

A Sermon in Rhyme. If you have a friend worth loving, Love him, 'tis not a sin to love him...

MOONDYNE I. Book Second. The Sandalwood Trade. BY JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY. CHAPTER X.—(CONTINUED).

They are first selected for their sentence; men imprisoned for life, or for twenty years, are sure to go. Next we take for re-conversion; we want to send away as many professional criminals as possible...

He sprang from the cab in Grosvenor Square, thinking he would quiet his excitement by walking the remainder of the way. As he turned into Grosvenor street, his eye was attracted by a low and elegant brougham, driven by a colored coachman...

some day, Mr. Sheridan, if you care to hear it. Just now I have to make my rounds of inspection. Will you join me? 'With pleasure,' said Sheridan; and they passed into one of the male penitentiaries.

It was a monotonous and unpleasant routine, this visiting of the wards. Will Sheridan was glad when they entered the female pentagon, after half an hour's rapid walking. When at last they came to the short ward in which Alice was confined, Sheridan's heart was beating rapidly.

The door of Number Four was open, and one of the nuns was standing in the cell beside Alice, who sat with her work in her lap. Will Sheridan heard the low sound of her voice, as she spoke to her visitor, and it thrilled him like a strain of exquisite music.

When Will Sheridan emerged from Millbank Prison he seemed impatient and yet pleased. He hailed a cab, and drove straight to Mr. Wylie's. He was drawn there by a deep, pleasurable feeling of mingled respect, gratitude, and expectation. He felt unaccountably high-hearted and joyous.

'Not without compensation, my Lord, and not at all unless they refused to cultivate the soil or to pay the heavy tax necessary to insure cultivation. I would do no wrong to make a right. No inheritance or purchased land should be taken for the benefit of the people without giving a fair recompense to the aristocrat.'

'Well, and having done all this, there should be a reward,' asked Lord Somers. 'At the starting-point,' answered Mr. Wylie with a sad smile; 'only at the starting-point. At present, the level of society is insecurity, poverty, misery, from which spring fear, ignorance, disease, and crime. Under a better system, the lowest point would be at least sufficient, enough for all the human beings in the country; and this, in time, would eradicate much of the evil, perhaps most of it.'

'But if it takes so long,' said Lord Somers, laughing, 'we may as well go as we are.' 'Not so, my Lord,' answered Wylie; and, as he spoke his face was lighted with an exaltation of spirit that made it marvellously beautiful and powerful; 'no man who sees truth, however distant, can conscientiously go on as if it were not there. Thousands of years are vast periods; but the love of human liberty and happiness shall reach out a clinging to the eternal. Let every man who believes, faithfully do his share, and the seed that he has sown, and in God's time the glorious harvest will come of a pure and truthful people, whose aristocrats shall be elevated by the social sense of the masses, and the love of humanity, and not by accident of birth and superiority in vice and pride.'

'The three who heard were deeply moved by the earnestness of the speaker, whose whole being seemed filled with the splendid prophecy. Lord Somers was the first to speak, returning to the subject of the Penal Reform Bill. 'And yet, my Lord, Wylie, with all your enthusiasm for social reform, you have given me a bill which is filled with practical attention to existing institutions.'

'I do not think the Americans mean that in your sense,' answered Wylie, 'for I believe that every generation of men should have a fair start, and let the best live on.' 'But it never can be done,' said Lord Somers. 'Yes, I wish to see the machinery of the new system put in motion. I have prepared for social matters to attend to in the Colony.'

'I have thought,' he said, looking at Lord Somers, 'that I should like to return to Australia on that ship.' 'Would you not prefer to go in my yacht, Mr. Sheridan?' asked Mr. Wylie. 'She will sail for Australia about the same time, and you shall command her for a voyage.'

'I should prefer the ship,' said Sheridan. Then, thinking he had rudely refused, he added: 'I desire very much to have this experience.' 'You will have your wish, sir,' said the Secretary, 'and I envy you the companionship of your voyage.'

'Confound it, Somers,' he cried, 'throw off your official airs, and take an interest in principle, as you used to. Mr. Wylie, I beg of you to continue; you should not only talk freely here, but I wish to Heaven you could present these things in Westminster Abbey.'

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