



## A CHAPLET OF YEARS



disappointment! The whistle blew, the bell rang, and the train obediently steamed out, gaining speed with every puff. Like a mighty giant, it seemed to defy the companion nuns two blocks away.

Dismayed, Sister M. Sacred Heart stood stock still on the sidewalk, and said reproachfully, "You see, Mother, how useless it was to come on; the train has gone."

"Never mind," said Mother cheerfully, without slackening pace, "hurry along, it will come back for us. St. Joseph will take us to Nanaimo today."

She continued to walk rapidly on for a minute or so, when, would you believe it—the train came back. It began to move backwards, and backwards towards the station, and slowing up, stopped at the platform.

"Quick, quick," said Mother, "the train has come back for us."

The two Sisters fairly ran. They reached the train and had barely boarded it, when it was off again. When they were in their seats, the Mother Provincial said to her companion, "Did I not say all along that St. Joseph would see us through, though we did run through town like John Gilpin?" Mother always had a keen sense of the ludicrous, and she ever after enjoyed comparing her race to Russell station with that of Cowper's hero, John Gilpin, through London town.

Although the confident Mother knew that St. Joseph had brought the train back for her accommodation, she was too practical not to know likewise that there was some natural cause for the immediate return to the station of a moving train. She soon got the explanation. The conductor had forgotten his clearance papers and his ticket-book—an unheard of thing—and the train came back that he might get them.

It is more than probable that Conductor Black reproached himself for his forgetfulness that day, with never a suspicion that St. Joseph, looking serenely down from heaven, alone was responsible. Neither did the good conductor lay the disturbance to the pertinacity of the two nuns, who demurely paid him their fare. Meanwhile they went on rejoicing within themselves that they had compelled St. Joseph to send the E. & N. train back for them.