

THE WONDERFUL FLOWER OF WOXINDON.

An Historical Romance of the Times of Queen Elizabeth.

BY REV. JOSEPH SPILLMAN, S. J.

PUBLISHED BY PERMISSION OF B. HERDER, ST. LOUIS, MO.

(Reproduced from the Montreal True Witness.)

CHAPTER XV.—(Continued.)

She laughed and said I had learnt in the school of Catherine de Medici to make pretty speeches, and I must not think she believed a word of my flatteries, neatly turned though they were.

I answered (God forgive me) in the words of Holy Scripture: "Suppones sicut angelus Dei!" Nothing escapes your Majesty's penetration! True it is that my uncle spoke in similar terms of your Majesty's almost superhuman beauty, but now my own eyes tell me that far from saying too much, his expression fell short of the truth.

A murmur of approval and assent ran through the assembled bystanders. The Queen gave me a gracious pat with one of the gold tassels hanging from her girdle, saying, "Rise up Master St. Barbe, and follow us in the hall of audience. We must have some conversation with you."

It was plain that the Queen's vanity was tickled, and it has always been a puzzle to me how a rational being, perfectly aware of the falsity of these flatteries, should still take pleasure in them. Many an envious glance was directed towards me, as I followed in the Queen's train. Amongst the maids of honor I saw Miss Cecil. Our eyes met; I fancied I read in her glance something of annoyance, if not scorn on account of the flatteries I had been uttering. The contemptibility of such hollow sycophancy was borne in upon me forcibly, and I felt heartily ashamed of myself.

While this was passing in my mind the Queen had entered the audience chamber with her suite, and taken her seat on a gilt arm chair, beneath a canopy of blue damask, the back of which was decorated with the royal arms and surmounted by a crown. On her right stood Lord Burgleigh; on her left the Lord Chamberlain. Besides myself a few of the nobles and ladies of the Court had the honor to be present at this audience, when various petitioners made their requests to the Queen. I do not remember what the petition consisted in: they were of the nature usually asked of crowned heads. Elizabeth refused some with bitter irony, others are granted; almost invariably, she listened favorably to the application of Catholic nobles who having apostasized, asked for a share in the property of other members of the family, confiscated on account of the owner's adhesion to his faith. But these favors—the reward of apostasy—were often accorded grudgingly and scornfully, as one might throw a dog a bone and give him a kick at the same time.

Presently, it was my lot to witness a scene which will ever remain impressed on my memory. Lady Tregian was announced, and the Groom of the Chambers ushered in a gentle Yeoman of distinguished appearance, dressed in black, still young, but pale and worn with grief. She led by the hand two little boys and a girl, wearing a white frock, held on to the skirt of her gown. On hearing the name of Tregian, an angry frown contracted Elizabeth's brow; this the lady appeared not to notice, at any rate she did not heed it, so bent was she on making her plaint for her petition heard. Throwing herself at the Queen's feet, with her children, she addressed her, at first with a trembling voice, but afterwards with the courage of despair, somewhat in this wise:

"Since your Majesty wields supreme power in this land, and is the earthly representative of the Divine Majesty, your subjects may claim your protection and help in this distress. I venture therefore to approach in my hour of trouble, and to implore for God's sake a gracious hearing on behalf of my unfortunate husband, who has languished in prison for many years, and on behalf of these innocent children."

Elizabeth interrupted her impatiently. "If we were to listen to the gossip of all the women in the kingdom, she said, 'little time would be left for the weighty affairs of the State that engross our attention. Make your story short, good woman. Who are you? What do you want?'"

A flush overspread the countenance of the suppliant, betraying the vexation aroused by this unkindly rebuff. Quickly mastering her emotion, she continued, with the utmost composure of manner: "I am the unhappy wife of Lord Francis Tregian, who is distantly related to the Royal House of Tudor. We lived in peace and comfort at our Castle near Lannocston in Cornwall, until on the testimony of a perjured villain, a wandering musician, bribed by our enemies to work our ruin, my husband was accused of harboring a Seminary Priest, Oathbert

Maine, and under the Statute Praemunitre condemned to loss of goods and chattels and imprisonment for life. I was then expecting the birth of my fourth child, and doubting not that so urgent a sentence—no less than forty witnesses having alleged the accusation to be false—would be reversed, I confidently awaited my husband's return. But instead of this, late one night some efflores of the law presented themselves at our door and took possession, in virtue of the sentence, of all our property. Penetrating into the bed chamber, whither I had retired with the children, they turned us out in the dark and cold to take shelter in a barn until daybreak. I then resolved to seek justice at the hands of your Majesty, as the divinely appointed protector of the oppressed. We, the wife and children of Lord Tregian, begged our bread from village to village, from town to town, across England, all the long weary way from Cornwall to London. Our journey was not half over when the baby was born; but no sooner could I drag my limbs onward than we started anew to throw ourselves on your compassion. Behold us now at your Majesty's feet! speak, my children, and say what I have taught you!"

Francis, the eldest boy, was about to speak; he looked up at the Queen and the words died on his lips, so forbidding was the aspect of that royal lady. "She is angry, mother," he whispered. His little brother began to whimper; the little girl alone had the courage to repeat the formula she had been told to utter: "Please set father free. Let us go back to our home. I will pray to the holy Mother of God for Your Majesty every day."

For a moment I thought that the Queen's heart would be melted, and her better nature prevail. I was mistaken. With a bitter, cynical laugh she turned to the Lord Chamberlain, whose office it was to prepare the list of petitioners to be given her, and said: "I thank you so much, my lord, for this charming little performance. The lady's gesticulation is excellent, she might with advantage play the part of Hecuba at the Globe theatre. She articulates well, also, only at times her manner is rather labored. The children want practice, except the girl, she acted her part quite prettily. 'We will make as if we had not cake.' Then completely changing her tone, she addressed Lady Tregian, who had risen to her feet, indignant at the scorn with which she was treated. 'My lady,' she said, 'we will make as if we had not heard the heavy charges which you have dared to bring against our Law Courts and administration of Justice; there would otherwise be ample ground for committing you to the Tower. Have the goodness to answer one question: Is it not true that you and your husband are stubborn Papists? That you have refused to attend divine worship as by law established? That you will not acknowledge us as the legitimate and supreme Head of the Church of England? Yes, or no?'"

Lady Tregian answered calmly: "Certainly, Your Majesty, we are true children of the ancient Faith. In all civil matters we have every claim on our obedience; but we can never, we will never recognize in you the successor of St. Peter to whom Christ said: 'Thou art the rock, upon which I will build my Church!'"

The Queen could no longer control her rage. "That is quite enough!" she exclaimed. "Begone insolent woman, and beware how you venture again to intrude your hateful person into our royal presence. By the soul of King Henry, we are tempted to forget our characteristic gentleness and make such an example of you and your children that not only all England, but all Europe shall talk of it. The sentence of the Court will remain valid; your lord will not be set at liberty until he acknowledges us to be Supreme Head of the English Church, and attends divine service as we have ordained. As for you, you and your brats can beg in the streets, you certainly are not wanting in the requisite effrontery. Lieutenant of the Guard, conduct this woman and her children to the park gates, and send them away from thence. Under no circumstances are they ever to be admitted again."

There is

no escaping the germs of consumption; kill them with health. Health is your only means of killing them. Scott's Emulsion of cod-liver oil will give you that health, if anything will.

Lady Tregian drew the weeping children to her side, made a deep curtsy to the Queen, and withdrew from the audience chamber, saying as she went, "May Your Majesty find more mercy before the throne of God than you have shown to us!"

CHAPTER XVI.

It is useless to commit to writing the abusive language in which Elizabeth continued to give vent to her anger after the persons who had provoked it had withdrawn. The whole scene affected me most disagreeably, the more so because Mary Stuart's charity towards the poor was yet fresh in my memory.

Presently the Queen rose, and was conducted by Lord Burgleigh into her private cabinet, whither I was shortly summoned. I found her seated at a writing table, on which was a pile of papers, occupied in tracing the large letters with flourishes forming her well known signature. For a long time I remained standing unnoticed at the door, so that I had the opportunity of observing the subject of the Gobelins tapestry on the walls, and the sumptuous furniture of the apartment. The tapestry represented the finding of the infant Moses by Pharaoh's daughter; an inscription upon a scroll explaining that as Pharaoh's daughter saved Moses from death, so Elizabeth the daughter of the heavenly King, had rescued the pure Gospel from the destruction wherewith the Pope, the Pharaoh of heathen Egypt, had threatened it.

At length the Queen looked up, laid aside the swan quill in her hand, and beckoned to me not unkindly to approach. At three paces distant from her feet I knelt down; but she graciously bade me rise, and even take my seat upon a low stool. She addressed a great many questions to me about Paris, about the King and the Queen Mother, and I told her as many Court scandals as I could remember out of the number that are always rife in the French Court. She listened with a malicious pleasure; then she asked about the Duke of Guise, and what prospect there was for Henry of Navarre. I replied that he was almost certain of the crown, the only doubt being whether he would give up the reformed religion for the sake of it.

"No," she replied, "everybody has not our courage. We might have had peaceful times, had we cast ourselves at the Pope's feet, and retained the fable of the mass. As it is, not only are the Papists incessantly plotting against us, but the Puritans also make our life a burden to us." She then began to speak of the situation of affairs in the Low Countries, and inquired what was thought of Leicester at Paris. As I knew that he no longer stood as high as he formerly did in his royal mistress's favor, I did not scruple to say that his achievements had disappointed the expectations formed of him; but the fortunes of war did not always correspond to the qualities and talents of great generals. "Qualities and talents!" she broke out. Dudley is an idle boaster, a miles gloriosus, and nothing more! To hear him talk you might fancy him a great conqueror, but he is a fool compared with Parma. And now contrary to our express command, he has arrogated to himself the title of Governor-General of the States. I have a good mind to recall him, and let him make a triumphal entry into the Tower! The support of the evangelical cause in the Netherlands has already cost us a mint of money; and it has struck me that the best way would be simply to surrender to the King of Spain the four seaports which were conceded to me by the treaty to hold as a security, on condition that he should refund us our war expenses, and do with the insurgent as seems right to his conscience and his honor as a king. That would be the surest means of concluding a permanent peace with Philip II., and once for all delivering our subjects from the apprehension of a Spanish invasion, which every year appears more alarming. What is your opinion?"

I was quite aghast at such a proposition, for it was nothing short of a shameful desertion of our allies. Yet I was enough of a courtier to mask the indignation it aroused within me, and reply that I was but an inexperienced youth, and could not venture to put forward my opinion in the presence of so wise and enlightened a monarch. The boldness of the scheme took away my breath; my only fear was that the abandonment of our Protestant brethren would bring us into ill odor with the partisans of the Reformation. Beside, it seemed rather hazardous to have the Spaniards for such near neighbors. But doubtless this and all other considerations had been duly weighed long since by Her Majesty. Feeling myself on dangerous ground, for the sake of changing the conversation, I remarked that in accordance with uncle's commands, I had visited Oathbert a few days ago, to see whether the orders of the Privy Council in regard to their distinguished prisoner were fully carried out.

(To be continued.)

Milburn's Laxative Pills regulate the bowels, cure constipation, dyspepsia, biliousness, sick headache and all affections of the organs of digestion.

THAT'S THE SPOT!

Right in the small of the back. Do you ever get a pain there? If so, do you know what it means? It is a Backache.

A sure sign of Kidney Trouble. Don't neglect it. Stop it in time. If you don't, serious Kidney Troubles are sure to follow.

DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS

cure Backache, Lame Back, Diabetes, Dropsy and all Kidney and Bladder Troubles.

Price 30c. a box or 5 for \$1.25, all druggists. DOAN KIDNEY PILL CO. Toronto, Ont.

MISCELLANEOUS.

That charity that begins at home is often so discouraged that it never gets any further.

If you expect to make heaven your home you must make home heavenly.

A girl should choose a young man for a husband with a good past record, with a brilliant future before him; but most of the girls prefer one with a present—and the more expensive it is the more she is interested in him.

Children are often attacked suddenly by painful and dangerous Colic, Cramps, Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Cholera Morbus, Cholera Infantum, etc. Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry is a prompt and sure cure which should always be kept in the house.

The opinions of some people are not worth much. If they were they would not be spending them so freely.

Minard's Liniment Cures Diphtheria.

The only business we know of that can make money without advertising is the mint.

British Troop Oil Liniment is good for man or beast. Relieves pain, reduces swelling, allays inflammation, cures cuts, burns, bruises, sprains, stiff joints, bites of insects, rheumatism, etc. A large bottle for 50 cent.

A broken reputation is like a broken vase. It can be mended but the crack still shows.

The preacher who thinks only of pruning flocks of rhetoric is not the one who reaps the most fruit of right goodness.

Messrs. C. C. Richards & Co.

Dear Sir,—While in the country last summer I was badly bitten by mosquitoes—so badly that I thought I would be disabled for a couple of weeks. I was advised to try your Liniment to allay the irritation, and did so. The effect was more than I expected—a few applications completely curing the irritation, preventing the bites from becoming sore. MINARD'S LINIMENT is also a good article to keep off the mosquitoes.

Yours truly, W. A. OKE. Harbor Grace, Nfld., Jan. 8, 1898.

Every young man should love and cherish his sister, and if he has no sister he should borrow someone else's.

Minard's Liniment Cures Garget in Cows.

Mens felt hats at Week's & Co. We are having a splendid sale of our Christy Hats this year beating all other year's hollow. We give the best value and have a big stock of the latest styles to choose from. We will be glad to show them to you. Weeks & Co. The People's Store.

Doan's Kidney Pills are a sure cure.

A Sunday School teacher recently told her class about the cruelty of docking horses. "Can any little girl tell me," she said, "any appropriate verse of Scripture referring to such treatment?" A small girl rose and solemnly said: "What God has joined together, let no man put asunder."

Backache, swelling of feet and ankles, puffing under eyes, frequent thirst, scanty, cloudy, high colored urine and all urinary troubles lead to Bright's disease, dropsy, diabetes etc. Doan's Kidney Pills are a sure cure.

Minard's Liniment the best Hair Restorer.

Is a purely vegetable System Renovator, Blood Purifier and Tonic.

A medicine that acts directly at the same time on the Stomach, Liver, Bowels and Blood.

It cures Dyspepsia, Biliousness, Constipation, Pimples, Boils, Headache, Salt Rheum, Running Sores, Indigestion, Erysipelas, Cancer, Shingles, Ringworm or any disease arising from an impoverished or impure condition of the blood.

For Sale by all Druggists.

EVERY HOUSE SHOULD HAVE IT. ASK YOUR DRUGGIST FOR IT. TAKE NO OTHER.

PRICE, - 35c.



HAVE you been smoking a good deal lately and feel an occasional twinge of pain round your heart? Are you short of breath, nervous, unsteady, sensation of pins and needles going through your arms and fingers? Better take a box or two of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills and get cured before things become too serious. As a specific for all heart and nerve troubles they cannot be excelled. A true heart tonic, blood purifier and nerve restorer, they cure nervousness, sleeplessness, nervous prostration, smoker's heart, palpitation of the heart, after effects of a stroke, etc. Price 50c. per box or 3 boxes for \$1.25 at all druggists, or will be sent on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

MON ESPERANCE.

(From the French of Sister Therese)

TRANSLATED BY SUSAN L. EMBRY.

Though in a foreign land I dwell afar, I taste in dreams the endless joys of heaven.

Fain would I fly beyond the farthest star,

And see the wonders to the ransomed given!

No more the sense of exile weighs on me,

When once I dream of that immortal day,

To my true fatherland, dear God! I see,

For the first time I soon shall fly away.

Ah! give me, Jesus! wings as white as snow,

So that towards Thee I soon may take my flight.

I long to be where flowers unfading blow;

I long to see Thee, O my heart's Delight!

I long to fly to Mary's mother-arms,—

To rest upon that spotless throne of bliss;

And sheltered there from troubles and alarms

For the first time to feel her gentle kiss.

Thy first sweet smile of welcoming delight

Soon show, O Jesus! to Thy lowly bride.

O'ercome with rapture at that wondrous sight,

Within Thy Sacred Heart, ah! let me hide.

O happy moment! and O heavenly grace!

When I shall hear Thee, Jesus! speak to me;

And the full vision of Thy glorious face

For the first time my longing eyes shall see.

Thou knowest well, my only martyrdom

Is love, O Heart of Jesus Christ! for Thee;

And if my soul craves for its heavenly home,

'Tis but to love Thee more, eternally.

Above, when Thy sweet Face unveiled I see,

Measure our bounds shall to my love be given.

Forever my delight shall seem as new

As the first time my spirit entered heaven.

—S. H. Review.

Suits.

WE KEEP

Right to the Front

—IN THE—

Tailoring Trade;

But we do not charge high prices for our Goods—just enough to make you feel satisfied that you are getting the best value in town.

Tweed & Worsted Suits

FROM \$14 UP.

JOHN McLEOD & CO.,

Merchant Tailor.

Have You Ever Tired

Petrol

On Your Walls?

It is far superior to the Kalsomines and other preparations in use, as it contains no glue, but make a hard cement like surface. A beautiful line of colors.

FOR SALE BY

Fennell & Chandler.

It Will Pay You

—TO—

INVESTIGATE OUR PRICES

—ON OUR—

Made-to-Order Suits,

Overcoats, Trousers, Fancy Vests, etc., White Shirts, Colored Shirts, Silk front Shirts, Underclothing, Bathing Suits, Collars, Cuffs, Ties, Suspenders, Gloves, Socks, Linen and Silk Handkerchiefs, Tennis Shirts, Waterproof Coats, Umbrellas, Light Summer Coats and Vests, Caps, Collar Buttons, Cuff Links, Tie Clips, etc.

Everything New and Up-to-date.

GORDON & MACLELLAN,

Men's Outfitters.

New Fruit Syrups.

We have just received a new lot of Fruit Syrups. The varieties include:—

Lemon, Pineapple, Strawberry, Raspberry, Lime Fruit, Raspberry Vinegar, Lemon Ginger-ette.

The prices range from 10c to 35 cents a bottle.

BEER & GOFF,

GROCERS.

Carter's

Bookstore

HEADQUARTERS FOR

Books, Magazines, Newspapers

(Home and Foreign)

STATIONERY,

WALL PAPER,

FANCY GOODS,

TOY

The latest Works of Fiction and all the leading Magazines and Newspapers promptly received. Ample supplies in all lines at all times.

Geo. Carter & Co.

Booksellers & Stationers.

! SAY!

If you want to buy a SATISFACTORY pair of

BOOTS or SHOES

or anything else in the

FOOTWEAR

line, at the greatest saving price to yourself, try—

A. E. McEACHEN,

THE SHOE MAN,

QUEEN STREET.

The Best

Homes

Are furnished with exactly the kind of

Furniture

we sell.

It pays to buy our kind,

It pays us to sell it.

That is its worth while to have a reputation for selling right goods at right prices. Our Furniture has made that reputation for us. By selecting here you'll get a reputation for good taste.

John Newson