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Wildflower.

CHAPTER II.—Continued.

"I don't think so," answered Aunt Brigitte, "but I hope that the adventure may teach you both a lesson. Remember never to destroy anything needlessly, whether it be insect or flower. That heather had its proper place marked out for it on the top of that rock; by displacing it, you would destroy its charm. There are laws of nature with which we should never interfere. The wind carries a quantity of seed, and it falls exactly upon the ground best suited to receive it, where it will germinate, blow and thrive. A plant torn violently from its natural bed in this way would never live. It would fade away."

"What!" cried Anna. "Must I then leave it here torn, and dying by itself? Oh, Aunt Brigitte, how unhappy I am!"

"Do not make yourself so miserable, darling," replied kind Aunt Brigitte. "Only another time think before you act, and do not give way to all the foolish fancies of your imagination. And now, if you care about it, you may carry home your heather as you intended. Perhaps it may bear transplanting; but I warn you, it will never be so beautiful as when it grew in its wild beauty on the mountain side."

Anna held down her head, and did not speak. Two great tears rolled down her cheeks. Renée, whose tender little heart was grieved at her friend's sorrow, put her arms round her and kissed her affectionately.

"Don't cry," she whispered. "we won't do it again." In the generosity of her heart Renée wished to share in the consequence of the fault which had only really been committed by Ninette.

When the girls reached home, they called to Robert to come and help them to plant the heather. The little boy, delighted to make himself of use, at once set to work to dig a hole in the garden in which to place the heath. He was most careful that the plant should not suffer in his hands, and, assuring Ninette that the faded flower would soon revive and look bright again under his treatment, he carefully placed the roots in their new bed.

But, alas, Robert's hopeful words were not intended to prove true; the tiny pink blossoms were still closed when to-morrow's sun shone warmly on them, and one by one they fell to the earth.

This was indeed depressing in the sight of poor Anna. "Oh!" she cried, "I cannot bear to see it!" "I tell you what," said Renée, "the best thing will be to take the plant and throw it on the fire."

"It will be best," decided the other two—Ninette tearfully and Robert very sadly—"it will be better than to watch it die by inches out here."

So the unlucky flower that had but lately looked so beautiful perched on the mountain side soon was made to disappear in the midst of the flames where its remains mixed with those of ordinary cinders.

Some weeks after this misfortune the children begged to be allowed to go and spend the day with Marianne. Marianne was prepared for their coming, and awaited her guests with a great deal of pleasure. She had laid the cloth in the arbor all covered with clematis, which not only gave shade and freshness, but also the most delicious smell, with which the surrounding air was laden.

The children rested a little after their arrival and then placed themselves at table. They talked away at their repast with considerable animation for some time, when they were interrupted in the midst of their laughter by an extraordinary noise, which seemed to proceed from the yard.

"Good gracious! what can have happened?" cried Marianne, uneasily, and she went to look over the palings of the yard, when she very soon discovered the cause of the disturbance. From the noise anyone would have supposed that some great revolution was taking place among the fowls, for they were flapping their wings and rushing wildly about, while they screamed loudly as if calling for help.

When Marianne looked over the palings she soon discovered the cause of the trouble amongst the poultry.

for there, standing by the hen-house, stood a great boy, more rugged and dirty than I can describe, who had just seized two fine chickens by the throat, and was trying to stuff them under his blouse.

"You rascal!" cried Marianne, in an indignant voice; "what are you about?"

"I'm taking a walk," answered the boy, in an insolent tone.

"Oh! so you are taking a walk are you?" replied Marianne; "and you pick up what you can find on the way, it appears to me. Now just you let those fowls go, or I'll soon have the gendarmes here."

The vagabond tried to run off, but Marianne had turned the key of the gate by which he had entered, and there was a high wall too high for him to get over on the opposite side to where she stood.

Madame Huguéin and the four children, anxious to find out what was taking place, now joined Marianne. Their presence had the effect of frightening the boy, who, evidently not knowing what to do, threw the chickens into the garden.

"Will you let me go now?" said he in a sullen voice.

"No, not yet," replied Madame Huguéin, "for you seem to me to be more miserable than wicked, and I wish to know who you are."

"That is nothing to you," said the rude boy.

"Yes, my poor lad," replied the kind lady, "you are young, and I pity you. Have you no father or mother to take care of you?"

"Yes, I have a father and mother," replied the boy.

"Where do they live?" inquired Madame Huguéin.

"Anywhere, in the woods or roads," said he.

"Have they no house, then?" asked the lady.

"No," shortly answered the boy.

"What do they do?" she inquired.

"How should I know?" said he, "they beg their bread and take what they can lay their hands on."

"Then," said Madame Huguéin, "it is they who sent you to steal the chickens, is it?"

"Yes," replied the boy, "and they beat me when I bring nothing back."

"Poor boy!" exclaimed the kind-hearted lady, "What is your name?"

"Jacques Bidot," said the boy.

Madame Huguéin reflected. It seemed to her impossible to send this boy back to people who treated him so badly, and who were bringing him up so shamefully. He would undoubtedly soon be utterly lost. If he could only be separated from his family, could be taken care of, taught right from wrong, and shown a little kindness, it would be a worthy action. But how could this be managed?

The unfortunate lad, with his hair all rumpled, his eyes starting out of his head, and his clothes in rags, wore anything but a prepossessing air. However, both his attitude and expression of face were changing now from impudence and defiance to a look of weary sadness. He was evidently, too, a good deal frightened. And, indeed, the boy was in a terribly uneasy state of mind. He knew that if he got safely off from his present uncomfortable position, and returned empty-handed to his father and mother, that he would only be severely beaten. But, then, if he did not escape to them he would certainly be put in prison.

Presently Madame Huguéin turned to Jean and told him to harness the donkey and drive home to let her husband know what had happened. On hearing the order given, the young thief threw himself on his knees and implored pardon.

"You will be forgiven," said Madame Huguéin, "if you repent sincerely. In the meantime you must remain here, and as we cannot depend upon your word after what we have seen you attempting to do, I shall shut you up in this room, which you will not be able to leave without my permission."

Jacques bent his head, but did not answer.

The children had now returned to the arbour, but they felt too sorry to eat any more.

"Mother," presently said Robert, "your prisoner is not likely to have had any breakfast to-day. May we take him some milk and bread and butter and strawberries? I think he would be very glad to have them."

"Oh, yes," cried the little girls together, "he is so thin and pale,

I am sure he is hungry." Madame Huguéin was pleased to see the children thoughtful and kind-hearted, and at once gave her consent to the proposition.

So some nice bread and butter was put upon a plate with plenty of strawberries, and Marianne having fetched a bowl of milk they carried these refreshments to the room where the unfortunate Jacques was shut up.

When they opened the door, they found the poor boy seated on a bench, crying bitterly.

"Jacques," said Robert, "you must take something to eat. See what I have brought you!"

The lad, quite astonished, looked at food without daring to touch it.

"Oh, that cannot be for me," cried he.

"Yes, but it is," answered Robert, "because we give it to you."

Jacques raised his eyes, all full of tears, and looked earnestly at those standing round him, and then, he murmured in a low, gentle voice, "Thank you."

Fearing to make the poor boy nervous and uncomfortable, Madame Huguéin and Marianne left him, taking the children with them.

(To be continued.)

Crippled With Rheumatism

CURED BY GIN PILLS

Mr. Derragh certainly did have a hard time of it, winter before last. Caught cold, and it settled in his kidneys. First thing he knew, he was in bed with Rheumatism. He nearly went mad, the pain was so intense. The doctors gave him the usual treatment—and pretty soon he was so stiff with liniments and blisters—but the Rheumatism went right on aching.

Then a friend stepped in and said, "Why don't you try GIN PILLS?" After a great deal of persuasion, Mr. Derragh did try GIN PILLS. You never saw a happy man in your life, after he had taken two boxes of GIN PILLS. He was so stiff and lame, completely left—that ache in back and hips disappeared—and he was well in no time. That was two years ago and he has been in perfect health ever since.

Contracted a severe cold. Rheumatism followed and sharp pains took me so often and were so severe that I had to take to bed. For several months I could get no relief, until I started to take "Gin Pills." In five days I was up and around the house. My pains are gone and I have not had a return of the trouble since. I wish also to say that "Gin Pills" gave me the first painless passage of urine I have had in two years.

How about you? Haven't you suffered enough without going all over it again this winter? Get GIN PILLS now—and cure yourself at home. Mention this paper and we will send you a free sample to try. The Bole Drug Co., Winnipeg, Only 50c. a box—6 boxes for \$2.50. 87

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The Church is sadly needed, for at present I am obliged to SAY MASS and give Benediction in a Garret. My average weekly collection is only 3s 6d, and I have no endowment except HOPE.

What can I do alone? Very little. But with your co-operation and that of the well-disposed readers of this paper, I can do all that needs to be done.

In these days, when the faith of many is becoming weak, when the sacraments of the Church are being treated as a mere form, it is reaching the full extent of its development, and is about to treat Our Divine Lord Himself as it treated His Holy Church, the Catholic Faith is renewing its youth in England and bidding fair to obtain possession of the hearts of the English people again. I have a very up-hill struggle here on behalf of that Faith. I must succeed or else this vast district must be abandoned.

IT RESTS WITH YOU to say whether I am to succeed or fail. All my hopes of success are in your co-operation. Will you not then extend a co-operating hand? Surely you will not refuse? You may not be able to help much, indeed But you can help a little, and a multitude of "littles" means a great deal.

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New Postal Regulations

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At a conference recently held at Washington between postal representatives of the United States and Canada, the postage on newspapers passing from Canada to the States was not only increased to sixteen times the former rate, but it was decided to make Canadian publishers affix stamps to the papers instead of paying on bulk weight as formerly. This necessitates an increase in the subscription price of THE TRUE WITNESS to subscribers in the United States to \$1.50 instead of \$1.00 per year, as formerly.

Our friends in the United States will kindly take notice when sending subscriptions and renewals.

ANY even numbered section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, excepting 8 and 26, not reserved, may be homesteaded by any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section of 160 acres, more or less.

Entry must be made personally at the local land office for the district in which the land is situated.

Entry by proxy may, however, be made on certain conditions by the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of an intending homesteader.

The homesteader is required to perform the conditions connected therewith under one of the following plans:

(1) At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year for three years.

(2) If the father (or mother, if the father is deceased) of the homesteader resides upon a farm in the vicinity of the land entered for, the requirements as to residence may be satisfied by such person residing with the father or mother.

(3) If the settler has his permanent residence upon farming land owned by him in the vicinity of his homestead, the requirements as to residence may be satisfied by residence upon said land.

Six months' notice in writing should be given the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa of intention to apply for patent.

W. W. CORY, Deputy Minister of the Interior. N.B.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.

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Synopsis of Canadian North-West HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS

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