

thoughts and sentiments they express. May God bless the child, who in the sad hours of her partial blindness can write such interesting lines. Miss Helen Connell is the young maiden who took first prize some years ago in a literary course among all the pupils of our schools, both Catholic and Protestant.

ON THE LATE FRANK J. CONNELL'S DEATH.

By His Daughter.

In August, ninety-seven,
A Father left his home
To seek in western regions
Some wealth in golden loam.
His wife, and his four daughters,
Kissed him a fond good-bye,—
Parting makes hearts tender,—
More closely knots the tie.

Then followed weekly letters,—
Exchange of daily life,—
When distance lies between us.
The pen helps bear the strife.
Just ten short months had vanished
In June, of ninety-eight,
God called the youngest daughter
Beyond His golden gate.

Far in the Rocky Mountains,
With snow-capped peaks ahead,
That father read the letter:
"His youngest child was dead!"
Back came his lonesome answer:
"I pray God give me grace,
To meet in my home-coming,
My baby's vacant place."

The future is not ours:
Could brave hearts bear the pain?
Were they to know, that ne'er on
earth
They'd meet loved forms again?
But life is full of trouble,
We all must sorrow breast,
And birthday's were remembered,
By that father in the West.

He loved to write home, letters
Of daily life in camp,
And oft described the Sundays,—
The mission priest's long tramp.
And wrote that non-believers,
In that far western sod,
Respected, and well-treated
The Holy Man of God.

"And I," wrote that fond father,
"Serve the Holy Mass,
And visions of my boyhood
Quickly come, and pass,—
I see the town of Chatham,
The scene comes back with joy—
I served in its Cathedral,
As Bishop's altar boy."

"I have the brightest record,"
He fondly used to say;
"I served twelve Holy Masses,
One blessed Christmas day"—
"And here, the scene is different,
The mass is just the same,
We praise, adore and worship,
The Source, from which it came."

Again, the month is August,
The year, nineteen and three,
The sixth, with happy thoughts of
home,
A pleasant note, wrote he.
The ninth—his heart had failed
him—
The men in camp were awed,—
Far from home and dear ones,—
His soul went back to God.

Well thought of by the campers,
To all, he was a friend.
In sadness and in sorrow,
They mourn his sudden end.
Home, flashed the awful message—
There—not one tear could flow—
What four hearts felt that moment
God alone can know.

At home, the Sunday foll'wing,
The funeral bells were rung,
'Midst light of funeral tapers,
The solemn Requiem sung.
The kind words of the pastor
Gave sore hearts much relief,
God bless the Holy Priesthood,
In times of joy and grief!

Then to Saint Mary's graveyard—
God's peaceful acre blessed—
Where lie two little daughters,
His form was placed at rest.
Five angels are in Heaven
To meet and greet him there;
Four hearts are left to mourn him,
To wait the meeting fair.

Oh God, we all are pilgrims,
Our daily prayer shall be
That we may meet our dear ones
One day, my God, with Thee.

—M. Helen Connell,
175 Alfred Ave. East.

Winnipeg, August 24, 1903.

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(Extract from Des Moines Daily
News, May 6, 1903.)

Some one with a turn for curious
statistics kept count upon the fash-
ion pageantry of Fifth avenue,
New York, as it glittered by, last
Sunday afternoon, and in an hour
he recorded seventy-one dogs on the
laps of finely-dressed women, and
in the same time nineteen children.

Well, what of it?

This is a free country, and if a
woman prefers to be a mother to
a dog rather than to a child, what
is there to prevent it?

The cold, hard, brutal truth of
the matter is that a whole lot of
women are better fitted to bring
up dogs than they are to bring up
children.

When these, by mutual inclina-
tion and selection, have found the
measure of their affections, and
that measure is dog size, why—let
them indulge it.

It would be impossible to con-
ceive of anything more pitiable than
the fate of a child born to a wo-
man whose heart yearns for a pup
instead. That poor child must
shrivel up, body and soul, of heart-
hunger.

It is no imaginary case. Unfor-
tunately, there are many such chil-
dren in the world.

It is unfortunate for the children
and unfortunate for the world.
They are like little stunted shrubs.

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