

female gymnast leaps blindfold leaps blindfold through the air the women spectators usu-ally think it is a terribly risky thing to do, and wonder how she ever has the hardihood; yet hardihood; yet the leap is taken with perfect confidence beeshe kno

cause she knows that strong and destrous hands are ready to receive her. She would never take such hands of any but a trained and skillful athlete. That is where she is really more prudent than many of her sex.

Women who would shudder at the risks of a gymnastic performance take vastly

dent than many of her sex.

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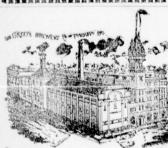
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## LORD EDWARD FITZGERALD

An Historical Romance

RY M. M'D. BODKIN, Q. C.

CHAPTER XVI.—CONTINUED. "There is a man outside in the hall," the butler said, "with a message from Master Mark, which he'll give to no one, he says, except into your honor's own

"Let him in at once," cried Sir Miles eagerly, and he had scarcely spoken when a tall thin man with red hair, who had at all thin man with red han, who had apparently been waiting at the door, walked into the room, straight up to where Sir Miles sat at the head of the table, and put a thick, formal-looking doc-ument into his hand. "From your son," he said with a leer— "a kind remembrance. Excuse me," he

"a kind remembrance. Excuse me," he went on, rapidly drawing a second document from his pocket, "that is the copy and this is the original, and I don't think Layer done a reaster service."

I ever done a neater service."

He was gone from the room like a flash, but not before the experienced eye and ear of the butler took in the situa

Natural instinct in the Irish followe Natural instinct in the Irish follower proved stronger than acquired propriety. The staid butter sprang after the bailiff like hound after fox, and a coat tail came away in his grip as the other fied through

away in his grip as the other ned through the open door.

But the butler's cry of "Bailiff!' bailiff!' brought half a dozen men who were working about the grounds on the track. In a minute, the red-headed man was flying down the avenue with the posse comitatus in full chase after him, Tracky leading the yan velling with de-Thady leading the van, yelling with de-

light.

If the King's writ did not always run in the West of Ireland in those days, the

man that served it did.

But no sound of the shrill shouting reached the dull, cold ear of the owner of that stately mansion and wide demesne.

Sir Miles Blake lay on his back on the thick carpet, with the over-turned chair close beside, and the fire's ruddy glow fell on the cold, pale face, it could not lighten or warm. There was a slight foam on the blue, half-closed lips, and the glazed eyes stared blankly upwards. Clutched tight and crumpled in his right hand was the document that had slain him, as surely and swiftly as knife or poison. Startled by the strange manner of the man, but not catching his words, Sir

man, but not catching his words, Sir Miles had opened the paper anxiously, when the bailiff handed it to him, fear-ing bad news of his son. He saw at once that it was a legal document. The words "High Court of Chancery," "Bill of Dis-covery," "Mark Blake, plaintiff; Sir Miles Blake, Bart., defendant," caught his age. He read on eagerly, not quite his eye. He read on eagerly, not quite able to catch the drift of the legal jargon as he read. The phrase "Statutes for the prevention of the further growth of Popery "occurred half-a-dozen times in the body of the paper. But he did not quite realize what it all

neant until he came to the words-"Th said Mark Blake, the plaintiff, has duly conformed to the Protestant religion as by law established." Then it flashed by law established." Then it flashed upon him that his only son, whom he had so loved and trusted, had basely aposta-tised from the old faith, and claimed the estates of his Catholic father as the legal

orice of his apostacy. The old man's mind reeled under the shock. A thousand thoughts and mem-ories half formed themselves in his brain, then whirled together in maddening con-fusion. The blood surged through his eins. His forehead throbbed painfully, veins. His forehead throbbed painfully, His heart, where death had so long lurked beat tumultuously, as if it would burst his bosom; then its beating fell away to a feeble flutter — then ceased. Darkness was closing fast upon him. The bright, sunlit casement became a glimmering square. Swifter and swifter the shadow fellow. With one last, conthe shadow fellow. With one last, convulsive struggle the sont iled from the feeble body out into the life that stretches dimly beyond Death's portal. The body fell back, overturning the chair in irs fall, and lay with outstretched hands on the

carpet—quite still.

Half an hour passed, and there was no

ound in the room.

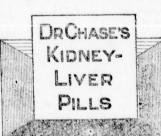
Thady, returning from the successful chase, and the ducking of the process-server in the pond, looked in at the win-dow, his white face scarcely less white than the corpse at which he looked. But he turned away without word or sign.

The stillness of the room seemed to grow more intense and solemn from death's presence there.

An hour late Mannier Blake came

An hour later Maurice Blake came riding up the avenue in the sunlight, in e full joyous vitality of young man-ood. His skates were thrown carelessly

ver his shoulder, his cheeks flushed, and his eyes bright with healthful exercise. He seemed to bring fresh, breezy life vith him into the silent chamber o leath. But a cold chill struck at his heart as he entered. He heard no cheery word of greeting; he missed the kindly face of the man whom he had grown to ove like a tather. In an instant uick eye caught the prone and pitifu



BAD BACK PAIN.

Being troubled of and on their partial in my back, caused by Constipation, I tried several kinds of pills I had seen advertised and to put the truth in a putshell, Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills are the only Pills that have proved effectual in my case.

JOHN DEVLIN,

Dr. Chase's K.-L. Pills are always effectual in the worst cases of Constipation, Stomach Troubles, Back Pains, Rheumatism, and all Blood

figure, with ghastly face and dishevelled white hair. One glance was enough—he had seen death too often in all forms to mistake it now. He knew it was a corpse on which he gazed. He took the paper from the clenched right hand, and glanced at it, and read there that the son had slain the father.

had slain the father.

It was a dismal day in Cloonlara. The news spread all over the estate that the old master was gone. The grief with which the news was heard was his high-

which the news was lacked est praise.

"God be with him," "It's a long day till we see the likes of him again," "It's hard times that's coming on us now," "Glory be to God!" were the phrases heard on all sides, mingled with prayers, deep and fervent, for the repose of the dead man's

Early next morning Maurice roused himself from the stupor into which the suddenness of the blow had thrown him. He remembered to have heard Sir Miles more than once express the wish that, when death came, Father O'Carroll might be present at his bedside and his grave. But he had no notion of the

priest's whereabouts.

Christy Culkin was as ignorant on the subject as himself. Thady O'Flynn, the one person sure to know, was nowhere to be found. At length, by mere accident, Christy mentioned his perplexity to Christy mentioned his perpiexity to Peggy Heffernan, and from her learned the priest's whereabouts, at a village twelves Irish miles away. Within a quarter of an hour the saddle was on Phooka, and Christy rode at a

hand gallop down the avenue. An hour brought him to the village. He found the cottage where the priest lodged, ostensibly as servant to the farmer. Working cheerily in the fields with plough or reap-ing-hook, he bafiled the keen scent of the

priest-hunters.
With some trouble Christy got the farmer's wife to trust him, and tell him what she knew. Thady O Flynn had been with the priest three hours before. She caught the words, the "old master," and "Cloonlara," spoken between them and then his reverence had ordered the horse to be saddled and set off at ful speed.
"He must have been at the gate of the

big house ten minutes after you left it,'

she said to Christy.

Pleased that his task was fulfiled, ye Pleased that his task was minico, you half vexed that he had his journey for nothing, Christy only waited to give a drink of "white water" to Phooka, and then turned him for home.

The gallant horse had not a hair turne

by the twelve miles quick journey. His skin shone like black satin. He was fresher than when he started, and arched his neck and tossed his head with sprightly impatience, and danced along the road when Christy, tightening the reins, forced him to a slower pace on their return; for Christy had learned in a hard school in which life was the premium and death the punishment, that horse power should never be wasted, because one can

never tell when it may be needed. Another lesson, too, Christy had learned in that same school—that eyes and ears should be sentinels for ever on duty, which lesson he now unfortunately peg cted. He rode with bowed head, burie n thought.

He was suddenly and harshly roused

from his reverie. A short turn of the road brought him plump into the centre of a troop of yoemen. Strong hands held the horses' reins on

either side. A dozen muskets covered his body. A hoarse voice commanded him with a savage curse to dismount. Christy's presence of mind came back to him in an instant. Instinctively his

But the first conscious thought rebuked his folly, and told him that resistance meant death. He noted with a single look that both

Hempenstal and Lord Dulwich were o

the party.

Lord Dulwich stood a little behind his men. But Hempenstal pressed eagerly forward with a huge borse pistol levelled, delighted at the capture of his old enemy,

eager for his death.
"Will you come down," he shouted fiercely, "or must I send a leaden mes-

senger to fetch you down!"
senger to fetch you down!"
Christy eyed him contemptuously. "I
want a word with your master," he said,
as quietly as if death were not peering at
him out of the muzzles of a score of musets and pistols on full cock.

Coolness conquered truculence, as i always does.

always does.
"My lord, the prisoner would speak
with you," growled Hempenstal.
"Let him first throw down his arms,"
answered Lord Dulwich without moving.

Christy plucked his sword from his heath and his pistols from the holsters, and flung them all down, clashing to-gether on the strip of sward by the road Well," demanded Lord Dulwich, now

for the first time approaching.

"By what authority am I stopped upon the high road," demanded Christy, meetthe high road, demander Christy, meeting the supercilious glance firmly.

"By mine," retorted Lord Dulwich.
"My will, as you will find, is warrant sufficient. You must be searched. Dismount and submit. Insolence will not

which a meekness very curious to any one who knew the man, Christy leaped from his horse, and submitted himself to be searched. Nothing was found.

But Hempenstal laid a heavy hand on his

shoulder.

"Not quite," said the giant jeeringly.

"You and the horse part company. We won't have his morals corrupted."

"The horse is not mine," pleaded Christy, still very meekly, but with a curious twinkle in his shrewd grey eye.

"No, faith," said the other roughly, "he's the captain's now, and I could not wish him a prettier mount"—with an admiring glance at the superb charger.

"He is too good for traitors. Oh, we know you," he went on with a savage "He is too good for trators. Oh, we know you," he went on with a savage leer, "we know where you have been, and where you are going, and what you are about. There are loyal little birds that tell us your secrets. We want to have a word or two ourselves with his reverence. But we would sooner speak with him in private. We would both have him in private. We would both have him.

ready for our reception. We are going to take pot luck at Cloonlara. As for the man whom you call master—"
"Silence," shouted Lord Dulwich

him in private. We would not have him disturbed for the world. We don't want any messenger going before to make

If the power of the king is resisted, on the traitor's own head be it."

"But the horse?" persisted Christy. The horse is mine," said Lord Dul-He dismounted as he spoke, and sprang

into Phooka's empty saddle.
"You may be trudging on foot. But
take my advice and keep clear of Cloon-lara. Stay!" he cried, for Christy, as if in lara. Stay!" he cried, for Christy, as if in humble compliance with his command, was moving submissively back the road he had come. "Stay! you are a stickler for the law; we may as well have all legal formalities complied with. The horse is worth paying for. You are a Papist?" "I am a Catholic," said Christy, firmly, and the troop laughed uproariously, Hempenstal leading the chorus.
"Call it what you will," retorted Lord Dulwich," the thing is the same. You know the law. Five pounds is the price

Dulwich," the thing is the same. You know the law. Five pounds is the price of the best horse a Papist can ride. There's your money, my good man, and

the horse is mine. He took five sovereigns from his pocket

He took five sovereigns from his pocket and flung them in the dust of the road at Christy's feet.

Without a word the other stooped, picked the gold up out of the dust, and quietly put it in his pocket. There was still the curious half smile on his face which it had worn from the moment Lord Dulwich took possession of his borse. "Any message for Cloonlara, my lord?"

he asked, with perfect coolness.

"I'll be my own messenger," said Lord
Dulwich, "and I doubt if the message
I bring is likely to please your master.
I'll take his opinion on my last bargain of rse-flesh.

horse-flesh."

"Perhaps," muttered Christy between his teeth. He said no more, but turning at right angles to the road he climbed a five-foot coped and dashed wall that bounded it, and fled quickly across the fields, in a direction almost straight away from Cleonlars. rom Cloonlara. There goes a coward, cried Lord Dul-

wich, pointing after him the finger of scorn; "there goes a mean and cowardly dog, Hempenstal. Did you notice how eagerly he picked the gold out of the ditt? See how eagerly he makes off with his life and his booty. Yet his master would swear to his courage and delity."

Lord Dulwich was plainly delighted

The thought that a man believed to b brave, proved a dastard in an emergency was specially pleasant to him. "I wish you would let me send a mes

senger to stop him," grumbled the surly giant. "I'd have paid him for the horse in lead, not gold, if I had my way. He's within range yet," he added, glancing at the swiftly-retreating figure and should-aring his purglet. ering his musket.
"No, Hempenstal, no, I say," cried "No, Hempenstal, no, 1 say, Lord Dulwich. "The dog's not worth powder and ball. We have other game to hunt. We've caught the priest and the

struggle it is their own look-out, not ours. We have them safe, dead or alive. Quick, get your men into motion." Inick, get your men into motion.

The whole party swept forward at a and gallop straight for Cloonlara.

They had not been five minutes in motion when a wild shrill cry pierced the

air, heard clear over the clang of horses' oofs and the jangle of men's accourre-

Lord Dulwich stopped short in the road nd his men halted with him. Again the same keen sound rang of

ike the cry of some wild beast or bird, suddenly Phoeke, with Lord Dulwich on his back, turned sharp at right angles to the road, took three strides at the solid ouilt five foot wall that fenced it, and was The troopers could just see the two pol-ished shoes on his hind feet shining for a second at the top of the wall as he cleared

almost in a standing leap. Then orse and rider disappeared. The suddenness of the thing took away

Practised horseman as he was, the deep

drop on the far side of the wall flung him forward half out of the saddle.

As the horse tossed back his head it struck the rider in the face and stunned him. His nose and mouth spurted blood with the blow. He lost one stirrup.

For a moment it seemed he must have fallen, but with a desperate effort he re-gained his seat in the saddle and clung

The horse held his course straight for-

ward as the crow flies.

Lord Dulwich was conscious of nothing Lord Dulwich was conscious of nothing but a wild rush. Now they flew over a wall; now they dashed through a quick-set hedge, where the branches almost tore him from the saddle. The blood streamed from his face. His eyes were blinded with tears, partly from the sharp blow he had got; partly from the quick rush of the keen air. He was conscious of the horse stretching himself out quite straight and shooting through space. He just caught a glimpse of water below. Horse and rider alighted on the far side of a come to light again the romance, if I deep stream, twenty feet from bank to bank.

wild speed so sharply that Lord Dulwich lost his balance at last, and tumbled in a heap to the ground The horse had stopped as suddenly as

he had started, under shelter of a hedge-row, close beside a tall, gaunt man, who stretched his hand to him and patted him aressingly.

Lord Dulwich was not left long in

doubt who the man was.

" Get up," said Christy Culkin, pushing
the prostrate body with his foot. At the
same time stooping over, he quickly and
quietly divested him of his silver-mount-

quietly divested him of his silver-mounted pistol and sword.

"I left mine by the road side at your lordship's request," he explained; "exchange is no robbery."

"Your are not going to murder me?" faltered Lord Dulwich. His face, streaked with blood like an Indian in his war paint, wore a look of such comical terror that Christy laughed outright.

The laughter reassured Lord Dulwich, and restored his insolence.

"You will smart for this, fellow," he broke out furiously.

broke out furiously. But Christy stopped him with a look.
"You had best remember it is my turn now, my lord, and my temper is not always the best."

His lordship's mood changed again in

an instant. "If it is money you want," he began.

"If it is money you want," he began.
"It is not money I want," broke in
Christy sharply. "Five pounds you
gave me for the horse and I mean to keep
it. If you got tired of your bargain and
brought him back it is no affair of mine.
I will turn your gold to steel, my lord. It
will comfort you to know that it will pay "Silence," shouted Lord Dalwich sharply. "Hempenstal, you will still be prating. You, fellow," he added, turning scornfully to Christy, "be grateful that you are let off with a whole skin. We go on the King's business to Cloonlara and on the King's business to Cloonlara and will comfort you to know that it will pay for three score nikes." want no rebel warning there before us. for three score pikes."

"So he would buy you for £5, my beauty," he broke off, addressing the horse, which had dropped its nose into his hand, insisting on notice. "Pity he could not buy that true heart, and that quick ear of yours that hears a friend's are miles away and brings you straight cry miles away and brings you straight to him."

He sprang into the saddle, patting the arched neck of the horse, which turned its head round playfully as if to bite his Lord Dulwich still stood stock still, a

pitiable spectacle.

"Any message to my master?" in-quired Christy smiling grimly. "You see I am likely to meet him first after see I am fixely to meet film first after all, and you will not have a chance a showing off your bargain in horseflesh. Anyhow, I will have a welcome ready for your lordship."

Lord Dulwich strangled a curse be-

Lord Dulwich strangled a curse be-tween his teeth, only a hoarse mutter came from his pale lies.

"Good bye, my lord," cried Christy gaily, for Phooka grew impatient.

He leaned slightly forward, gripped the saddle with his knees, and with a light shake of the reins gave the impatient horse leave to be off. In a swift swing-ing gallon thay swent cores; the field they inggallop they swept across the field, flew over the ditch and gripe that bounded it, and disappeared.
Slowly and sulkily Lord Dulwich set

Slowly and sulkily Lord Duiwieu second on his return journey. It took him a full half hour to retrace the distance it has been minutes to come. He found his men awaiting impatiently on the road, cooped in between the two high walls, where he had left them. Their amazement and curiosity can scarcely be well imagined when they saw the be-draggled and mud-spattered figure of their captain, scrambling across the wall over which he had flown so jauntily half

an hour before.

But he gave their curiosity no fair play Something he muttered about being set upon by a party of rebels, and robbed of his horse and weapons. That was all.

"We waste time here," he broke in abruptly, when Hempenstal hazarded further question. "Get the men in motion at once."

motion at once. "For Cloonlara?" said Hempenstal. "No," answered Lord Dulwich shortly, for barracks."

So the baffled bloodhounds trotted ome disconsolately to the kennels.

nome disconsolately to the kennels.

The morning after the funeral Maurice
Blake bade a cordial good-bye to Father
O'Carroll, and scarcely less cordial to the
old steward who had taken over the sole management on Sir Miles's death, with gloomy forbodings of dismal changes when the new master should arrive. Christy had gone by himself to Ballin-asloe to catch the "Fly Boat," that plied to Dublin, so-called because it "flew

along the canal at the rate of five and a

As Maurice rode down the avenue h reined his horse again on the rising ground, as he had reined him on entering it, and looked back on the fair wide land If, and looked back on the last who same scape, white in the winter sunshine, that changed the hoar frost on the trees to dia-monds and gleamed cold and bright on wood, and lake, and pasturage, and stately mansion gracing the centre of the picture. The thought came to him that all this fair inheritance had passed to the renefair inheritance had passed to the rene gade and parricide, that the poor people tender and faithful, whose clustering homes, scattered over the wide land scape, shone white in the sunlight, had changed masters, the best for worst. They were dependent for their lives on the pity of him who had shown no pity white hairs of his own broken

to the white hairs of his own broken-hearted father.

For the first time Maurice Blake's heart rebelled hotly against his father's wanton exile as he turned his back, he believed for ever, on his father's ances-tral home, now passed to such unworthy hands

He looked round no more until the swift, free stride of his steed had carried him many miles from the place, and an interposing hill shut it from his view. TO BE CONTINUED.

"ECCE HOMO."

A letter from an old friend and fellow artist in Florence brings tidings of the total destruction by fire of the Church of Santa Lucia, together with the priceless paintings and ornaments which had adorned this edifice; and the communication makes me sad, for the little church is intimately asso ciated in my mind with the purest soul and the noblest man I ever met, Rafaello Amati, whose wonderful painting of the "Ecce Homo" had hung upon its wall and awakened the admiration and devotion of many souls may so call it, attached to the painting; and though it is familiar to many Fifty paces further Phooka checked his rild speed so sharply that Lord Dulwich story will be altogether new, albeit I shall prove a poor chronicler.

It must be at least twenty years ago that I first met Rafaello, while spending my time "copying," as he was, some gems in oil in the academy. His great beauty first attracted me, for never before nor since have I seen a man so generously endowed, so physically perfect as he was. His eyes were the typical Italian, but his hair was a wonderful brown with strange golden lights in it, that curled closely about his small head, and presented most pleasing contrast to his dark brows and olive complexion.

A few words, which he addressed to me in the purest English, yet with the slightest foreign accent (his mother was an Englishwoman, he afterwards told me) led to our becoming better acquainted; and it was not many months before we had decided, as we were both alone in the world, to rent a studio and share our good or evil for-tune with each other. Rafaello had many friends, but to none of his fellowcountrymen had he ever shown the that he should love, should s strong liking that he evinced for me, so tenderly of a Person he countrymen had he ever shown the whom the jealous hearted Italians called "the stupid Englishman."

Our studio was a large airy place which we curtained off, thus making two apartments, one of which belonged

whole attention; and though neither was obliged to work for his daily bread, yet the sale of a picture was hailed with as much joy as it would have been by any starving wielder of the brush. In the summer when the the brush. In the summer when the green fields lured us from our easels, we would seek some pleasant retreat to dream, and to pass away the hours in

converse. I remember as distinctly as though t had been but to day, one afternoon we had spent in the valley. It was a glorious day, warm and beautiful, and Rafaello, lying prone upon the earth, had spoken of his dream, the one longing of his life-the desire to paint an 'Ecce Homo " such as had never been painted since the days of the old masters.

The sun shone on his face as he spoke, and that face comes between me and the pages as I write, it was so full of light and resolution.

No one at the present time has painted that divine Face as it really ooked when the time of His agony had come—when they led Him to be cruci-fied. No one can, and yet—my God! we can only imagine what a divine Being would suffer, for He was divine, the most perfect Being that ever trod the earth. And how they mocked Him! How they scorned Him! How they crucified Him !"

Rafaello, when he spoke like this, was something to wonder at and admire, although I knew he was most devout, and sometimes, to my slow imagination, rather an extremist in his religious tendencies.

He would often talk to me of the eauties of the Catholic belief, and try to persude me, who acknowledged no burch whatever, that this was the fold which I should enter. In those days I did not agree with him, although I never failed to accompany him to his devotions within the sacred portal.

The ceremonies, the ornaments, the rich vestments of gold, and white, and purple, the lights, the soft monotone of the officiating priest, all pleased my artistic sense; but I refused then to look at it in any other way than that all these embellishments were intended to appeal to the eyes and imaginations of the unwary, like the glittering candle light which proves the funeral pyre of the deluded moth. The Catholic religion is all senti-

ment," I would say to my companion, and the elequent words of denial would fall rapidly from his lips. That afternoon he spoke of the "Ecce

Homo," as I have said, and continued in the same strain as he had begun. "You remember that statue of the Sacred Heart which you saw in the church? Do you think that looks like a Divine Being? I say no-no, it does not. The face is not what I would picture it to be. The sculptor who wrought that was Peronelli, the famed! The wonderful Peronelli - Peronelli, the man who never bent a knee in prayer; who never understood the story of the Via Crucis, and whom I

have heard many a time blaspheme His

name! But enough of Peronelli! "Peronelli is dead-let him rest in peace," I said, and Rafaello did not answer as he smoothed a spray of delicate iris lilles in his fingers. The sculptor whose work we were discussing had died shortly before my coming to Florence, but I had heard that there had been a slight difficulty between him and my friend, arising from an incident which happened at the church's very doors. Peronelli, blindv intoxicated, trying to force his way into the church, was ejected by Rafaello, during the religious service. Rafaello had never spoken of it to me, but see that reeling form in God's temple and how gently and yet firmly he led him out.

"Did you ever wish," he continued, 'but then you didn't, I am sure-but I have wished it many a time-that I had lived in those days when the Saviour walked the earth and taught and healed. How grand it would have been to have followed Him about, listening to His voice, and then' here Rafaello sat upright, his beautiful, changing face shadowed by the intensity of his thoughts-"to have shared in that terrible journey to the Hill of Sacrifice; and those barbarians, I can see them all there, jeering Him with their foul tongues, striking Him with their leprous hands, and lastly nailing Him to that infamous gibbet I can hear the thud of those fearful hammers driving the heavy nails through the delicate bones of His hands; and then, in a little while to hear Him, speaking in a voice full anguish: 'My God! My God! Why hast thou forsaken Me?"

"You rave," I said calmly and with cynicism; but I remember even now how my heart beat at my friend's words. His flashing eyes, the un-earthly expression of his face which evinced such great love for his God, moved me against my will.

"Forgive me, I forget myself sometimes," he said gently, " and I must weary you poor, fellow."
Weary me? No, he did not weary

me, for he was too much in earnest, and I knew he spoke from his heart. was gifted with [extraordinary elo quence, and it was a positive delight to listen to the sound of his voice, which was soft, caressing and full of pathos, breaking of music; yet, strange to say, the gift of song was not his. It seemed odd to me at the time should speak never seen, and be so filled with this great love of the Saviour, that all human affection was artificial beside it.

"I want to paint a picture of the thorn crowed Head, one which will to him and the other to myself. Here, make men pause and think of all He day after day, we would labor upon some work which monopolized our them to make some reparation. I have wasted too much time already, I shall begin to morrow, and you w help me."

"Help you," I said, and Rafael laughed the liquid laugh of his race,

he linked his arm in mine and togeth we went home. That evening we sat in the purp twilight, musing, while the soft tink of a mandolin and the echo of a man voice singing an amorous Italian stra came to us, mellowed by the distance and a crowd of merry-makers passi beneath our casement saw the face Rafaello framed by the jasmine flower and called to him; while a dusky ey creature flung up to him the pomeg nate flower she had worn at her thro

Rafaello smiled, a smile half scor ful, half tender, and left the bloss lying neglected where it had fallen; no woman's face or smile, among beautiful women of Fiorence, had ev moved his pure serenity of hea though many admired him, and h plainly shown their admiration. I spoke that night on this very st ject, and I remember, he answered

his characteristic fashion.

There is but one woman in t world that I have ever loved, and t woman, peerlessly beautiful with a f English beauty, as pure as an East lily, was my mother. When she dying she commended me to the care that other Mother, the Virgin Ma and made me promise never to for her, nor cease to love her, the Spot I have not forgetten that pro ise, and prefer the divine love to selfish, vain attachment which men human love.'

ter where or when it would take pl if we two were alone together, we inevitably turn upon religion. some people my companion would h been deemed a fanatic, but every who has come in contact with t knows that the Italians are an inna religious people. To see Rafaello and myself, stane with uncovered heads (he insisted umy complying) while the bells range

I have said before that he was v

devout, and our conversation, no r

Angelus hour might have, nay, w have, caused comment in any country, but passed unnoticed in The days that followed were ones for him, and knowing the wished to be undisturbed, I went q ly about my own affairs during ving hours. Our evenings we v

spend at church or reading, for fellow artist would never work by ficial light, and latd aside his bri and colors when the sun sank be the hills. In the still church, with its lamp which swung before the t nacle, I would feel strangely at while he knelt before the small all

the Sacred Heart, like a figure ca in stone, so still, so rapt was he.

Now at this distant date, now the Church calls me her child, I be that God designed our friendsh the means of turning me from the of blindness, as the instrument conversion; and surely no man fairer example than had I in th of my friend, a creature whose gifts, had they not been united pure a soul, would have prove

own destruction.
One evening, when we came the shadowy church, Rafaello said 'I will show you my work to-It is finished, but I am not satis He entered the studio first, an cured a light, then took up his b

and tubes of paint. "You may be able to suggest improvement. Now look." He lifted up the curtain which before it, and I stepped a little f

back

I was amazed.

There was the "Ecce Homo,"was the masterpiece, and to my seemed a marvellous thing. out like some beautiful unset work far beyond what I had im it would be, and so I told Rafs he stood looking upon it, with a s expression upon his face
He did not answer. He poi

blender, heavy with burnt sien without warning, and before prevent the action, had swept in that peerless picture, and a me less daub blotted out the sacred 'Rafaello!" I cried, in horro

He dropped the curtain over h and faced me. His own face we beneath its olive tint, and the snapped beneath the fierce gras slender brown fingers.
"You mock me! The pict failure! I saw it all now! It is -a daub! And I found fault of face of Peronelli's statue!"

self-scorn and humilation, whi not pleasant to hear, and I saw despair in his eyes.
"It was fine," I affirmed would have looked even better light. That execrable light

He laughed bitterly, a laugh

outlines so.' This last, I saw as soon a spoken, was the most foolish i could have made, but men hav been credited with being tactle I was no exception to the rule

I say this was a foolish rem my companion though pitied him, and pity sting scorpion when one is insuch as he was at that moment. "You knew it was a fail said, hotly, "you knew it, stood there laughing in your the picture born of my mad

I was mad! That—pointin draped picture—that is the -Rafaello's dream !" "My dear boy, you are s

The picture was a gem piece. I told you the truth