THE CATHOLIC RECORD.

LUKE DELMEGE

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WY THE REV P. A. SHEEHAN, AUTHOR O MY NEW CURATE," "GEOFFREY AUSTIN: STUDENT," "THE TRIUMPH OF FAILURE," "CITHARA MEA," ETC. CHAPTER XXVIII.

MARY OF MAGDALA.

In the home of the Good Shepherd the religion of our Lord reaches its the religion of our Lord reaches its culmination. No wonder that the favorite representation of Christ in catacombs and elsewhere for three hundred years was this of the yearning and merciful Savior. How well those early Christians knew His spirit, when early Unristiants shew his spirit, when they placed a kid, and not a larb, on His shoulders! "I came not to call the just, but sinners." Yes! charity first and then the Crucificion—the mystery of suffering. And here in the city of the Violated Treaty, under its orumbling, historic walls, and just outide its ruins, nestled such a home. might pass through the city ired times and, not know that suc hundred th an institution was there. You might an institution was there. For might visit the historic bridge, and the Treaty Stone, and never know that here also was a place where the might of the Lord was visibly triumphant. or the Lord was visibly triumphant. You might hear elsewhere of the mir-acles of Christianity-here you could see them. You might read of battles, fought, won or lost, around the Two Standards : but here you can see the bleeding and wounded vivandieres in satan's army snatched from the battlesheltered in the camp Christ. And here, if you had faith, that is, if you opened your eyes, and brushed aside the film of habit, you might see miracles, and saints, and prodigies, such as you read of in the Gospel, or in medieval times, when perhaps you wished you had been born then. So at least, thought Father Tracey, who was never harsh in his adgements, except when he deplored that crass stupidity of men, that will

not see what is under their eyes. "Nonsense, child," he would say to Margery, " to talk about the age of miracles as past. Here are miracles; and saints, as great as ever were canonized.

Then he would repent of such rash-

Then he would repeat of such rash-ness, and correct himself. "Of course, I don't mean—that is my dear—I don't mean to say that the Church should canonize all my little saints that die. But you know—I mean that our Lord will—that is, I suppose, non hear my deare." you know-my dear-" "Of course, Father. That is, we, poor nuns, have no chance with your

saints.

"No, no. I don't mean that. But you know, you are all very good; but there are different degrees of sanctity --some Apostles, some Doctors--'' "Yes. But Mary Magdalen is the

next to the Sacred Heart, just a little outside the Blessed Virgin, and she is dragging up all her little saints with her? Isn't that what you mean?"

"I'm not sure, my dear. The Imitation says, that we must not make comparisons, you know." "Yes. But tell me now, suppose

you had your choice of a place in heaven amongst the band that 'follow the Lamb, whithersoever He goeth,' and sing that incommunicable canticle; the Lamb, or of a place with Magdalen and her wounded following, which would you

That's a hard question, my dear. But, to tell the truth, my dear, I'd b far more comfortable with the latter. "I knew it," said Margery, exult antly. "I've won ten rosaries from Mechthildes."

But, whatever be said of the differbeatitudes of Heaven, it is quit certain that living amongst the rescued sheep was not all beatitude on earth. etimes a poor soul would struggle

prayed and argued ever so strongly for the wayward and the tempted. It would appear, too, that she had been a lady of very high rank, and had toppled down from circle to circle of the Inferno, until God took pity on her and brought her here. And here she deve-loped such sanctity that the community and her inter ponitents were hewild. and her sister penitents were bewild-dered ; but all agreed that there was a saint-a real, downright, heroic saintamongst them. But by far the most surprised and bewildered amongst this sacred community of nuns and peni-tents was the confessor, Father Tracey. tents was the confessor, rather iracey. He did not know what to make of it. He was confused, humbled, nervous, ashamed. The first time he saw this young penitent was at a " play." For this glorious Sisterhood used up every

myself.

'I'm afraid you want Scaramelli

So they were, my dear, but for Dr.

"And you would be now digging

"God bless you, alanna !" or, " God

Meanwhile, Dr. Wilson had adver-

to visit the Wilsons formally, and to

mortal : and the dread forerunners of

death were playing suspiciously around that frail complexity of charms which

had sent more than one fool to destruc-

ward gratitude.

this florious Sisterhood used up every human means that talent or the divine ingenuity of charity could suggest to wean away these poor souls from the fleree attractions of sin and the world. and—" "You'll do nothing of the kind," said Margery, thoroughly frightened. "You'll just stay where you are." "Perhaps so, my dear. But I'll tell you now what you could do for me. You could read up all about St. Cath-wing of Siens, and Blessed Angela of And so there were plays, and concerts and dramatic entertainments, and tableaux vivants, and all kinds of inno-cent dissipation for the "penitents." You could read up all about St. Cath-erine of Siens, and Blessed Angela of Foligno, and Mary Magdalen de Pazzi, and let me know what their confessors used to do. Or, I'll tell you. If you'd be All these harmless amusements wer All these narmiess and schedules white very successful in cheating the poor souls of the more deadly draughts of sin, until grace and habit finally tri-umphod. Well, at one of these enter-tainments, Sister Mary of Magdala so good as to write to your brother (he's a very distinguished theologian, you know,) and pretend nothing, bu you know,) and pretent nothing, due ask a few questions, which I will put to you from time to time, perhaps—" "The very thing," said Margery. Adding in her own mind, "'The a dirwas chief actor. She personated a fine lady of the world, suffering from nerves, and in consultation with a lady spec ist. It was very amusing, and the audidence were in convulsions. Venerable ola penitents, who had done their fifty ect inspiration." "Then, you know, I could feel sure that I was supported by sound Catholic theology; and I couldn't go very far years of purgatory in this asylum; young penicents, fresh from the pollu-tion of the city and with the remnants astray. "I will," said Margery. "And so they were going to turn you out of of rural inpocence still clinging to them; dark, gloomy souls, the special them; dark, globiny solis, the gentle prey of the tempter; and the gentle Sisterhood, presiding over all-all yielded to the irresistible merriment. Sister Mary had doffed the penitent's dress and was clad in the finery of the Maynooth ? Whitehead "Yes, my dear, in a flannel waist coat and hobnailed boots." "H'm. A decided improvement, I potatoes? well dressed woman of the world. It became her well. She was every inch a lady, and all the sweetness and delishould say, on your present wardrobe. At least they'd keep out the rain." cacy of her early training shone through the absurdity of the part she

"Ladies from the city, my dear ?" And Sister Mary of Magdala wa quite unconscious that she was . xciting whispered Father Tracey to Margery. "How good of them to come in and such interest ; but went around in her penitent's garb, and washed and scrubbed, and ironed, and did all kinds amuse these poor girls i"

amuse these poor girls !" "No; they're our own children," whispered Margery. "But that grand young lady, my dear? why, she's fit for a palace." "That's Mary of Magdala," said Margery, smiling. "She's now a great saint; but they say she was awful." of menial offices for the aged and the sick, and took gratefully their awk-

"God bless you, alanna !" or, "God bless you, Mary, and forgive you and forgive us all, for all we ever done against His holy and blessed Name !" And they wondered, poor souls, in their own dull way, at the wonderful skill of the Divine Artist, Who could raise this spirit of sweetness, this lily of light, out of the sordid and reeking refuse of the regretful past. But, oh ! the pity of it, when the performers disappeared amidst the plaudits of the audience and the rough criticisms of some poor creatures, and immediately reappeared in the and penitents' costume-blue dress and mantilla, and high, white Norman cap -and took their places amongst the inmates again. Father Tracey was choking with emotion, as he watched that young girl, disrobed of her natural ised all over England for the missing Barbara ; and had even employed pri-vate detectives to find out the convent in which she was hidden. A foolish thing, for if Barbara had done God's will in entering religion, as she had dress and clad in the strange livery that hid, and yet hinted at, unspeak-able shame. And she so calm, so un concerned, without a blush at the Irightful transfermation, and accepting said, there was little use in fighting against God; and if it were not God's o gratefully the rough congratulations will, then Barbara would very soon find her way home. But the doctor was not well acquainted with such things. from her sister penitents, as she sat on the lowest tench and lifted up the heads of old Sister Paul and toyed with

them like a child. them like a child. "I tell you, my dear," said Father Tracey, "that if heaven is the place for those who become little children, that poor child will be at home there." And the good old priest became frightened at Sister Mary of Magdala. He almost began to think he had been mistaken in not taking charge of the uns instead. And when he recognized her voice in the confessional he violent fit of coughing and turned away his head and pulled up his old cassock over his knees, and, instead of

rvent exho

times I do be puzzled; and I look up, when I should look down; and, at the Conference, the Bishop never asks me anything, lest I should make a fool of massifi such lovely faces, turned upwards to the shies-such peace, such happiness, to which, we poor women of the world, are strangers " are strangers

"Let us change the subject," said the doctor. "You wished to consult

"I'm afraid you want Scaramelli badly, Father. It was well for you you didn't get charge of us." "Ah, that was out of the question, my dear. And the Bishop saw it the moment I hinted at the thing. I'd have the all of ye half cracked by this time." me?" Yes. And the consultation went on. And lo ! as a result, the pretty nun faces vanished, and a grim death's bead appeared, floating through the eyes and in the words of that horrid doctor. And she besought him, im-plored him to reconsider his verdict. "" And so you think Mary of Magdala o young, and the world so bright !

is a saint ?" "Think ? I know it. And suppose "I regret to say, Mrs. Wenham, that everything you tell me seems to now, I should misdirect that grassoul, or fail to lift it upwards, what confirm my judgment." And Mrs. Wenham wept. Death and Judgment seemed to follow this family soul, or fail to lift it upwards, what a frightful responsibility ! I'm thinking of asking the Bishop to remove me,

The Canon, too, was deeply interest-ed. He had written piteous letters to great ecclesiastics in England. He had always written on his created note-paper with the family arms and motto, Sans tache 1 and he signed himself "Mantica Canon Murray." He would But I'll tell

paper with the family arms and motto. Sans tache 1 and he signed himself "Maurice Canon Murray." He would have given a good deal to be able to add Archdeacon, or Dean of X—— But that was not to be, yet a while. He received, after some delay, very courtcous replies; but there was no news of Barbara. If she had entered are Fordish convent it could hardly an English convent it could hardly have escaped the notice of the author-

tities. At last, one day a letter came from the south of England, stating that a young lady, answering in all respects his description of Barbara, had entered a branch of a foreign institution, lately domiciled in England owing to the per-

secutions in Germany, but hinting a doubt that there must be a mistake, for this Order admitted as postulants for this Order admitted as postulates only the children of noble or, at least, aristocratic families. The Canon was indignant, and wrote back a dignified letter to his correspondent, asking, somewhat sarcastically, whether he was aware that her father was a Dublin becomet and her uncle Canon of X— baronet, and her uncle Canon of X---

The next post brought an apolegetic reply; and it assured the Canon that all doubts were cleared up and that it must have been who had entered the novitiate of niece the Dames de Saint Esprit. She een sent to Austria to complete her

been sent to Austria to complete her two years' novitiate. "I thought so," said the Canon grandly. "And I shall be very much surprised if she does not reach the highest-ha-distinction in her Order!" highest—ha—distinction in her Order!" And fancy—au old man's loving fancy, swept him even farther; and he would dilate at length on the present and future prospects of his niece. And when the poor old people, who had been recipients of Barbara's char-ity, when she visited her uncle, asked him with the tander and tenacions with the tender and tenacious nim. with the tender and tenacious gratitude of the poor: "Wisha, yer reverence, may I ma's bould to ask you where Miss Wilson is, God bless her?" the Canon would answer: "Yes, my poor woman, I am happy to inform you that my piece nous hap inform you that my niece, your ben-efactress, has-ha-entered religion-become a nun, you know, in a community exclusively reserved for the highest continental families." And when the poor would express their joy and surprise : "Wisha, we knew God woul always have a hand in her, the sweet God would ner way home. But the doctor was not well acquainted with such thirgs. So he spent quite a little fortune in the vain quest. He was helped a good deal in his resolution by a remark dropped by that excellent lady, Mrs. Wenham, who, having returned to Dubyoung lady-" the Canon would say "Yes, indeed. Some day Miss Wil son will reach the highest dignities in her Order, and probably become its

mitred Abbess And "mitred Abbess " became the Wenham, who, having returned to Dub-lin, had called for a double purposestanding puzzle and enigma to the parish for many months. When the word "mitred" came to be understood consult the doctor professionally. For. alas ! that we should have to relate it, it caused grave head-shaking and the beautiful and accomplished Mrs. heart-trouble. Wenham, Circe and Siren, was but

"The notion of a bishop's hat on a little girl like that was almost a scan dal. Fatne. " Psha !" dal. Father Cussen was consulted. "Psha!" he said. "Mitred, in-deed! 'Tis the mitre he wants him-

self. And it should be a pretty high one, for his head is always in the in particular. As I watched, to my great astonish-ment the panelling on which the rose was situated, and the three corres ponding ones forming a square slid aside disclosing a dark aperture. I looked at it in speechless astonishclouds !" Nevertheless, the Canon was gratified ; and the people conceived a larger idea of his power and might, and looked at it in speechless aston the greatness of the family. And even Dr. Wilson was ment, and my astonishment was in creased twofold when I saw a man helianoan to the idea, when he discovered that his beloved child was enrolled amongst showing himself at this opening was dark and handsome, but his fea-tures were rendered evil looking by a diabolical smile which played round his beloved child was enrolled amongst the nobility of France and Austria. "After all," he said, " the Church is a beneficent mother, and happily provides shelter for her children in his lips as he was watching the young man, who was quite unconscious of every grade of life. TO BE CONTINUED.

tranquil. Before I tell you any more I may as well say I didn't believe at all in dreams. I considered them no. thing more than "the vaporings of a diseased imagination;" but still, the lady to inspire me with warmer feelings lady to inspire me with warmer feelinge than the rest of the sex generally. But my life was not to remain by any means so monotonous. Scarlet fever and measles broke out amongst the children of the district, and at the same time influenza was rife. So be-tween all three I had a very busy time of it. To say the least of it, I was run off my feet, and, as was to be expected, I used to be very tired in the evenings. vividness in every detail of this dream struck me as curious, and I found my-self unconscionsly trying to put a construction on it. The beaut "dream-lady" baunted me, bright rose on the panelling was conbright rose on the panelling was con-stantly recurring. But at last my aversion to giving heed to dreams came to my aid, and I banished it from my mind as being the natural effect of an overwrought brain. A short time after I had this dream, I found myself gradually failing into had health, owing to the terrible strain One evening during this time, as I was seated in my armchair opposite the fire in my library, worn out by the worries and labors of the day, I fell into a fitful slumber—such slumbers as one may expect to have dreams in. As I slumbered I dreamt the most I found myself gradually falling into bad health, owing to the terrible strain

curious dream imaginable. I thought I was in a strange street in of overwork, and I determined to take a turn on the Continent for the good of my bealth. So I started to prepare a strange town. It was night, and the street was deserted. It must have been

for my journey." I hired a substitute to do my work about eleven or twelve at night, and the lights of the city were all out, but in my absence; and to Mary I entrust-ed the care of everything I was leaving behind me, including the substitute. here and there a solitary light glim-By the little light there was I was enabled to read some of the names over the doors, and from the torm of the In a few days I was ready to set out, and with the farewell blessings of honest Mary ringing in my ears 1

letters I drew the conclusion I was in a German city. Strange to say, I started. a German city. Strange to say, I didn't feel it to be in any way extra-Little I thought my journey would be fraught with so much adventure. Little I thought of what importance it was to be in my after life. ordinary for me to be there, so far from home in an unknown spot at such an hour. I felt just as much at much at home as if I had been there all my

As I was looking round me one building in particular caught my eye. It was evidently a private house and of

Now, there was nothing other any ary about this house more than any other in the street, except it was one of the few which had lights up; yet I felt myself drawn towards it by some strange, unaccountable influence.

the land. I went straight to Paris, and there It was separated from the street by I spent a few days, but I grew tired of the noise and bustle of the capital, and I determined to spend the rest of brass railing, inside of which was grass plot sufficiently wide to admit of three walking abreast. There was a little gate on the railing, from which a little path led across the grass plot my time in Germany, where I could see the Rhine-the swift rushing Rhine, so famed for the beauty of its to the door.

Across this path I went and in al the door. As I entered I stood in a hall, from which a door opened off or Mannheim, which is the most beau-tiful city in the Palatinate, is situated at the confidence of the Neckar and the Rhine. In fact, it is almost surthe left, and from this a light was streaming. I stood at the door and looked in. It was a nice little room, looked in. It was a nice interest form, nicely furnished, but what I admired most in it was that the walls were panelled, and the panels were artisti-cally ornamented. The ornamentation rounded by water. In it is situated the beautiful palace of the Elector the form of roses amidst an ex aberance of leaves. As I was admiring this tracery, my attention was attracted in particular to one rose on the panel of the wall which was next the street. It appeared to me brighter than the rest, and I was fascinated by

In the room, sitting at the fire. which was directly opposite the street wall were two young peopls-one a man, the other a girl. They were evi dently brother and sister. The man was tall and handsome and about my own age. The girl was the most beau iful I had ever seen. She was tall and fair. Her every feature was perfect. Even in my dream I fell passionately in love with her. Ah! think I hear some of my cynics bachelor readers say that it was the most likely time for such a thing to happen, seeing that for the time I was deprived of my senses. She and her brother were talking,

Inquiring for a hotel, I was directed for I could see their lips moving; but one syllable of what they were saying I couldn't catch, although I was quite to one. I went to it and got something to eat. Immediately afterwards I got my luggage conveyed to this hotel, where I made up my mind to stay close to them. Atter a short time the sister arose

and went out, passing quite close to where I stood, without being aware of my presence; but that was natural, during my visit. T, my great joy I discovered the hotelkeeper could speak broken tor although I knew German fairly well, it was only with difficulty I could ing it was a mere dream. When she was gone my eyes again wandered to the artistic panelling of he walls, and to the one bright rose

converse in it. This German proved to be a jolly to my great

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theory as to her mot theory as to her hold naturally a gentle he and besides, as far as see, she loved her br everyone knew that f had been trying to ma man she disliked. Th reason that has any app about it, and it even i likel "Oh ! Indeed !" he

DOTOBER 19, 1907.

CHAPTER II.

" THE RHINE."

I have not much to say of my jour-

ney over to France, save that I was very sick, it being my first journey by sea, and was very glad when we reached

Leaving Paris I reached Mannheim

Palatine. Here I was where I most desired to

be-on the banks of the lordly Rhine, and here I determined to spend the

remainder of my holiday. On reaching the city a few minutes'

walk took me to a long street which like all the rest was perfectly straight.

On entering it, a curious feeling took possession of me. I felt as if I had

seen it before. Ah! There was no mistaken it. It was the street of my

ribs. Undoubtedly this savored strong-

I looked all round me. Yes! There it was on the right hand side of the street—the house that played such an

important part in that strange dream. It was the same except that it was evidently uninhabited. The window

blinds were down, and grass was be-ginning to show itself on the neat little

ly of most interesting adventures.

My heart beat wildly against my

visiting Nancy and Metz on my way.

scenery.

"The castled Crag of Drachenfels Frowns o'er the wide and winding Rhine, Whose breast of waters broadly swells Between the banks which bear the vine." —Byrot

The beauty of my naunted me, and the

afraid she shall be e can say is that it in judge who could conden creature to death ; b

do?" As you may well im ribly agirated by this being desirous of kn really the actors in were in question, I description of them. he described the thr dream.

"My God," I alm "it is true. That b is about to suffer un though I am as sure as am that I am alive save her." The thoug I became so agitate lord noticed it, and in me. I told him it way weakness and would

moment. How I spent that d mad is still a mystery know what to do. from pent up emotion That night the lan

the conversation of told me that there wa story in connection the crime. It appeared that

were the nephew and owner of the house, we tric old individual life. At one time houses, one on each One of these was The other, fo crime. able reason, had go thing remaining stan It was reported th great wealth ; but of was rather sudden, in securities had p living relatives-th

ter. I didn't pay much story nor to the one the house of the cr and lights being see after night. The first I rega

family history total an outsider, and the a foolish story got children and the grown-up people.

grown-up people. That night wy rei ful one. I hardiy utes together thi over in my mind the The next mornin and having breakfast a walk to rid my mi thoughts with whi determined to explo sible that right, some light on the

relying on my drea CHAP " MURDER

"A bad thing-ay be-cannot b may be bushel. bushel. In the evident to the world The day passed length night cam lieved, for I was th

the inactivity of th worst of it. Going back to m this I quickly m scene of the crin wasn't one near see my operations and to my joy, latched. I raised when safely insid

I could not he

thought that if a

light, they would

my dream. It wa

I had seen it-th

cept that it was

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on the panellings ing I thought I having from behind t

distance. I alm

Could it be that

able me to mak

importance ? Having found t

easy task consid ness in reality greater than that

loss how next t

ing to the search

I easily made m

phost.

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life. moderate dimensions. Now, there was nothing extraordin

in the arms of the back to the horrors of the battlefield : would dream of gas lamps, and the mid-night, and the flerce, exultant madness And sometimes, there would be depression and even despair, as the be depression and even despary, as the awful visions of the past arose before some poor soul; and the dreadful sug-gestion would paralyze every effort at reparation: How can I ever enjoy heaven, when so many souls, lost by my ill-doing, are tortured in hell? These were hard trials for Father Tracey.

No use, Father, I must go!' "Have we been unkind, my dear?

Or, is there something else you could wish for ?'

'Oh, no, no, Father dear ; but I must gol"

Well, dear, don't act hastily. Well, dear, don't act hashily. This, you know, is a temptation from the E.il One. Go in, and say a little prayer to the Sacred Heart; and I'll send Sister Mary to you." "Nol nol don't! I won't see her.

She'd make me stay. And I must go i "Well, sure, there's time enough. Go in, child, and pray."

He, dear saint, had great faith in prayer. But he believed the prayers of Sister Mary to be invincible. Was it not Sister Mary's prayers that had it not Sister Mary's prayers that had saved so many souls from perdition? Was it not Sister Mary's prayers that drove the evil spirits, howling in dis-may, from the deathbed of Allua? Was she not the custodian of the King's secret, who could do as she pleased with the King's treasures? And never yet did a poor penitent, easer to fly unto the dread attraction of the world, hear the voice of Sister Mary, but her eyes were opened and saw beneath her feet the yellow flames curling up from the abyss.

And who was Sister Mary, or to give her her full title, who was Sister Mary of Magdala? Well a poor penitent, too, who had sought refuge here from the world. The report was that she had been a great sinner. Even hard woman spoke of her past life with ened vague hint at horrers; and somewhen Sister Mary pressed to hard on a relapsing sinner, and spoke of hell, it was broadly suggested that she had sent a good deal of fuel to the of hell, it was

fire. "That bandsome face of yours, if all were known, drew many to drink and hell.

And Sister Mary did not contradict, but only bowed her head meekly, and

the long, forvent exhorts to he usually addressed to his saints, with such emotion that he set the most hardened aflame with the love of God, he only muttered with averted head:

e usuall

Yes, yes, to be sure, my dear, to be sure

Margery and he used to have long spiritual conferences on this subject. "I'm sure I dont know what to do,

my dear," he would say. " Can you help me ? Isn't there a book written by a good, holy man, called Scaramelli, or something like it, for the direction

"There is, indeed, Father. But, sure you have knowledge and inspira-

tion enough for these poor penitents.' "Me? I don't know anything, my

dear. I was, you know, what they call minus habens in Maynooth."

What's that, Father ?"

"What's that, rather r "Well, it's the very opposite of what your great clever brother was." Margery shuddered. "He was at the head of his class; I, at the foot of mine. Why, I was doctored ' twice.

" Doctored ? O, I am so glad !" "Yes, my dear-' doctored.' That is, I was compelled twice to read the same treatises for a second year." "And wasn't that good, Father ?"

"Yes, my dear ; but it meant awful

stupidity. Somehow I could not under stand things. I used to look at those books and papers; but my head would swim round and round, and I used to see the words without understanding what they meant. Why, it was the wonder of the whole college that they ordained me at all."

"I suppose so, Father," said Margery, trying to keep back her tears. "It was, my dear. And I suppo

"It was, my dear. It day, which I'd be digging potatoes to day, which I'd be digging potatoes to day, which would be my proper vocation, but for cld Dr. Whitehead. They all agreed that I should go. They said I'd dis-gnace the Church, which was quite true. And the senior protocol more theology said that I knew no more theology said that I knew hour a cow about a holiabout theology than a cow about a holi-day. But poor Dr. Whitehead asked day. But poor Dr. Whitehead asked, could I manage to get up the cere monies of the Mass? and they should their heads. 'Well, I'll teach him, he said ; 'and he must be a priest. May the Lord be kind to him-and-

forgive him." "Well," said Margery, "and did

you learn them ?" "In a kind of way, my dear. Som

Her visit to the drawing room was

short. The eternal plaint of the mother's heart was wearisome. It was all Louis ! Louis ! and the woman of the world, with all the contempt for the world, with all the contempt for the pretty little puppet, would just prefer that he should be allowed to sleep in peace. It was monstrous that these ghosts of memories, and memories

of ghosts, should be summoned up by the heart of a fcolish mother at a ple

ant morning call. "It is quite a seance of spiritual sts," she comtlained to her muff. She'll ask me to summon this little ists. idiot from Hades," "I beg pardon," she said sweetly to

"I beg pardon," she said sweetly to the sorrowing mother, " does not your religion afford you some consolation in your bereavement ?" " It does, of course," said the weeper, " But it cannot bring Louis

But you can pray, can you not, for -what's this the expression is-for the

eternal repose of his soul ?" "Of course," said th "Of course," said the mother "And I have prayed. Indeed, I have. But death is death, and judgment." Mrs. Wenham Mrs. Wenham rose hastily. Her ere those dreadful words againalways connected with these people. Death ! Judgment ! and at a morning

call ! entered the doctor's study. She Here it was Barbara | Barbara | she seen her? Did she know her? Was there ever the faintest clew to he whereabouts ? And the father's even pleaded piteously with the strange oman.

"Yes," she said, " Miss Wilson had called on her at a very unseaso nour, and had appeared rather excited and disturbed in her mind. She spoke in a rather rambling manner; appeared hardly able to control her-self. She would not like to say that Miss Wilson was quite demented—but

It was quite clear that Miss Wilson ad not entered a convent, or that she

would be soon sent home "I thought," said 1 said Mrs. Wenham ' that it was the highest ambition of Roman Catholics to see their children in religion ? Now, I assure you I have often thought that I should so like to

often thought that I should so like to be a nun. I have seen such pretty intration on my part for the "better" ing to my supper I was soon engaged in realities. No! I was not one bit less succep-kneeling to the cross, singing their hymns; and they looked so pretty— as yet, I had not met any one particular

his presence. To my horror I saw that he was fingering a dainty little jewelled re-volver in a dangerous looking manner, and as he did the diabolical smile

A STRANGE DREAM AND ITS SEQUEL. CHAPTER I.

A DREAM.

whittler.

of mine I may as well introduce myself. I am by name Dermott O'Kelly, and that name lets you know without my telling you what country I belong to I am by profession a doctor and my practice is situated in the picturesque aills of Wicklow. I am not an old man-some forty nother - God rest her - would

of her. young. But let me tell you that when you are forty you will consider yourself only starting life. I awoke with a start, and looked around me, gazing in a startled manner at Mary. " Musha, doctor, I am afraid." said

Mary, "you have got it now as bad as any of the rest of them. My goodany hold, and, let me say, I would not leave this place for the best in Ireland, or I love the simple country people, and my wife loves the scenery, because it reminds her of-, but there I am forehere is your supper, nice and hot, for you, so let you take it." I found it fairly hard at the first to

harangue, and laughed at her reason for my being so feverishly excited; but I refrained from telling her the settle down to the monotonous run of a rural doctor's life after the rollick-Ing times of a college one. A fact which added to the monotony truth, as the would, without doubt,

be construing my dream to mean all classes of frightful things. So as I said, I left the truth untold, and turn of my life, was that I had not yet fallen in love. Ab, dear lady readers, don't think it was owing to any lack of ad-

old fellow. Very chatty. One of the first questions I put to him was, as I pointed to the home of my dream, "Who owns that house?"

ravel path.

Dear reader, don't be afraid. I am not going so barden you with the broken English of this German landlord. So I will give his conversation

in plain English. "That house," he replied, "belongs or rather, belonged to one Herr von Schoffenberg. It now belongs to his sister, Lillian or more correctly speak. ing, to the Crown, for she is impris-oned at the present time, in connec-tion with the murder of her brother,

Herr. "He, poor fellow, was shot in his "He, poor fellow, was snot in fils library some months ago. The revol-ver with which the deed was done was iound lving at a good distance from the body in the opposite direction to which the latter had fallen. "This coupled with the fact that the deators proncuraed dasth instantane

doctors pronounced death instantane-ous excluded the possibility of suicide.

" One of our ' policemen' who happened to be near the house at the time, immediately the shot was fired, "Wake up doctor." It was my servant woman who spoke. Mary was my only woman servant. She was a good hearted, broad minded, typical rushed up the step to the door and during the time he was endeavoring to force it open, a French chap. Dever-eaux, who was stopping in the city at frishwoman. . She evinced as great care for my health as my poor she alive, and that is speaking highly

eaux, who was stopping in the city at the time, came up, he also apparently being attracted by the report. "Between them they forced the door, and Devereaux remained at it to ex-clude the flight of the culprit, if it should be attempted. The 'policeman' made his way to the library, and there he f und the dead body and the revol-here in the position. I have described.

he f und the dead body and the revol-ver in the position. I have described. Life was quite extinct. " Miss Schoffenberg was leaning over the dead body of her brother when the 'policeman ' entered and he arrested her on suspicion. He searched the house, but there was no one else in it. " Only those who know Miss Schof-

nouse, but there was no one else in 10-" Only those who know Miss Schol-fenberg will believe she isn't guilty. Everyone else is certain of her guilt. Everything looks black against her. The weapon was a family one—a little jewelled one. The culprit could not possible have assured. There was no I listened laughingly to Mary's long possiled one. The cniprit could how possibly have escaped. There was no backdoor, and Devereaux was keeping guard on the front door, and still there was no one found. Who could doubt vas no one found.

was no one found. Who could doubt that evidence of guilt? "And although almost everyone be-lieves her guilty, there isn't one who can put forward a really plausible

any of the rest of them. My good ness I you are covered with a cold sweat. That's what comes from not taking my bidding. I told you to wrap yourself well up; but you wouldn't do it, so now iyou see; but

In a moment ger to it. To m pressure, and as which I had se

lid back, disclo I shoved in I light saw that descended from not-see the botto darkness there v

Without a mon bered through ceeded down the ing my way do the groaning no ously heard prod

from below. When I reac steps, I was sta

passage, which the street. Right at the the form up. I turned hi his face. It w

dream. I lifted him made my way room above. T couch and exe wounds. He rethe time. I sa he could not liv the utmost. So I hurried

de ened in malice, rendering his face perfectly fiendish. Even as I gazed with horror he coolly levelled the revolver, aiming at the young man, and pulled the trigger-A flash !- A report !- A crash !- Then A form more fair, a face more sweet. Ne'er hath it been my lot to meet." Before I lay before you this strange tale oblivion!

years. Some of my vounger readers

At the time at which my story open I had just taken out my degrees and had obtained through the kind influence of some friends the practice which I now