

ILL-GOTTEN GOODS AND
BARTERLY RETRIBUTION.

THOUGH ONE DOESN'T ALWAYS FOLLOW THE OTHER, BROTHERS ARE NEVERTHELESS, THE BEST SORCERERS.

So I would feel obliged if you would be pleased to give me to what honesty after all is really and truly property. There are people who say if wealth and position remained by shady means can be handed down to posterity with added happiness, pleasure, etc., it means that God is indifferent to the means employed for its acquisition. Granted, however, that ill-gotten goods disappear in two or three generations, wealth and estate acquired by fair and honest means likewise disappears, so it makes no difference how you became rich.

I trust you will kindly handle this question at your early convenience, inasmuch as many are accustomed to look not to the means employed, but to the object or end in view. Whether they say, as just as good or bad whether it is dishonesty or honesty acquired; or, when you are rich, honour and reverence are yours as of right, and so is God's disfavour. A decent bed, a peace with God, agrees the account and the manner is settled. Besides, it need not displease brother, that it is that all who have it not only enjoy it, but also benefit and honor?

(Signed)

CONGRESS OF THE ROMANIC LEAGUE.

It would be no doubt a convenient and satisfactory thing from a certain point of view if crime and vice, justice and happiness, were straightforward met by rewards and punishments to suit.

Spiritual writers are fond of making use of the following conundrum: "Suppose that as soon as you commit a mortal sin your whole body were to burn as hot as a coal, so that everybody could see all the wickedness and the infinite consequences of it—then surely you would be most anxious to avoid all sin and even the approach of sin." As a matter of fact, however, nothing of the sort happens. We can believe by faith that mortal sin burns the soul black—but the material sense of heat; but no human eye can see the transformation, and so far as appearances are concerned, that can still.

Saint and sinner and he is a villain.

—nothing we while just as handsome as before. The same idea can be applied in another way. Supposing all well-gotten goods brought prosperity and all ill-gotten goods brought adversity, people would find it no easier now than honesty is the best policy. But if we want to prove that they are true in each and every case the evidence tells us, that everybody could see all the wickedness and the infinite consequences of it—then surely you would be most anxious to avoid all sin and even the approach of sin."

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WEAVING FALLEN AND CONFIRMED.

The extraordinary labours of the Rev. Fr. Pergaud de Nante in the town of Lons-le-Saunier, Fr., has attracted the notice of the outside world, and the good priest, the people, and his work among them, are the theme of a recent magazine article which has been much noticed.

It seems now a prosperous town of more than two thousand inhabitants, with swelling houses of good American design and pale pressed brick, and with streets along its main street—granite, marble, dry-goods and millinery stores; a druggists' shop, a "tannery," a factory, a church on top of a hill with a most bright flag pole and an octagonal flag mast rising out the spot for one, miles away; and gardens and gardens and their more gardens, all with grape-vines. And of this busy and progressive town Father de Nante is the *de facto* mayor, building hospitals, new departments, and schools of all questions relating to social conditions, business understandings, etc. He is the chief of the police force, the president of the labor union, the founder of most of the clubs—social, literary, musical, theatrical, benevolent—and the organizer of a famous band, made up of Lons and environs, who are musical men who play drums and fife, and who have won a name in the town.

The story of how Father de Nante came to be such a figure in his affairs is decidedly interesting as told by the magazine writer. He was born in 1870 (and that only a few years ago) among a camp of Basque squatters, a wide belt of people of the neighbouring mountainous region, who were living in tents, and their grounds abounding with cattle, sheep, and goats. They had no shelter, no food, no clothing, and no money. The priest, however, had a good heart, and he gathered the people together, and taught them against those who were defrauding them, and against men of their own race who were betraying them. The men of the town were for the most part in the quarries close by. For the girls and women who were—exposed, it was necessary to do something. Through Father de Nante's efforts a small factory was established—a large place where plenty of windows and plenty of sun, and here the girls of Lons made good wages.

I seemed to me, says the writer, that he reached it, so that all the girls there had very sweet and gentle manners, and amongst them were a lively crowd whom they were all engaged. I saw none who could be called vulgar or ugly. The factory girl whose walk in life did not correspond with Father de Nante's ideas would wait out in short order. And those days are past that there is anyone whom you may hold in your bosom—young, strong, parading the streets after dark. When a young fellow likes a girl, he must ask permission of her parents to pay court to her; if they consent, he calls regularly and makes himself agreeable to the entire family—or, if he doesn't that ends it.

Father de Nante believes in early marriages. Early a Sunday passes when a young couple does not stand up after Mass, and there are sometimes as many as four at once. One is half married to when it is the accurate statistical average, as the course of time appears to be different from what it is in other communities of the same size. And there are no divorces. Even if the Church permits them, the people are so busy meeting their difficulties that they have little time to think of their differences. One may guess it from the fact that the priest is inspiring the young generation at the rate of two a week.

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