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subject to several... which caused him... suffering. The pain... about his eyes, and he... in a darkened room...

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AGENTS OF THE Catholic Agency

Christmas is coming, bright, happy day...

Dear Santa, please send me a doll...

A Child's Wish BEFORE AN ALTAR.

I wish I were a little key...

I wish I were the little bell...

I wish I were the chalice fair...

I wish I were the little flower...

I wish I were the altar where...

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OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our boys and girls!

Christmas is one great day of the year for the children, whether they be rich or poor. The poor may expect no earthly gift to lighten their hearts...

It was against the laws of Puritan New England to celebrate the birth of the Saviour of the world. Every Christmas bell was silenced...

If all the joys of Christmas were made known to the people, would there be any who would refuse to kneel down before the Infant King and adore Him?

Margaret went upstairs to her room, and donned her hat and cloak. It was her custom every Christmas to go to the Old Ladies' Home...

Let us welcome Our Jesus and let us adore Him. He is our only King and our only joy. Let us make our hearts pure and clean to receive Him...

A Christmas Jingle. Christmas is coming, bright, happy day...

Dear Santa, please send me a doll. He is so good, and kind, and mild...

A Child's Wish BEFORE AN ALTAR. I wish I were a little key...

I wish I were the little bell. That tinkles for the Host...

I wish I were the chalice fair. That holds the Blood of Love...

I wish I were the little flower. So near the Host's sweet face...

I wish I were the altar where. As on His Mother's breast...

—FATHER RYAN. Margaret's Gift. "Oh, dear!" cried pretty Margaret...

"What is the trouble, my child?" said a low, grave voice close by her.

Margaret's only answer was to bury her face deeper in the soft cushions; she knew that voice well. It belonged to Father Casey, her confessor and friend.

"Come, Margaret," said the priest kindly, "lift up your head and tell me what it is you hate so much; such sentiments are not becoming at any time, much less at this season of peace and good will."

Margaret blushed as she made reply: "It's Christmas I hate, Father Casey. I am tired of giving and receiving presents from people who do not care for me and for whom I do not care; it is a sort of give and take."

"Fair weather friends, yes; but tomorrow, if my wealth should take wings and fly away, my friends would fly with it. Father, I would give all I possess for a little love, for one gift tomorrow, given for my own sake."

"Poor child," said Father Casey, laying his hand on her head, "I understand there is a lack in your life which you long to have filled; you are searching for that peace which the world cannot give, cannot take away."

Margaret's arrival at the convent was hailed with pleasure by young and old. She was a great favorite with all the Sisters. As Margaret walked from one room to the other, stopping a moment to speak to each of the old ladies, her heart thrilled with pleasure...

The next morning, after breakfast, Margaret busied herself examining the different gifts sent by her friends; a happy smile hovered around her lips. Twelve or more of Margaret's friends were coming to dine with her, so she put on the prettiest dress in her whole wardrobe...

A few months later the fashionable world was astonished to learn that Margaret had renounced the world, and become a Sister of Charity. Her beautiful home was transformed into an orphanage, and as the little ones clustered around her in the twilight...

TRUE TO THE END.

CHAPTER X. On the following morning Richard Dunne went, according to custom, to enquire after Ellen, and to call on Margaret.

On the door-step he again encountered Father O'Donnell in the act of leaving the house; but he turned back when he saw Richard. "Come in, Mr. Dunne," he said as the latter was about to make an excuse; "I want to say a word to you."

"No, no more," said Richard, "I have no more to say to you now. I have no more to say to you now. I have no more to say to you now."

"When did she die?" demanded the other sternly. "She was better?" "Yes; she was buoyed up with hope till after the trial. When we told her the result, she grew very white, but still quite calm, and begged to be taken to Frank at once."

Richard came forward; his face was pale, but a look of determined rage was painted on it. "You will never have need to give the message," he muttered through his closed teeth.

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baby angel, the little Mary whom he had never seen in life. It seemed very uncertain whether the two friends and brothers would ever meet again; but they looked forward to another meeting when all life's troubles would be ended.

"There is one person," said Frank, after a pause, "whom I pity far more than I do myself—the man, whoever it was, that did this thing."

"And forgive him?" said the priest. "Oh! yes, Willie, long ago; before Ellen died, when it was hard to do so; but I never can imagine how one can dare to ask forgiveness of God, and refuse it to another."

And when next day the ship spread her sails, and Frank saw Ireland receding from his view, his own loved country, which held the grave of his wife, and knew that his parents were left alone in their old age, and his children deprived of a father and mother's care, and with a ban of disgrace resting on them, his heart was ready to break.

Frank's letters were cheering, for he was so patient and resigned. The children were too young to cause much anxiety, and Margaret herself had begun to lift up her head again.

Such are some of the resolutions arrived at, as given by the well-informed Catholic press. So far, no comment has been made on them. It cannot, however, be denied that they are fully in accordance with the patient and long-sighted policy of Leo XIII.

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USE SURPRISE SOAP ON WASH DAY; AND EVERY DAY.

THE EASTERN CONFERENCE AT THE VATICAN.

Important Results and Decisions. The Rome correspondent of the Irish Catholic (Dublin) writes as follows to that paper on the 11th ult. The conferences held at Rome under the presidency of Pope Leo XIII. for the union of the two churches were closed by the fifth and last reunion, held on Thursday last.

The result of this will be that each Patriarch will be, in the fullest sense of the word, the head of all those who belong to the rite to which he himself appertains.

To facilitate the direct relations of the Patriarchs with the Holy See by authorizing them to have in Rome, besides the Procurators of their various rites, Bishops residing in the Roman Curia and belonging as Consultants to the special Congregation of Propaganda for Eastern affairs.

The Holy Father has, moreover, decided to devote to this last work a special fund in addition to the sums devoted to it by the Congregation of Propaganda Fide.

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