

A VICTIM TO THE SEAL OF CONFESSION.

A TRUE STORY, By REV. JOSEPH SPILLMAN, S.J.

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CHAPTER VII.

AN EVENING AT THE GOLDEN ROSE.

Mrs. Blanchard liked the house of her brother, who was the town-clerk. She occupied a small suite of rooms on the upper story, with an orphan girl, whom she had taken out of charity, for her servant. Her brother and his family had the ground floor. The relations between the two households was not very intimate.

worst of it is, that if such weapons are used, the assailant usually comes off with less credit than the assailed. "That is very true," remarked the doctor, a stout, good-natured-looking gentleman, taking a pinch out of his gold snuff-box. "I for one, advocate a more honorable way of warfare than is sometimes adopted by one party. And as for the laicisation of hospitals and infirmaries, I am dead against it. When I acted as army-surgeon in Italy and again during the last war, I saw behind the scenes. Provided the secular nurses had a young, good-looking officer to nurse, it was all very well; but let the small-pox or cholera break out in the ambulance, and they soon took to flight. Now the Sisters are no more afraid of a bullet on the battlefield than of typhus in the military hospital, they are thoroughly to be relied on, and they do not want to be paid for their services, which is more by a great deal than can be said of the other nurses. Of course there are some honorable exceptions, but as a rule, let them give me a wide berth."

some sick person, and she has gone running about after him, with her alms-basket, Heaven knows where," remarked the good lady's brother half angrily. "No, no," persisted Jenny amid her sobs; "it was not so; she was going to fetch a large sum of money from his reverence and come back with it directly." "A large sum of money!" repeated all present, opening their eyes wide with astonishment. "Yes, a whole lot of money that had been collected to build the hospital; ever so many hundred pounds!" "Good Lord!" ejaculated the Mayor starting to his feet, "why did you not come and tell me this before now?" "Please, Sir," said the poor little maid, "I waited till dark. And then I wanted to ask mistress's sister-in-law what I was to do, but she would not hear a word I had to say; only told me she had enough of beggars. Then I was afraid to go out alone in the dark, at last I ran across to old Susan, and she told me that she saw Mrs. Blanchard go up to the Convent at 10 o'clock precisely, but she did not see her go back. I begged Susan to go with me to Father Montmoulin, for I would not go into that house alone after dark for anything in the world people say there is a ghost there. But Susan would not go; she declared his reverence was ill, and had given orders that he was not to be disturbed. He did not even have his supper taken up as usual."

On the evening of the 20th February those two village magnates were seated with a few other habitués of the tavern, like-minded with themselves, each having a bottle before him. Politics had been freely discussed and the increasing influence exercised by the Church denounced and deplored. Le clericalisme, voila l'ennemi! The power of the clergy is the most formidable antagonist we have to combat—such was the watchword of the party.

"And you will see," said the Mayor, striking the table forcibly with his fist, "that these men will get their candidate through at the next election. They are sly, they are increasing their authority, they gain the working classes, the populace, to their side by an appearance of benevolence. This hospital, which they are going to build for the Sisters is a trump card in their hands, and this Reverend Father Montmoulin is by no means as simple as one would take him to be."

"The government ought to prohibit the erection of this hospital, and above all take the duty of caring for the sick and relieving the destitute out of the hands of the clergy, and of the Sisters, their sworn opponents," said the townsfolk.

"It will all come in good time," the Mayor replied. "Everything cannot be done in a day. It would be a grave political error on our part to oppose the building of this infirmary, just as the elections are to take place."

"I wish we could get some right scandalous story against a priest in the papers," old Carillon suggested. "Nobody pays any heed to the old tales now," the Mayor rejoined. "Besides our free-thinking journals are not read generally, and the clergy are too wary to let themselves be entrapped. Now if one could get a good, strongly-flavored story of something that happened in a place where every one could point at the priests are. They are every one as bad!" that might be some use. But they take good care what they do now; at any rate, they let nothing get about to their discredit."

"How would it be to write a novelette for the purpose?" said the town-clerk, slowly blowing a cloud of smoke into the air.

"On the principle: calumnieur and actor, scemur aliquid heret; if you throw enough mud, some is sure to stick," interposed the notary. The

The little green card table was soon placed under the lamp which hung from the ceiling, and the play began. The stout doctor had the thin, hungry-looking notary for a partner, while the town clerk had the honor of being paired with the great man of the place. Fortune favored the doctor, who seemed very well pleased with his hand, while on the contrary the Mayor looked very surly, and addressed a few uncomplimentary remarks to his partner in regard to his play.

The doctor was just about to throw down the trump card, which he held in his hand with an air of triumph, when the landlord, who had been looking on at the game, was called out, and came hurrying back to say that Mrs. Blanchard's maid was at the door, asking to speak to the town clerk; she was afraid something had happened to her mistress.

"Wait till the game is finished!" exclaimed the doctor. But the Mayor, who was glad of an excuse to avoid defeat which he saw to be certain, laid his cards down on the table, and said the townsfolk had better go at once and hear what was the matter, if misfortune, or any consequence had befallen Mrs. Blanchard.

"Oh, no misfortune ever happens to the old devotee, unless she has got a half-penny left to squander on imposters," the clerk interposed in a tone of vexation, as he too threw down his cards. "Let the girl come in."

"Keep your cards in your hand, the game is almost out," cried the doctor, knitting his brows; but when he saw the piteous tear-stained face of the girl, his expression changed, and laying down his hand, he inquired: "Whatever is the matter, Jenny? Has your mistress fallen down stairs, and hurt herself? Do you want me to come? Is she alive or dead?"

"I do not know," the poor girl sobbed, a fresh stream of tears running down her cheeks. "She must have been murdered; old Susan says so too. And she put her apron up to her eyes."

"A case of homicide in my municipality!" said the Mayor incredulously. "What has put such an idea into your head, child?"

It was some time before Jenny could compose herself sufficiently to say that her mistress had gone in the morning to the Convent to see the priest, and nothing had been heard or seen of her since, though she was to have been home by dinner-time.

"No doubt the Priest told her of

Random Notes For Busy Households. SUFFERING AND UNHAPPINESS.—Much of the suffering and unhappiness of which the world complains remarks a writer in the Baltimore Sun, results from the lack of a proper balance between one's means and one's wants, but very few people reflect that there are two ways of restricting the balance. They think only of increasing their means so as to weigh down that end of the scale; whereas a similar result would be attained by lightening the opposite pan. Nor is there any great hardship in the process of reducing one's wants, except in the case of very poor people, whose wants and means are few and small. A considerable number of people would be improved in health and temper and made more comfortable in every way if they would reduce their wants to the measure of the means they have to gratify them. Many of those wants grow from depraved tastes, and become fastened upon us by habit; some are established by vanity and the desire for display. They not only cause suffering and distress by disturbing the balance between what one needs and

what can be provided, but they are in themselves evil. Those who have prospered in life can readily see by a retrospective glance how wants grow without increasing the sum of one's happiness, even when the means to supply them have increased in the same or a greater proportion. MARRIED COUPLES frequently refer to the happiness they enjoyed in their first little home. It was perhaps small and poorly furnished; they had to work hard to keep it in order and to supply the simplest means of existence; but their wants were all satisfied and they lived a wholesome and comfortable life. With increase of means their wants began to multiply, vanity led them to move into a larger and more pretentious house; increasing their cares, and then envy of their neighbors stimulated them to efforts at display. In a few years what had before been luxuries became real necessities; their wants had so increased that they could not be happy if they did not spend more in a month than had at one time supported them comfortably for a year. Yet there was no corresponding increase of happiness. If fortune had

so smiled on them that they were relieved of all anxiety as to the means with which to provide for their greatly increasing wants, they were no better off than when smaller means were provided for fewer wants. But it (as is very frequently the case) their wants had grown beyond their means, or a reverse of fortune had left them with cultivated wants and no means to gratify them then they were rendered unhappy and possibly reduced to distress, not so much by loss of income as by a disturbance of the proper relation between income and the demands made upon it. HEARD TO CURTAIL.—Very many people suffer in this way and wear out their lives, he proceeds to say in vain efforts to restore the balance by an increase of means, instead of curtailing their wants. It is quite true that it is not an easy matter to give up one's habits, curtail expenditures and descend to a lower scale of living than that to which one has become accustomed. But it is possible to do so and it is worth while to make the effort. Those who have not yet established expensive habits should beware of the tendency to increase their wants. They gain nothing substantial by the increase and they risk the development of wants that they may not be able to satisfy. By avoiding the development of pride, envy and the grosser passions and appetites, they may continue to lead simple lives, notwithstanding an in-

crease of fortune, and then they will be in no danger of suffering from unsatisfied wants, even though their means of existence should by some turn of fortune be reduced to that which can be provided by daily work.

WHY WE ARE SAD.—Cardinal Ganganelli wrote this letter to a friend: You ask me why there are days when, given up to melancholy without knowing the cause, we are a burden to ourselves. To which I answer: First, it is because we are dependent upon a body which is not always in perfect equilibrium. Second, because Almighty God would make us sensible that this world is not our true home, and that we shall always be ill at ease until we leave it. Thus it was that the apostle longed after the things that are eternal. There are fogs in the moral as well as the natural world; and the soul, like the sky, has its clouds.

The best way to dispel gloom is to seek employment. When we are seriously occupied we have no leisure to become either sad or languid. Study is the element of the mind. "You will neither be a burden to yourself or others," said Seneca, "if you love study." It is conceivable how many wretched quarters of hours there are in life from which employment would save us. You cannot be happy in this world but by knowing how to blunt your sorrows. He who has no vocation at present either has had or will have some, pain and sorrow are an inheritance from our first parents, and we cannot entirely preserve ourselves from them.

VALUE OF SUNSHINE.—It is really astonishing how few people there are who properly estimate the hygienic value of the sun's rays, remarks the "Family Doctor." A valuable lesson on this point may be learned by observing the lower animals, none of which ever neglect an opportunity to bask in the sun. And the nearer man approaches to his primitive condition the more he is inclined to follow the example of the animals. It is a natural instinct, which civilization has partly destroyed in the human race. The effect of sunshine is not merely thermal; its rays have a chemical and electrical functions. It is more than possible that sunshine produces vibrations and changes of particles in the deeper tissues of the body as effective as those of electricity. Many know by experience that the relief it affords to wearing pain, neuralgia and inflammation, is more effective and more lasting than that of any application whatever. Those who have faceache should prove it for themselves, sitting in a sunny window, where the warmth falls full in the cheek. For nervous disability and insomnia the treatment of all others is rest and sunshine.

The popular view of the relation of the blood to human character and conduct is marked in many a familiar expression. We speak of there being "bad blood" between people, a family of "blue blood" as indicating ancestry, of "black blood" as describing a treacherous nature, and in many another phrase, mark our belief that in the mental, moral and physical man, "the blood is the life." The real basis of a healthy, happy, and useful life is pure blood. With the blood pure, disease has no permanent lodging place in the system. For this reason the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery purifies the body of diseases which have their origin in impurity of the blood. It absolutely purifies the blood, carrying off the waste and poisonous matter, increasing the action of the blood-making glands, and building up the body by supplying the blood in quantity and quality such as is essential to a condition of health. It cures ninety-eight people out of every hundred who give it a fair trial.

THE SALEABILITY OF PATENTS.

Many inventors who have not met with success in selling their patents are inclined to believe that there is no longer a demand for them, and in this view the general public appears to concur. It is therefore, worth mentioning within a month there have been many patents sold, some of which brought their fortunate owners wealth. At the head of the list is a patent which sold for the princely sum of \$98,000, and another brought \$75,000. A patent beverage brought its inventor the snug sum of \$25,000, while patents for pneumatic tools sold for \$20,000, and a churn for \$5,000. John J. Stone sold his patent for door bell and burglar alarms for \$75,000, and will henceforth use his own invention to protect his money.

Of course, the saleability of a patent depends largely upon the care with which the papers were prepared and the skill employed in obtaining good valuable claims. Messrs. Marion and Marion, Patent Solicitors, of Montreal, have a number of clients who have realized large sums of money from patents procured by them, but who do not desire their names to be published.

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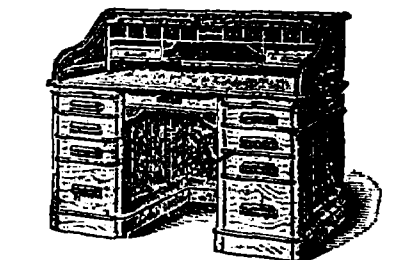
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A.O.H.—DIVISION No. 2. Meets in lower vestry of St. Gabriel New Church, corner Centre and Laurier streets, on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month, at 8 p.m. President: MONTAG, L. A. B. Recording Secretary: THOMAS DONOVAN, 312 Hibernian street. To whom all communications should be addressed: T. J. HALLIN, Financial Secretary; E. J. COLLIER, Treasurer. Delegates to St. Patrick's League: J. J. GAVANAGH, D. S. MCCARTHY, and J. GAVANAGH.

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C.M.B.A. of Canada, Branch 28 (ORGANIZED 13th November, 1883.) Branch 28 meets at St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander Street, on every Monday of each month. Its regular meetings for the transaction of business are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, at 8 p.m.

Applicants for membership or any one desiring information regarding the Branch may communicate with the following officers: D. J. McGillis, President, 156 Manoe street; John M. Kennedy, Treasurer, 32 St. Philip street; Robert Warren, Financial Secretary, 22 Brunswick street; P. J. McDonagh, Recording Secretary, 826 Visitation street.

Young Irishmen's L. & B. Association. Organized April 1874. Incorporated Dec. 1875. Regular monthly meeting held in its hall, 18 Dupre street, first Wednesday of every month, at 8 o'clock, p.m. Committee of management meets every second and fourth Wednesday of each month. President, F. O'LEARY; Secretary, M. J. POWER; all communications to be addressed to the Hall, Delegates to St. Patrick's League: W. J. Hincks, D. Gallery, Jas. McMahon.

St. Ann's Young Men's Society Organized 1885. Meets in its hall, 135 Ottawa Street, on the first Sunday of each month, at 8:30 p.m. Spiritual Adviser, REV. E. STURBUCK, C.S.S.R.; President, JOHN WHITTY; Secretary, J. J. CORCORAN. Delegates to St. Patrick's League: J. Whitty, D. J. O'Neill and M. Gusey.

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