



THE GOLDEN CROWNING



appear. Five minutes, ten minutes, and still no sign of the hack. There were no telephones nor automobiles in those days. The two travellers became restless; the Sisters, who had gathered on the porch to see them off, began to say, "You may as well give up the thought of going today, for you will surely miss the train."

Mother M. Anne of Jesus only said, "St. Joseph will see that the train waits for us."

After delaying a little longer, as the hack was not yet in sight, Mother Provincial said, "Let us start, for I am sure we shall soon meet the driver, and then, I beg you to believe, he will make his horses fly."

The Sisters who surrounded her were not so hopeful. Again they urged, saying, "Do come in; you can go tomorrow. It is out of the question that you catch the train today."

The Mother Provincial's reply was, "Come, Sister M. Sacred Heart, we will be in Nanaimo today, if St. Joseph has to hold the train for us."

Sister M. Sacred Heart was seventy years old, and not any too sprightly as one may believe, but she was too respectful to demur, so she hurried after Mother. The Sisters looked at them till they were out of sight, hoping, but in vain, that a conveyance of some sort would pass by, so as to be hailed by the Sisters who were quickly speeding along.

On and on went Mother, saying alternately to St. Joseph, "Hold that train for us," and to her poor panting companion, "Come, Sister, we'll get there. St. Joseph will see us through." Every once in a while Sister M. Sacred Heart would say, "You see, Mother, it is no use going on, see how far we are from the station, and there is not a cab or cart of any kind to be seen."

But Mother would say all the more brightly, "Come on; St. Joseph will get us there."

As Mother said later on, she never for a moment thought when they left the Convent that they would walk all that distance. She expected every instant, and at every corner, that a hack would turn up; but there was not one on the road that morning, for as was afterwards learned, they had all been hired for a ball some great distance away.

Panting and hurrying, and with ejaculations to St. Joseph, the Sisters kept on, and at last were in sight of the station. Yes, the train was there, three blocks away—they covered one block—and then, oh, for