

Obedience.

BY MARY DOLORESA.

The path was rough and perilous—no ray Of guiding light fell on my lonely way; My spirit, overwhelmed with doubt and fear, Paused, faint, uncertain. Ominous and drear The sound of angry waters broke and beat, With cries of restless mourning, at my feet, While far above, my straining, hopeless eyes Could trace no sign of day in the dim skies. Then said I, to my own soul, tempest-tossed, "If I take one step forward, I am lost!" Scarce were the weak words uttered, when I heard, Above the angry waters' rush, one word—"Forward!" I knew the Voice, and tho' the path Before me lay in darkness, and the wrath Of the wild storm my soul with terror shook, Straightway into the bitter gloom I took One step—and, crushing back my faint heart's fear, Said, answering the Voice, "Lo, I am here!" Then, suddenly and sweetly, a soft ray Of glory from above fell on my way; The restless waters fled. Before my feet The rock-strewn path grew strangely smooth and sweet; And then—ah I then, I heard the low voice say, "One step thou'st taken nearer heaven today."

The Town Tenants' Question.

Much of the success achieved by Irish representatives in the British House of Commons is due to the fact that they enter into a discussion of all subjects. Their voice is never silent in debate. The Dublin Freeman, in a recent issue, says: "The Irish party achieved a remarkable success in the House of Commons yesterday evening on the Town Tenants' Bill, the second reading of which was moved by Mr. MacVeagh, when they reduced the Government's majority to 37. Mr. MacVeagh's speech, in moving the second reading of the measure, was worthy of his reputation as one of the most able, although one of the youngest, members of the party. The Bill gives the tenants of town property in Ireland a right to compensation for improvements, allows an application to the County Court to fix a fair rent, and in addition to entitling the tenant of such property to a renewal of the lease at a rental to be fixed by the Court, in default of agreement between landlord and tenant, gives the latter the option of purchasing his holding. Mr. MacVeagh, in an extremely able speech, pointed out that if Ireland is to be prosperous her towns must be prosperous. He did not, of course, go as far as Lord Oadogan when he said, as Viceroy, a few years ago, that the progress of Ireland entirely depended on her towns. That is a very different proposition. What Mr. MacVeagh argued was that there can be no development in Irish towns unless the traders and people of these towns are given a fair tenure, under which they will, with safety, be able to develop their business and their civic life. That is the case in other countries, as Mr. Charles Devlin pointed out. "In other parts of the world," he said, "the working and laboring classes were not only the owners of their own homes, but they were the owners of the ground upon which those houses stood." And what a contrast this was, taken from his knowledge of Canada, to his recent experience in Galway, where the local authority could do nothing, and a philanthropic gentleman had come to the rescue to the best of his ability. "What greater or more deadly impediment," asked Mr. MacVeagh, "can we find that a state of affairs under which, on the expiration of a lease, the landlords are permitted to evict solvent town tenants without giving them compensation for their permanent improvements, or for loss of business?" The short lease system, in fact, works demoralization all around the town. When it hits the shopkeeper it necessarily hits the laborer and the artisan also. As Mr. MacVeagh pointed out, it prevents thrift in the working classes and damages co-operative and building societies. This is obvious. It also encourages jerry-building and insufficient maintenance of houses, and tends to raise rents. It produces fog ends of terms of years and encourages the house-farmers to buy them up, and, neglecting all duties attaching to property, to impoverish the poor. Instead of merely securing protective covenants for the benefit of the district, it enables the monopolist landlord to impose vexatious and restrictive covenants according to his caprice—covenants which are wholly unnecessary for the security of his rent annuity. Mr. MacVeagh pointed out that the system was quite different in Belfast, because there, for the last century, the representative of the Marquis of Done-

gall have been in the habit of giving leases for 999 years. This is one of the reasons why Belfast is now the great centre of population and industry in the island. The member for South Down pointed out, furthermore, that the Irish system is unknown in almost every country in Europe. "The system under which the houses built by the tenants become the property of the landlords at the end of a term is unknown in Austria. In Belgium the houses are freehold property. In Denmark, Sweden and Norway the landlord must either buy at the official valuation all tenements built by the lessee, or have them removed. House property in Germany is invariably held on freehold tenure, whilst in Italy the tenant can compulsorily acquire his house; and so on in every European country—including even Russia." And he pointed out also that while it is a common idea that the residents of towns in England suffer in the same way as tenants in Ireland, nothing could be farther from the fact, the returns showing that out of 2,600,000 inhabited houses in England and Wales, outside the Metropolis, only 136,584 have been built on the short lease system.

The Biblical Commission.

Apostolic Letter of Our Holy Father Pius X., by Divine Providence Pope, on the Confering of Degrees in Sacred Scripture by the Biblical Commission.

PIUS X., POPE, In Perpetual Memory of This Matter. To promote more and more the study of Sacred Scripture among the clergy we feel to be especially urged upon us by our Apostolic office at the present time when we see that this fount of divine revelation and faith has become a main object of attack by the impotence of human reason. Our predecessor, Leo XIII., of happy memory, realizing this, was not satisfied with publishing his encyclical letter "Providentissimus Deus," treating of the Scripture in the year 1893; for, a few months before his death, in the Apostolic letter "Vigilantiae," he established a special council in the city, consisting of a number of Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church and several other learned men, which, while guided by the doctrine and tradition of the Church, was also designed to utilize the advance of erudition for the legitimate exegesis of the Bible, and at the same time furnish Catholic, with aid and direction in Scriptural studies and settle any controversies that might arise among them.

Martyred in Corea.

Manifold difficulties did not daunt heroic missionaries to Corea, of whom the pioneer was a Chinese priest. This harbinger of the Gospel succeeded in the year 1795 in his daring attempt to pass the frontier in disguise, and on Easter Sunday celebrated Mass for the first time in the pagan kingdom. He lived and taught for six years, but in 1801 suffered martyrdom with 300 of his disciples. His fate did not deter others from following in his footsteps, and many other missionaries shared his crown. The first Vicar Apostolic and two priests fell victims to a persecution in 1839 and with them 129 natives died for the faith. Catholicism for the time seemed stamped out in blood, and it was not until 1845 that the next Vicar Apostolic succeeded in making his way once more into the midst of the lost or scattered flock. The courage and perseverance required to reach them may be measured by the fact that one of his priests spent ten years in a series of attempts to penetrate barriers, in which he at last succeeded in 1852. Yet few and insufficient as were the missionaries under these circumstances their labors were crowned with abundant harvest. In 1866 the Catholics numbered 25,000, among whom were several native candidates for the priesthood. The enthusiastic piety of many of the converts seemed to open the vista of a future full of promise, and it might have appeared as though the nascent Church had survived the most perilous stage of its existence. But its progress no doubt alarmed the jealous timorousness of paganism, and in the year 1866 the storm of persecution burst in full force on pastor and flock. On March 8th the Vicar Apostolic was beheaded with three companions, and before the end of the month five other priests had suffered martyrdom. These executions were the prelude to a general massacre of native Christians, in which some 10,000 perished, including those who died of the hardships and sufferings endured in seeking to escape. For ten years Corea remained inaccessible to Catholic missionaries. Deprived of priests and teachers, the surviving remnant of the Christian population had but the memory of what they had once learned to keep alive the spark of faith in their hearts. But it was ready to revive under favoring circumstances, and these came with the return of the missionaries in May, 1876. "On their return," writes Bishop Mutel, Vicar Apostolic, summarizing the history of the mission in his report for the year 1900, "the Christians had been so persecuted and hurried that at first the missionaries could find but a few thousands scattered here and there among the pagans. Only the most urgent work could be undertaken. At first no regular ministrations, still less the keeping of registers,

I. Nobody shall be advanced to the academical degrees on Sacred Scripture who is not a priest, either secular or regular, and who has not, moreover, obtained the Doctorate in Sacred Theology in some university or institute approved by the Apostolic See.

II. Candidates for the degree of doctor or Licentiate are to undergo an examination, both oral and written, and the matter for this examination is to be fixed by the Biblical Commission.

III. It will be for the Commission to appoint the judges for determining the knowledge of the candidates, and these judges are to be at least five in number and consultants of the Commission. The Commission may, however, in the case of the Licentiate, delegate the verdict to other suitable men.

IV. Candidates for the degree of Licentiate in Sacred Scripture may be admitted to examination immediately they have obtained the doctorate in Sacred Theology; but candidates for the doctorate shall not be admitted until a year after obtaining the degree of Licentiate.

V. In the examination of candidates for the Doctorate in Sacred Scripture there will be this special condition, that each candidate will expound a written thesis, selected by himself, and approved by the Biblical Commission, and shall afterwards read the same and defend it from the attacks of adversaries in a legitimate meeting to be held in Rome.

This we do will, decree and determine, ought to the contrary notwithstanding. It only remains now that our venerable brothers, the Bishops and other prelates seen for the advantage of his own diocese, may look for that fruit from these, our decrees, which we hope will be abundant. To this end let them encourage and aid in the attainment of degrees in this faculty those among their clergy whom they see to be endowed with a special taste and aptitude for special Biblical studies, and let them consider those who possess these degrees as specially qualified for the office of teaching Scripture in the Seminaries. Given at Rome at St. Peter's, under the ring of the Fisherman, on the 23rd of February, Feast of St. Peter Damian, in the year 1904, the first of our Pontificate.

Floods Still Serious.

Indianapolis, Ind., April 1.—While the flood situation throughout southwestern Indiana has considerably improved, the heavy rains of yesterday and last night have almost duplicated the flood stages of last week throughout central Indiana. The White River, near this city, has risen 13 feet above the low water mark and is still rising. Manufacturing interests and many houses in the river districts are menaced. At Portland only three or four business houses are above water, and at Delight the Washabaw railroad is washed away in two places. The suburbs of Alexandria are threatened by the high water, and the inhabitants have abandoned their homes. Rockville is isolated. At Marion, Macon and Newcastle the situation is almost as bad as last week.

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was to be thought of. Not till later on was it possible to reckon up our losses. The victims of the persecution may be estimated at 10,000, including both those who perished at the hands of the executioner and those who succumbed to misery and every kind of privation. Of the 15,000 survivors, two-thirds remained a full and awaited but the return of the missionaries to approach the sacraments. The others fell into a state of tepidity and returned but by degrees." The number of apostates was very small, consisting either of neophytes imperfectly grounded in the faith, or of rich people concerned to serve their temporal goods.

The Homeless Poor of London.

London has been stirred by the figures, placed before it on Monday of a census taken on the night of January 29th by direction of the Public Health Committee of the London County Council of the homeless poor, that is of those who were too poor to pay for a night's lodging and unwilling to seek the aid of the Poor Law authorities. On the night in question as many as 857 persons who had used the kitchens of common lodging houses during the day were turned out because they were not able to engage a bed, 832 of whom were single men, 11 were single women, and 7 were married couples. The Council's officers counted 1463 men, 116 women, 46 boys, and four girls walking the streets, the boys and girls appearing to be under 16 years of age. They also found 100 males and 68 females asleep on staircases, in doorways, and under archways, making 1797 homeless persons. The result of preliminary inquiries showed that the greatest portion of homeless children in London would be found between 1 a. m. and 5 a. m. in an area extending from Hyde Park in the west to the east end of Whitechapel road, bounded on the north by High Holborn, Old street, and Bethnal Green road, and on the south side by the Thames.

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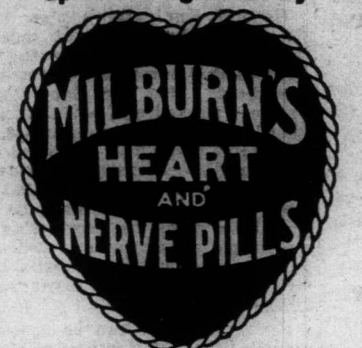
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Bridges Carried Away.

Chambly, Que., April 1.—An ice shove carried away the two bridges spanning the Richelieu River at this point this morning. The first to go was the bridge on the Waterloo branch of the Central Vermont railway. It went out at seven o'clock, just five minutes after the St. Cesaire local had passed over in safety. Two hundred feet below the railway bridge erected several years ago by the Montreal government. Five spans of the seven followed the railway bridge down the river, lodging against the big dam of the Montreal Light and Power Company. There were fears that this would be carried away once more, but the costly improvements made during the past summer demonstrated their value, and the dam still stands, though the danger is not yet over. There still remains a large quantity of ice to pass down. Men have been working all day in an effort to protect. Should the dam go out the loss would run well over a million dollars.

STRONG AND VIGOROUS.

Every Organ of the Body Toned up and invigorated by



Mr. F. W. Meyers, King St. E., Berlin, Ont., says: "I suffered for five years with palpitation, shortness of breath, sleeplessness and pain in the heart, but one box of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills completely removed all these distressing symptoms. I have not suffered since taking them, and now sleep well and feel strong and vigorous."

MISCELLANEOUS.

The man who falls in love with a woman for her voice may have to stop his ears against it afterwards.

Destroys Worms.

Mrs. John Lowe, New Germany, N. S., writes: "I have given Dr. Lowe's Worm Syrup to my children with excellent results. They are fond of taking it and it acts perfectly, requiring no cathartic afterwards."

Minard's Liniment cures Dandruff.

Mrs. Mullins.—Stoves is just like husbands. "Ow's that?" "Why, they allus goes out when yer wants 'em!"

Take a Laxa-Liver Pill before retiring, and it will work while you sleep without a grip or gripe curing Biliousness, Constipation and Dyspepsia and make you feel better in the morning. Price 25c.

Minard's Liniment for sale everywhere.

Young man, don't marrie a fashion-plate. Sumthing in karrico is likely never prove the better investment. Never let a mother bow pretty sum other woman's baby iz. It's apt tew disturb the peace.

Rheumatism in Shoulders.

"I had the Rheumatism in my shoulders so bad that I could not rest at night. I took Milburn's Rheumatic Pills and have not had a trace of it since." John Kinton, Glenboro, Man.

Minard's Liniment relieves neuralgia.

"A widower's second love is always worth more than his first."

Keep Minard's Liniment in the House.

"How about that little bill?" asked the doctor. "Why, doctor," was the reply, "only a little while before you sent it in you told me not to let anything worry me, and I haven't."

Pain in the chest and wheezing are promptly and completely cured by Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. It's the best cough remedy in the world. Easy to take. Price 25c.

Lame Back for Four Months.

Was Unable to Turn in Bed Without Help. Plasters and Liniments No Good. This was the experience of Mr. Benjamin Stewart, Zionville, N.B.

Doan's Kidney Pills CURED HIM.

He tells of his experience in the following words: "For four months I was troubled with a lame back and all this time was unable to turn in bed without help. I tried plasters and liniments of all kinds but with no effect. At last I was induced to try Doan's Kidney Pills, and by the time I had used two-thirds of a box my back was as well and as strong as ever and has kept so ever since."

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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. JOHN McLEOD & CO., Merchant Tailor.

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