2

PRETTY MISS NEVILLE versation going on within that fast.

BY B. M. CROKER

CHAPTER VIII

MY FATE IS FIXED ent, indeed, every human benefit and ry virtue and every prudent act, is compromise and barter."-Edmund

One bright spring morning th post bag brought spring morning the gallow. New speculations, in which grandfather was shareholder, had failed, and not only had he lost all at any hour. his investments, but was liable to pay a large sum of money besides. He hurried to Dublin by the first available train, and remained absent for nearly a week. It turned out that all his hoardings, all his carefully saved capital, were swept away, and nothing remained to him now but Gallow. He returned home with out : this intelligence a changed and broken down old man, apparently aged by ten years. He ceased to take any interest whatever in the farm; his bureau knew him no more. He would sit for hours in his arm. chair, absorbed in thought, or would cnar, abscred in thought, or would creep about the place, patiently fol-lowed by Snap—with his head down, and tail between his legs, as he seemed to think it his duty to assume a melancholy and gloomy aspect when in attendance on his master.

Economy became more than ever the order of the day. The fat cob, chestnut Kate, and Freney were all doomed. The two former were pur-chased by a French dealer, and Freney became the property of a master of foxhounds in a neighboring county. He had been reared on the land

every one remembered him a skittish, long-legged foal, with a tail like a piece of fur, and all the establishment witnessed his departure with the deepest regret. As for me, I refused meat and drink. I shut myself up in my bower for two whole days, refus-ing to be comforted. In vain had been my pleadings-my tears Grandfather, with a check for 150 brandrather, with a check for 130 pounds in prospect, was flint— Freney must go. The day he was led off to his new owner was one I shall never forget ; I really believed that my heart was broken ; and until the very last hour I was at Gallow I never passed his empty stall without Freney fortunately fell into the hands of a good master, and made himself such a name with the "Door-Die" Hunt, that he is now passing the autumn of his days an honored pensioner.

Before summer was over. Maurice came down to Gallow to take leave of grandfather before sailing for India. Our establishment being now so much reduced, the twig was sent to meet him at the station. Dinner that evening was by no means a convival or festive entertainment Grandfather was in one of his most melancholy moods, and kept con-stantly referring to his losses and his health.

"I'm an old man now," he would say querulously, "and not good for anything ; it's time lewas out of this, I'm not wanted much here." This was certainly hard upon Maur-

ice, who replied : "I hope you will be here for many

years yet, sir. We are a long-lived family. "No, no," returned grandfather

peevishly, "I don't care how soon I go. It won't be long before I'm carried out feet foremost, and laid along ried out feet foremost, and laid along with the others," nodding his head in the direction of the family vaults. derisive laugh.

Then you'll be master here ; every stick and stone is entailed and goes to you—and Idon't care how soon I'mout no one else to do it but yourself," stick and stone is entailed and goes to

I was still the slave of a tyrannica appetite. as far as fruit was con-cerned; and after a while I closed my book, and set out for the garden. There I wandered up and down the wide gravel paths, now culling a carnation, now consuming a pear or a plum, till a sharp corner suddenly brought me vis-a-vis to Sweetlips who was to be found on the premise

to be ashamed of yourself?

Here he paused, absolutely breath

'Little idiot !" I ejaculated, scorr

imperiously. "Is it take it into the dining

from all I can make out.

now !

nine.

door !'

ing, that at that very hour-nay, that very moment-my future fate was trembling in the balance. He was in the act of closing the melon frame as I strolled into view This excellent fruit was his especial pride and hobby, and a certain family of delicious little green melons were nursed by him with more than

SURPRISING NEWS "O wonderful, wonderful, and most wond ifu a mother's care. Recent inspection of his treasures had not been satis-factory, for, shutting the frame with an angry bang, and shaking a rake furiously in my direction, he wheezed The next afternoon was, indeed,

jauntily perched on the top of my head, I was superintending Sweet I wouldn't doubt ye! See now, Miss Nora, you really are a terrible young girl-there's no two words about it; you're a thief ! How dar you go to take the very melon that I've been watching these three days? See now, I'll stand it no longer; must just tell the grandfather. Maybe he'll be able to conthrol ye; but I'm thinking it would be easier "Nora, your grandfather wants you in the library at once." With lightening speed I mentally to turn the river Shannon with a pitchfork than to keep ye off the flowers and fruit. Ere yesterday,' his choler rising at the mere recol

lection, "you picked every wan of the best Glory of John roses (Gloire sequences as a visit to the library. de Dijon), and gave them to the lame girl at 'The Cross.' Ye ought What is it, Maurice - do anxiety.

his discouraging reply. "I left the gate of the hagard open

less, and I, boiling with indignation, was figuratively about to draw my sword, and fall upon him, when I caught sight of big Mary's portly quired nervously. Maurice vouchsafed no reply as he form and white apron at the gate. Her gesticulations were those o haste, so I merely contented myself with remarking to Sweetlips "that I opened the garden-gate and imper ously waved me through. His silence was ten times believed he sold the fruit on the sly, and that that was the reason he eloquent than words, and my heart

sly, and that *that* was the reason he could not bear to see me eat it, and that if any one was a *thief*, it was himself !" and hastily gathering my dress in a large wisp under my arm I sped down the walk like a lap-wing, nearly overturning big Mary by the velocity of my arrival. "Well, what is it?" I panted eloquent than words, and my heart sunk down to my shoes as I glanced at him. He looked very odd. I thought, unusually grave, and ex-tremely pale. He and grandfather must have had a row; but how

eagerly. "'Tis this," holding up an orange colored envelope; "a telegram for Mr. Maurice, and the gossoon is waiting in the kitchen te have it out, leaving me alone to face grand-father, Mr. French, and a queerooking, wizened old gentleman signed; and 'tis in a mortial hurry he is, for he swears he won't pas the berrin'-ground no later than had never seen before.

cuptly, pushing back his chair and fully. "Well, and why don't you take it in to Mr. Maurice at once? What are you waiting for?" I asked happens to me you will be a beggar. You have no relations to receive you,

room ?" she answered, in a shrill key of interrogation. "Sure, the masther gives orders as how no one nome. I stared at him blankly, vainly en-deavoring to realize this appalling piece of intelligence. "You have sense enough to see was to go next or nigh him. He and Mr. Maurice are talkin' great sacret

That is clear to you, is it ?" "Yes," I answered mechanically

our places was worth to be settin' foot in the hall, much less show our noses inside the dining room his pockets. Your cousin has promised you "And I'm to show mine, and have

-the good old family," he added, with a regretful pause.

a litt Do now.

## THE CATHOLIC RECORD

## we don't want you here ; be off. Go to your bed ; I want to talk to your

Little did I guess, as I wended my way up to my own special sanctum, the vital interest that I had in the discussion from which I was sternly excluded. Little did dream, as I sat in the window, with my elbows on the sill, and gazed out nto the darkening autumn even

CHAPTER IX

tateful one to me. In my summer garb of brown holland, with hands stuck in the pockets of my black alpaca apron, and a white sunbonnet

lips and his grandson denuding my favorite apple tree of hundreds of sweet "Seek-no-furthers" for the Dublin market. I was so completely absorbed, in a skyward direction, that I gave quite a violent start when I suddenly heard Maurice say

reviewed my career for the past week. I could not remember any misdeed deserving such terrible con know ?" I asked, with unconcealed

You will hear soon enough." was

resterday, and some of the cows got in and pulled down half a rick—it can hardly be *that* ?" I again in-

must have had a row; but how could I possibly be mixed up in it? I was still cudgeling my brains un-successfully as I followed my cousin into the library with lagging, falter-ing steps. He immediately walked over to a window and stood looking out leaving me along to foce mend

began grandfather ab-Nora,"

surveying me over his spectacles, as I stood in the culprit attitude at the other side of the table, "you know you are now nearly fifteen, and old enough to be told that if anything

and the poor house will be your only

"Then, Mary, you must have been listening at the keyhole," I observed that every farthing I possess must go to your cousin Maurice

austerely. "Get out with your nonsense, Miss Nora! It would be as much as glancing to where the future pro prietor of Gallow stood, still staring out of the window with his hands in

home here," resumed grandfatuer; "you and he are the last of the "But Miss Nora honey. Miss Nora

"Yes," I again assented, wonder-ing within myself if grandfather was

ne added impressively.

the gravest interest.

" Girl," he exclaimed in a voice of thunder, seizing me roughly by the arm, " do you understand that some day you are to marry your cousin Maurice ? Do you hear me ?" he reiterated furiously. with a quiver of constern ar me?" he

"Certainly not; you will tell no one," he answered, authoritatively. Authoritative manners sat rather well on Maurice; but, if he thought "Yes, grandfather," I answered completely cowed.

"Promise me that as long as h lives you will never marry any one else—answer me at once." served to myself en passant.

"It's not a joke, is it, grand father ?" I faltered tearfully. "Joke !" he echoed, bringing his hand down on the table with suc violence that all the books jumped

and the papers were sent flying. " It seems hardly fair to bind he

in such a way," interposed Maurice ; "she is much too young to realize what she is doing.

" It shall be as binding on her on you.' "Give me your promise, Nora, grandfather proceeded, totally ignor

ng Maurice's appeal.

"I promise," I responded in a whisper. I would have promised anything under the circumstance

in order to escape. "Very well, mind you keep your word. Now you may go," releasing my arm with a push. "Be off." I obeyed him with alacrity, leav-ing the more in double the heste

ing the room in double the haste with which I had entered it, and at once made my way to the empty drawing-room, my favorite resort where, coiled up in one of the deep window seats, I endeavored to collect my thoughts and adjust my

I was engaged to be married, and I was engaged to be married, and to Maurice of all people! I could not grasp the fact, it eluded even my active 'imagination. What would Deb and Rody say, when they heard that I was to be the bride of our common enemy? And Miss Fluker, how would she like it? Ecstatic thought, perhaps she would be sent away, and I would have no more lesons! Maybe Maurice could be in

duced to buy back Freney. Rid me of Miss Fluker, and restore Freney! From this point of view my engagement looked couleur de

But, on the other hand, I detested Maurice ; and if Maurice liked me he had certainly an odd way of showing it. He had concealed his

preference most successfully. However, it never occurred to me to uestion the arrangement, no mor han I would have dreamed of trying to prevent the snow or rain falling. andfather and Maurice had settled it all; and grandfather's word had been my law as long as I could re-

member. My notions on the subject of love and marriage were of the vaguest. had never read but one romance on love-story in my life, and that was Thaddeus of Warsaw," over which wept the bitterest and saltest of Miss Fluker, although her ears. self a ravenous devourer of light iterature, utterly, discouraged any thing of the sort as far as we were concerned. L'appetit vient en man-geant, and I had never had any chance of acquiring a taste for novels. More over, to tell the truth. I did not care for reading, and rarely opened a bool for my own amusements. Five years was a long way off. I could barely recollect events when I tried to look back over the past five years: it seemed such remote ages since I was ten years old. Surely this other five would be as long in passing.

My meditations were interrupted by the entrance of my future husband Closing the door carefully behind him, he came over to where I sat huddled up in a corner of the windowseat, chewing one of the strings of

ment a dead secret." He called it an arrangement not an engagement. "May I not tell Deb?" I asked, BACCALAUREATE SERMON

> DELIVERED AT THE COMMENCEMEN' EXERCISES OF ST. FRANCIS XAV. IER'S COLLEGE, ANTIGONISH, N. S., MAY 18, 1918, BY REV. A. MCD.

> > dence lightens the burdens which

has set before it. For in the attain-

since the people

the even tenor of surrounding ob

jects, he could without any misgiv-ings, undertake it, and guided by the

often seems bewildering, yet in real-ity, making up with their woof and

warp, that marvellous tapestry which, viewed from the side of the

designed from all eternity. It is for

texture to learn as much as is ex

that he was going to keep me in order he would soon find his mistake, I ob THOMPSON, Ph.D., D. D. My Lord, Dearly beloved brethren -Among the consolations which Christian souls derive from the in-spired words of Holy Writ, not the least is the blessed assurance of the Apostle that "He who hath begun a Tell me." I commenced boldly "Tell me, Maurice, why do you wish

why do you want—" Here I hesitated and stammered. "To marry you," put in Maurice Is that what you mean?" good work in us will perfect it unto the day of Christ Jesus." A strong and living faith in God's holy provi-Yes

"Well, for family reasons; and, in

short, because I choose." "And how about the chimpanzee oppress the soul, sweetens the bit-terness of the chalice of which it or Red Indian?" I asked, judicially must partake, and removes the ob-stacles which it must encounter be-Oh, that was only a joke, you fore it reaches the goal which God

know," reddening. "You wish it, as well as grandfather ?" I persisted,

ment of any great end, in the accom-"Of course I do," he rejoined, plishment of any great and noble work, we have to deal, not only with avoiding my eye, and staring fixedly at the elms on the lawn, as if there the chain of causes and effects which was something about them specially pertain directly to the object which interesting. "But Maurice," I remonstrated,

we have in view, causes and effects which have to be studied out care-"how can you—I—we—I—that is to say—I don't think you like me very fully before we can reasonably ex-pect to attain to the end desired, but

we are also brought face to face with a multiplicity of other agencies and "Don't I! You must be laboring under a monstrous delusion, my good Nora," he returned, looking at me circumstances which, while lying to a great extent, or altogether beyond with an odd smile. "No, you don't," I persisted; " and the sphere of our control, affect, nevertheless, the plan of action

only that you are almost the only re-lation I have in the world, I don't which we have drawn up for the accomplishment of our design. Hence, we are liable to be hampered like you at all. I can't bear you !"

like you at all. I can't bear you !" "Well at any rate, you are candid. Perhaps you will like me some day, Nora. At any rate, it won't be my fault if you don't. We will get on very well together, you will see," re-plied Maurice, looking at me with an expression in his dark gray eyes that in our actions from sources unexpected, or, even if forseen, unavoid able. And the extent of the difficulties to be apprehended in carrying out a great and noble design, is enhanced by the very greatness and nobility of the work undertaken. might have been compass and i For, from the very nature of things

might not. "We shall be like two Kilkenny the greater and more important the movement, the larger will be the cats, or Laurence Mooney and his wife at the cross-roads, who are al-ways beating each other," I remarked, number of persons, and the weightier the influences affected thereby. It is not, therefore, to be wondered at,

ways beating each other, Tremarket, trenchantly. "Not quite so bad as all that," re-joined Maurice. "However, our wed-ding day is in the far-away future; we need not think of it for years and that in the accomplishment of any work, no better how good and noble, difficulties and opposition should be ancountered and with whom we are brought into con years. It seems preposterous even talking of it to a child like you, but tact are of all mental and moral conditions, we must expect opposition as I am going abroad, your grand father wished it to be all settled, in which is prompted by motives, in some cases good, and in others, decidedly bad and unworthy. How then, amidst all this clashing case he may not be here when I re-turn. Forget all about it for the next half-dozen years, as I shall. You may consider yourself a free and fetterless of hostile agencies, amidst all this thing till you are one-and-twenty; and, by-the-way, I had better keep any man undertake and bring to a

the ring." I handed it over in silence. "I am leaving Gallow this after-moon, as I dare say you know," he added, after a moment's pause. "Yes, I know," I answered, with deed, the task set before him were

perfect composure of countenance. "I wonder what you will be like when next I see you?" he said, look-

ferent stages, proceed step by step, until he attained the effect desired. "I shall always be ugly, so don" But the great problems of human build upon any great change in my personal appearance," I remarked life are characterized by no such simplicity. They involve many ele-ments, combining and interweaving, in a way which to the human mind

with unusual gravity. "I don't mind that—'handsome that handsome does,' " he responded consolingly. "But I hope you will steady down, and pay some attention to your lessons. Now is the time to learn; you will regret your idlenes when you are grown up, and find yourself a dunce." "Shall I!" I sneered.

"I hope you will be attentive to your grandfather." "Yes; is there anything else you

hope to

neighboring shrubbery.

TO BE CONTINUED

hope ?" I asked ironically. "A great deal," he replied, unsuspi

pected of them regarding the general design, and especially to be thorciously. "You see, I have an interest oughly conversant with the particuin you now Nora, and I hope to find

he may encounter; he directs his attention, not merely to probabili-ties, but also possibilities; every precaution is taken against fog, and ice, and storms; and his stock of fuel is not limited to the needs of the eight or ten days which make up the ordinary voyage ; but he also foresees the possibility of broken down engines, with consequent drifting for days and weeks "pon the ocean. And as with a captain of a ship, so it is with every other man, no matter what his calling may be. Each has his task in life, and to the nature and circumstances attendant upon such task he must direct the nergy of his mind, if his

would have a happy issue. But all this being granted, there still remains the weighty fact to which especially, I call your attention, viz., that in the fulfilment of any great and noble mission, you counter obstacles against which no human providence or foresight can make provision. The unexpected will arise at any moment from various sources over which you may have no control at all ; sometimes from natural causes, the action of which could not reasonably have been anticipated ; and more frequently from human agencies, from the free will of man over which you have no control; a will actuated, as I have already said, sometimes by motives of good in-tention, and at other times by motives thoroughly bad and perverse. This is especially true in the case of one who undertakes a task out of the ordinary, who aspires to ideals which lie beyond the routine and humdrum of every-day life, who ventures to cut a wider swath, who, in a word, foreseeing the future with its urgent needs and glorious possibilities, dares to make provision therefor; this person, whoever he may be, or whatever the nature of the task he undertakes, is sure to meet obstacles arising from the free will of men, both good and bad. For it is not given to all to under stand fully the great problems that are looming up in the future, even the future, which is near at hand. And it would be uncharitable to blame these persons for opposing what to them seems strange and unreasonable, just as it would be foolish to abandon the work which you have undertaken for the sake of avoiding their shallow and hostile criticism. He would surely be a weak and pitiful specimen of humanity who would take for his guiding principle in life, to creep, or rather, to be swept along the paths of least resistance, inconfusion and perplexity, how can stead of pushing resolutely towards the goal to which he aspires. Do happy termination the work to which God has called him. If, innot understand me to say that you should rush blindly against obvery simple, one whose solution could be effected without disturbing stacles that may be avoided with reasonable tact and diplomacy; what I wish to impress is that if you have an ideal which you wish to see accomplished, and encounter an obstacle which through human simple law which regulates its dif-

nalice and perversity is continually

thrust in your way, encounter it, push it aside, or trample it under

oot. Now all this, you will say, may be very true, but it presupposes that the worker for an ideal has strength sufficient to overcome mighty hosts. This is true ; it presupposes all that, and in presupposing that, it pre-supposes what is literally true, viz., that he who being certain that his weaver, appears a jumbled mass of knotted and tangled threads, but task is in accordance with God's will, seen from the side of eternity, shows the beautiful picture which God had is able, by drawing upon the inexhaustible strength of God, to overcome powers and principalities. the prudent workers at this priceless confident in this very thing, that He who hath begun a good work in you, will perfect it unto the day of Christ Jesus." And it is here that I wish to direct your attention, not to human prudence and foresight but to the Providence of God, Who foresees all and governs all, even that which is most wicked and perverse, unto the accomplishment of His eternal design. It is difficult to realize, and still more difficult to explain adequately, how God's Provi dence enters into the actions of all His creatures, and how a work which is in accordance with His holy will, will reachits fulfilment, notwithstanding all contradictory agencies. Nay, what is more wonderful, His infinite wisdom and power are manifested in bringing those same opposing ele ments into co-operation with the causes which directly favour the vork which He has blessed. For He has foreseen from all eternity every work, be it little or great, undertaken for the glory of His name, and He has framed the powers of the universe, visible and invisible, in such manner that in ages yet to come they will co-operate to further the good work undertaken by the most humble of His children ; and mighty as they may be in themselves, will wait as obedient handmaids to answer the prayer even of a little child. The unthinking world, which seeks not to look far beneath the surface of things, attributes much that God's Providence has wrought, to physical causes, which by mere coincidence, have operated to pro duce an effect for which some servant of God has servant of some some servant of God has asked his heavenly Father, beseeching Him in faith and childlike confidence. The shifting of the wind at the battle of Lepanto was due to physical causes, the result, indeed, of innumerable agencies operating for thousands of years, yet this remote effect of so many varied factors was clearly foreseen and infallibly or-dained from all eternity by Him who with the same unerring wisdom de-creed, that upon that fateful day, the nosts of Christ should meet the infidel, and aided by the wind and the setting sun, inflict upon the Turk the great and signal defeat which

JUNE 7. 1918

he may encounter ; he directs his

of it; the sooner the better; it will she urged imploringly. not matter much to any one but there's a darling girl! Nora. She'll be a beggar. "Well, I'm not such a coward as

I was sitting in the deep window you are, big Mary. thus suddenly dragged into the conversation, I dropped my story, and pricked up my ears.

Nora shall never be a beggar, as long as I'm to the fore, you may rely on that, sir," returned Maurtce, gen-erously. "I will provide for her in motto that I had frequently any way you wish. "In any way

any way I wish !" echoed grandfather, pausing deliberately beween each word as though weighing its meaning. "It would be a grand thing, a fine

thing, the two last of the family," he muttered to himself, as, resting his chin on his hands, and his hands on the top of his stick, he gave himself up to some moments of very serious ection. Then, as if struck by a sudden thought, he turned sharply round in his chair, and espied me ensconced in my usual nook, my book face downward in my lap, and my whole attitude to be summed up in one ordinary military word, "atten-

tion. Leave the room, Nora," emphasiz-

ing the order with a peremptory thump of his stick. "Leave the room; I wish to speak to your cousin.

There was no help for it, comfortable though I was, warmly as I was interested in the conversation-I must go.

social instincts were strong, and I would have much preferred to remain in the dining-room to roaming about alone; for it was now holiday time, and Miss Fluker was spending the vacation in the bosom her family.

I rose with aggravating leisure tucked "Frank Fairleigh" under my arm, and sauntered out of the room, seating myself on the hall-door where I divided my time be tween the history of mad Bess's wild

career, the homeward sailing rocks, and vague speculations on the con-

his money troubles, and that he was Grandfather a little queer. His next remark sill, behind grandfather, buried in a can't kill me. Here, hand it over, book, but hearing my name and fate and I'll take it," I said, drawing mycompletely took away my breath. "Your ccusin Maurice has prom self up with an assumption of dig nity, smoothing down my ruffled locks, and then marching up the steps with the spirit of the leader of ised me to marry you by the time you are twenty years of age." I stared at him—at Maurice—at Mr. French: they were not even smiling, although, of course, it was a

was : I stood gazing from one to motto that I had frequently born joke. the other in blank bewilderment. "I shall have the happiness in mind out hunting, and, indeed, most of my acts were signalized by an amount of decision and prompti tude bordering on rashness.

With my favorite motto on the tip of my tongue, and dispensing with a knock, I burst open the dining-room door, and plunged headlong into the society of my relations.

'Go away !" shouted grandfather half rising. ne your solemn promise."

"In one second, grandfather; I must first give this to Maurice," I replied, waving my telegram as my flag of truce, and advancing toward my cousin.

He was sitting at the table, resting his head on his hand, and even in the dim, waning light I, who was by no means remarkable for study ing other people's feelings or appear ance, even I was awe struck-nay, almost cowed-by the pallor of his

face and the gloomy expression of his countenance. He looked as if some heavy load of care had suddenly been transferred to his should

It was absurdly large for me-my thumb was the only digit equal to the occasion; but Maurice put my Grandfather, on the other hand appeared to have happily got rid of some burden, for he was leaning back in his arm-chair, his stick beproffered thumb aside, and placed the ring on my bony middle finger of my left hand. I endeavored to suptween his knees, and his whole air press with all my might an over eminding me of former days, when whelming desire to giggle, but my ne had recently achieved some mone tary triumph. Maurice slowly opened the teleforts were not altogether succes ful

"Come here, Nora," said grand-father, in a terrible tone, "take that gram, cast his eyes over its contents, and then tossed it aside.

thing off your head !" I obediently removed the sunbon "I must go to-morrow," he ob served, with much decision.

"Must you, so soon ? Eh, well, well, well," regretfully. "Now Nora, net, and discovered my grinning vis-"Now Nora,

bonnet and the cud of had heard it hinted more than once eflection. Leaning against the oppo that his mind had been affected by

site shutter he surveyed me thought fully for some seconds. Truly, I was burst forth. not much to look at, at the best of times

After a moment's silence he said Well, Nora?"

"Well, Maurice ?" I echoed, gazing at him with a face of blank misgiving and round, incredulous eyes.

"I wanted to ask you to say nothing about what occurred this after noon; it is to be kept a profound secret.'

knowing that my granddaughter will live and die a Beresford of Gallow; "It is not a hoax ?" I exclaimed. rising and looking at him searching and you, Maurice," looking toward his nephew, "will have the satis-faction of remembering that you have brightened the end of my days, ly. The more I looked at Maurice the more outrageously improbabl the whole thing appeared. "No, certainly not," he answered

and fulfilled my dearest wish. I quickly.

'And are you and I really what is know that a Beresford's word is as called 'engaged to be married' ?" I in-quired, with perfectly unabashed good as his bond-you have given I have," said Maurice, approachmien.

We are," he returned, unhesitat ing the table, and speaking in a low but perfectly distinct tone. "Then take your cousin's hand, and put this ring on her finger," ingly.

As I gazed in his face—absolutely solemn in its expression of deep gravity-the idea tickled my fancy to continued grandfather, producing an ancient heirloom, valuable, but hid such an extent that I leaned against my shutter and laughed till I was perfectly exhausted—Maurice meaneous; it will be a pledge between you,' With cold and even trembling fin-

while surveying me with an expresgers Maurice took the ring, and en sion of the deepest indignation and deavored to fit it on me, Mr. French and the wizened old gentleman sudisgust. Evidently the situation did not present its comic side to him. perintending the performance with

The more angry he looked the more I laughed. I could not help it.

was becoming quite hysterical, and the tears were actually coursing down my cheeks.

Let the absolving words be said over me, and the holy oil sign and seal After all," he exclaimed, impatiently, "this excellent joke, as you me, and Thine own Body be my food, and Thy Blood my sprinkling; and let my sweet Mother Mary breathe seem to think it, may never come off. One of us may die," he added, quite cheerfully.

"One, or both," I returned, drying on me, and my angel whisper peace my eyes as I spoke. "In case only one dies, is the survivor to go into to me, and my glorious saints . . . smile upon me, that in them all, and h them all, I may re-the gift of presever through mourning? I have never been in mourning," I observed, pensively. I have never been in 'Do be serious for one moment fora," said my cousin, angrily; promise me to keep this arrange-Nora,

r part which may be assigned to you much improved, quiet, well-in them : yet, they are not expected to formed, amiable, and lady-like." grasp in its fullness and all its de-

You don't mean to say so?" I st forth. "Well—and I have an tail the marvellous concept of the master mind that has framed the deinterest in you, Maurice," I went on, mimicking his tone to the life—" I sign and under whose guidance and direction the whole must be comfind you less of a donkey, pleted. and less of a conceited prig, and more We are all workers in the great of a pleasant companion! Have you anything else to hope ?" I demanded, scheme of God's predestination. To each is alloted his special work, to

defiantly, tossing my sun bonnet out of the window, which overlooked a one more, to another less. It behooves us each and every one to lay wide grassy area running round the our minds to that particular work which under God's providence we have undertaken. But having learned as well as we may the course I was only speaking for your good and I see it is worse than useless. You are an incorrigible tomboy, as of action which reason prescribes for perverse and obstinate as a mule. the happy outcome of our work, we There, that will do," I broke in must never forget that what has rudely. "Too many compliment at once will only turn my head. "Too many compliments all been entrusted to us, is to a great extent dependent upon circumstances won't mind any more just at present. Keep them till we meet again," I conand agencies over which we have but partial control, if any at all; and cluded, stepping out on the window consequently, that we must depend upon the master mind of Him who sill, and jumping lightly after my onnet. As I picked it up I made views the whole and all its several Good-by,

him a mock courtesy. "Good-by, Cousin Maurice," I exclaimed, waving parts, who understands what every agent needs for its proper exercise it toward him by the strings ; " make who understands how to combine all your mind quite, quite easy about my elements and agencies, even those which appear the most irreconcilmanners, appearance, and education. Good by!" And with a final wave of able and jarring, so that from the co my headgear. I disappeared into the operation of all, there may result the glorious picture which was mapped

out from all eternity. God, of course, intends that the soul formed to His image, should in HOW NEWMAN WISHED TO DIE order to rise in the scale of per-fection, seek to copy the model of " O my Lord and Saviour, support infinite perfection of which it is the me in my last hour in the strong "Be ye perfect, even as your image. "Be ye perfect, even as your heavenly Father is perfect." Hence, those who are called to the active arms of Thy sacraments, and by the fresh fragrance of Thy consolations. life, rather than to the contempla-tive, have a special obligation to copy their Divine Master's provi-dence in making due provision, not only for those things which are naturally associated with the particular duties assigned them, also in so far as is possible, for con through them and, if hay the tingencies. The captain of a sing, ceive the gift of presever, in making provision for the naviga-nance, and die, as I desire to live, in Thy faith, in Thy Church, in Thy faith, in Thy love. Amen.