arrayed for dinner in a costly and elegant dress, which put to the blush poor Aileen's moand even were she likely to be penniless at the dier of the Church militant, by enlisting himself dest and mexpensive attire; her robe of rich beside her brother Edward, and her large black maize-colored silk was covered with a profusion of point lace, which had descended to her with her mother's jewels, festooned around the skirt, each festoon being fastened by a spray of roses, whilst gay jewels gleamed on her wrists, and

> " Ma chere," exclaimed the fashionable belle, drawing Aileen aside, why do you appear in Afficen stepped forward to welcome the former society in that old fashioned, shabby dress?-Why, as I live, you have not a trinket on your she had spent at Alverley; then drawing aside, person, except that paltry comb; I wish I had noticed your short-comings before, I should have lent you some of my own jewels out of sheer

' Nay, Maud, do be still,' exclaimed Aileen; I assure you, I think myself quite smart in my present dress; were I like you, I should turn violently throwing off the hand he had affectionturning out with Edward exactly the reverse of his vexation too. We expect that he will enter the heads of half the girls in the Pensionnat, to ately placed upon her own. 'Go, and preach

' And a pretty farce that is,' replied Maud. with a scornful toss of her head; 'a pretty you continue at the Grange. I return to you Alverley, when Herbert and Edward were your farce, forsoota, to banish again to the school- your locket and your cross; I want no souvenir room a girl of a sufficient age to take her place from so stern a monitor, not I; and, in a paroxin society; were I in your place, Aileen, I would yem of anger, Maud tore the trinkets from a not endure it quietly. When will they cease to small gold chain on which they depended, reck-

> A somewhat in dignant remonstrance trembled on the lips of Aileen, which was cut short by forming one arm of the cross, which was set with dinner being announced; and the old Squire, the only person in whom she detected no change, save that his hair was whiter than of old, and his shoulders bent with age, passing his arm through hers led her from the room ..

The old gentleman so arranged that Herbert should occupy the next seat to hers at table, to confusion, exclaimed: But, if I remember rightly, the great amusement of Maud Cleveland, whose well for you if you are not this moment weaving never be realized as far as Aileen was con-

This meeting, which had been intended for a forward on his stick, looked on the fair scene asked, she would have simply said, she knew not the Squire, usually full of spirits, and an excelthat all these broad acres will pass to other but, be that as it may, a musing spirit seemed to would probably never attain his own age, or, if Brother." he did, long ere that time arrived he would have drew to the deep recess in which the window squandered away his patrimony; and the other in satire or in jest, as the case may be, come 'Nay, nay, my good friend, not so fast, not so park beyond, now lighted up by the silvery rays that Edward has far other and higher views than -thus it fared in the end with Maud Cleveany one you have formed for him.

As to Aileen, every thing was distasteful to ber; she felt rather repulsed from Maud than swept out of the room, slamming the door behind came for her to withdraw to her room.

Long after the doors of the different apartthe moon shone full on the torm of Aileen still dreamland now, but do not blame this ardent enamongst us. Her thoughts wandered back to Clevelands were as they used to be, and ever, ever, strangely against her will, the disciple of sions of the future, as if some strange concatenation of events were to blind the two together, yet how, for she knew what his future was to be, but knew not her own; and she still looked out on the calm quiet night, and a weary wish that moon, a light breeze swept through the foliage of the trees, the stars disappeared, and large he was about to commence his noviciate. drops of rain fell heavily on the sward beneath.

'Even thus will my own path in life be clouded.' whose slight figure was arrayed in a simple dress she resolves to gird herself bravely for the work before she ventured to return. of pale blue cashmere; her abundant tresses of before her; and, however stormy may be her

CHAPTER II .- THE BROKEN CROSS.

'I really consider myself the best judge in all such matters, and must beg to decline following your advice; it is an affair in which I will not brook interference,' exclaimed Maud Cleveland. in a sharp and angry tone of voice, as she rose from the couch on which she had been seated eves looked defiantly at him, as she added, ' I do not know that I should even yield to my father's opinion, certainly not to that of a brother, who, because he is about to become a Jesuit, forsooth, considers himself authorized to rebuke me.

' For shame, Maud,' exclaimed Edward, rising from his seat, and following her to a table at which she endeavored to veil her excitement by hurriedly turning over the leaves of a book; he had his hand tenderly upon her arm, adding, Though not much older than yourself, Maud, you will surely not deny that I have more experienced, and I boldly use a brother's privilege in warning you that evil will attend you should you become Harry Vivian's wife.'

'You offend me, sir, by so pertinaciously returning to this odious subject, replied Mand, elsewhere to those who will obey you, as I shall not do. I will not meet you again as long as less in her impetuous fury, and all unconscious that she had broken the fine filagree working small rubies, an expensive and beautiful present which the young student had brought from Rome as a little souvenir for this, his only sister."

Heaven forgive you, my sister, for your mad unwomanly exhibition of auger,' said young Cleveland, stooping to pick up the injured relica 'See, you have broken the cross! it will be love of mischief was intense; and who already a very heavy one for your own shoulders; it so, felt confident that the wishes of her father would when may hap you may feel as if you would sink beneath its weight, then I bid you remember this. Broken Cross.'

'I thank you very much, Sir Preacher? resighing deeply, he added, as he rose, and bending Thus it was with Aileen; and yet, had she been happy reunion, fell singularly short of the mark: plied Maud, in a tone of derision; then, bending with mock reverence, she added, 'and when the which extended itself beyond the Grange, 'I why, unless it was that her strict maidenly re- lent companion, was, on this night, ill calculated cross you warn me of becomes so very heavy am crushed beneath its weight rest as-Herbert, you think he never will reform, and so naively made by her friend, Maud Cleveland; crossed him sorely—one, a reckless spendthrift, sured, I will not forget to send for my Priest

> It not unfrequently bappens that words spoken -oh! do not regret it, Squire, rather rejoice back with bitter interest to those who utter them

Another moment and the enraged beauty had

For a short time Edward stood musing over what had passed, his sharp discernment had led ments of the Grange had closed for the night, him to read correctly the character of the man. she remained at her chamber window looking out whom the self-willed Maud intended to esponse, udon the park beneath, and a little to the right, and to regard it in a very different point of view through an opening in the trees, on the quiet from that held by her father, who had led her to she labored on this, the first night of her return country beyond. It was a still calm night, the believe he should not withhold his consent to her

The sorrow Edward Cleveland had felt when arrayed in the despised blue dress which had ex- he first became acquainted with the attachment cited the ridicule of Maud Cleveland. She was that existed, and which he had just reasons for vainly trying to look into the future; she was in believing would terminate in an unbappy union. was now changed into a feeling of indignation; thusiastic girl, for we all have our day-dreams, but a few moments' reasoning with his own heartand the perhaps not unreasonable sentiment of anger had passed away; and the words, 'Poor-Maud, she will regret all this when too late," escaped his lips, at the very moment that the door gently opened, and Aileen entered-Aileen, who was the very personification of all those graces warmth of an old friend, the hand which so very the great St. Ignatius was foremost in those re- in woman, which are most winning in the eyes of

She was about to withdraw on seeing the room occupied, when Edward hastened to detain her, spoke to her with enthusiasm of the lite to which he was about to devote himself; of his desire to seek for distant climes in which he she could raise the veil which acreens the future might labor for the conversion of the heathen. ed a fast man, in this fast age of ours! and the from our sight, took possession of her soul; that bid her remember him in after years, and then future which it seemed to her would be dark and recalled to mind those early days which they had. troubled : even as that midnight hour, for, as she passed together, and ended by telling her that he. yet gazed, a cloud passed over the face of the bad a souvenir, of which he begged her-acceptance before his departure for the college in which

> Now, of the different members of the Souire's family, there was none to whom Aileen was so, she exclaimed, with a heavy sigh. I feel a drawn as to himself and Edward, and so it hapbeholds one bright star gleaming through the touched a chord in her heart which made her sad clouds, and she hails its appearance as an earnest and depressed, and the tears were still trembling of a bright hereafter; and should those fore- in her eyes, when a little later Maud re-entered

What is the matter, ma mignonne,' she insunny brown hair, tinged with a golden bue, future, to be found with her lamp well trimmed, quired as she observed the tell-tale-tears in the eyes of Aileen, 'surely you are not in grief be-.