

had been learned scholars, though his own tastes, like those of "Squire Western," ran to "Bell's Life in London" and works on farriery and shooting.

His reward came in a fashion as unexpected ; as to him, at all events, it was unexpected. His younger son, John, who by some freak of "heredity," was a scholar and a book-worm, took to visiting Monseigneur and the priests, in the first instance, with a view to improving his knowledge of French. From French to Latin was an easy step ; from Latin—the books in the library being chiefly editions of the early Fathers and of sixteenth century controversialists—to theology a by no means difficult one. Then came the startling sequel : John calmly announced his intention of becoming a Catholic.

Squire Fairleigh took it better than John had dared to hope, but Monseigneur, the Bishop of Bésançon, as a good royalist, had won the heart of the bluff old Tory Squire. Monseigneur was a "papist" and a gentleman of old family ; there was no reason, as he was constrained to admit, why his son, John, should cease to be a gentleman on becoming a "papist." So he gave his consent as graciously as could be looked for, under the circumstances, and, to show that he bore John no grudge, sent him to visit his old friend Senor Don Alonzo y Aguilar, whose acquaintance he had made when the latter was a member of the Spanish Embassy in London, and he, himself, a gay young "spark" about "the town."

John, though, when he went to Spain, had fully intended going to Valladolid, in order to study for the priesthood, found reason, in the fair face and form of Senorita Juanita y Aguilar, his host's motherless and only daughter, to change his mind. Senor y Aguilar, who lived only for his child, would put no obstacle in what seemed the best, if not the only way of insuring her happiness ; and John wrote home, announcing his marriage with a Spanish heiress, and his intention to spend his life in Spain. But of him, or of his, we shall hear more presently.