

S. Columba, Abbot

SAINT COLUMBA, the Apostle of the Picts, was born at Gartan, in the County of Tyrconnell, A.D. 521. From early childhood he gave himself to God.

After S. Columba was made Abbot his real offended King Dermot; and in 565 the Saint departed for Scotland, where he founded a hundred religious houses, and converted the Picts, who in gratitude gave him the Island of Iona.

On the day of his peaceful death, in the seventy-seventh year of his age, surrounded in choir by his spiritual children, the 9th June, 597, he said to his disciple Dermot, "This day is called the Sabbath, that is, the day of rest; and such will it truly be to me; for it will put an end to my labors."

Four years before his death S. Columba had a vision of angels, who told him that the day of his death had been deferred four years, in answer to the prayers of his children; whereat the Saint wept bitterly, and cried out, "Woe to me that my sojourning is prolonged," for he desired above all things to reach his true home.

HAPPINESS VILLA.

BY A. DE LAMOTHE.

"Eh! eh! business has not been so bad this year!" exclaimed Athanase Polydore Le Comte, wholesale and retail dealer in children's, entering, on the last day of December, 1897, the little salon—rather dark, although it was eighty-six steps above the pavement of Rue Childbert—of the tiny apartment occupied by him as tenant of the unfurnished house No. 218.

And, with his hands in the pockets of his black and grey checked trousers, the consequential little trader began to walk up and down, humming a popular air which he interrupted only to plant himself squarely, in the attitude of the Colossus of Rhodes, in front of his wife to whom he said once more: "A fine profit, eh? What do you say to it, Elodie?"

"It is on the mantelpiece behind you," answered the sweet young girl, crossly "it is not worth my while to get up."

The merchant had resumed his promenade. At the third turn he halted and said: "In short, what will satisfy you?" "Oh! nothing, absolutely nothing!" she replied. "I am so happy!"

What a charming arrangement! The cook could go to market every morning, madame and mademoiselle visit their friends and do their shopping. As to M. Athanase, from his garden gate to the boat and from the quay to his office, he had not a kilometre to walk. One could not be otherwise than happy under this roof covered with varnished tiles.

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