

part of her life was spent in the peaceful calm atmosphere of presbyteries and sacristies. When God called her brother to the sacerdotal dignity, Virginie followed him, but stopped before it will be understood. on the threshold, that is to say at the kitchen of the little presbytery of X — a pretty village gracefully scattered over the side of a sloping valley on the banks of the Loire.

\* \* \*

Leo XIII had just died and Pius X, the former Curé of Salzano more simple and more like the Abbé Lambois, placed on his head the august tiara. Our heroine, Miss Virginie, had a profound respect and deep affection for the new Pope some of which she displayed by hanging his picture in every room in the presbytery, learning his first encyclical by heart and offering up all her prayers and good-works that God might bless him with a long and happy reign. Her devotion to Christ's Vicar was truly admirable and worthy of emulation.

"La Croix," brought its daily budget of news to the presbytery but the only interest it possessed for Virginie was the Roman news which she eagerly devoured. Today what rapture overcomes her as she reads of the organization of a National Pilgrimage! To go to Rome, to see the Pope and all for one hundred and forty francs! Her mind is made up. She has a new aim in life.

But to a poor person like herself one hundred and forty francs is a small fortune... Yet where there is a will there is a way and Virginie proves the truth of the old adage. Luckily, she has already saved up and carefully hidden away ninety-eight francs. Her brother, the Curé is poor but very kind-hearted and fond of his sister, so when she tells him of her plans he gives her twenty francs, all he can possibly spare. To make up the twenty-two still lacking she sets to work with a will and from early evening until midnight, as fast as she can make her needles go she knits socks. What matter if her poor tired eyes ache! She is steadily gaining her point. At last, the socks are all finished and sold, the one hundred and forty francs sent to the Secretary of the Pilgrimage and Virginie radiantly happy in her third-class compartment sets out for the Eternal City.