# erving duifice 

## CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

VOL. XIX
JESSIE'S CHOJCE. CHapter 1
The ligh nad ithat lay belmeen Punte Valles
 wagons, moring on to slow procession tomarde
be tow. fair. The night had set in. and the panting
travellers hurrifd formard. Late as it was, the men bad manp hours' work before them, for each Waggnn had to be carefully ualloaded, he goods
uopacked and arranged on stalls bv day break.
Hungry and footsore, the children clung to Hungry and footsore, the children clung
their parents, and eagerly inquired at erery mile stone if that were the las'.
At midnight the town w mplted, and children tand satelo io rest mith bem. A few hours' sleep and then 2 more toll some dap, for the litle bleeding feet mugt dance
for hours to the discord of fife and drum, and the gaudy bats must be lined with cappers before the fair is slenced for the nigint.
Far bebiod the rest, and laboring in that toilsome road, is a sohtary wan. Tine borse is led
by a young man, whose left hand carries a lanlern, and whose naked feet carefully push aside any obstacle lying on the ground belore it en
counters the slowly revoiring wheel. His tear fall fast aod hearily, and be urges on the jade anmal by agonized entreaties. 'On, Bossie, on;
be'll dee on the road! Three miles, Bessie, and youll see the town pet afnre morning. Si,
genily, Bessle, not so fast as that,? cried ihe poor youth, putting his arm over the neek of the ani
'For the love of Goll, elther ston that mare or make her go gently,' cried a weman, thrusting
her head hrough the window of the ran.
'You're joltug out of tim the liuls life thats. cough from the su fierer within made If close the window. The nuth stmpied the 'Father in Harsen!' he cried, "don't let mv father de-he never meant in go like this, with
neper a prafer or a blessed word saik over him. dom a lutle looger. Spare him till we et to 'Sam,' cried the same woman, openigg the mants fou.'
Sam was on his $f$ eet in an instant; and nattion the borse's nerk. said, 'Only a moute, Bessie don't you mose for the life of you. he ran, was a man about sisty years of age.man, and his hair of shining blackness mingled with the long fair curls that fell in disorder from
the drooniog head of his nurse. His eves blact the drooping head of his nurse. His eves blact bis rarched lps labored to articulate words of a praper which she was prompting.
Beneath the berth an orphan child was sieeping; one hand was bid in a raged pillow and
clasped something attached to a string round her 'Sam, come nearer,' said the fair girl, ' father The youne man

## look his fother's hant.

'Sam,' gasped the sufferer, 'I hasa't long to stap wath pou; we're led a mandering life. $m y$ boy, but l'm noving on for good at last. Sam

- listen to me. J're been a man of no relig married Mary, here Sam, you're been a good and loving son to me, but I charge you atore the living God, to be the best of husbands to poor 'Hary, mon't you, Sam, won't you.
'He is a good husband,' sald his wile ; 'a bet"Yever trod the ground.'
"Yes. But pou fretted because Sam hates relgion, and broke your rosarg.' The broken mary was mended, and on the nects of mend
' 'Father,' cred the goung man, 'on my bended knees I promise to be a better fellow, from 'his time folward. 1 promise faithfully 10 en
courage Mary to go to her chapel, and I will buy her ancther rosary to-morrow.' Mary pul her hand on
"ang, if I could only bear the heasy roass? ighed the mau, ' 3 ad get to cown, Mary would get a friend to belp me to dee as I ought.'
'Try again, Sam,' whispered Mary, 'be' betfer now; make Bessie go gently. Here give her tbis,' she added, putting her untasted
Bupper into her hushand's band, 'and coax ber to go genlly.

| 'Moiher, will you try to sleep till we get to | Pig |
| :---: | :---: |
| town? The aged Foman so addressed glaced |  |

HONTREAL, FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 1869.

## $\left\lvert\, \begin{aligned} & \text { une } \\ & \therefore \text { N } \\ & \text { pra } \\ & \text { D }\end{aligned}\right.$

 Do Iry fo sleep a few
'I am inded better,' said the sufferer, ' b ot
in b , cru tif to his haps, and he kissed them. The
van maved on, but angels guided the wheels, and urprise when, an hour later, he awoke upon a was still by his side; bic wife was seeking congone lor the priest

and persims of tie esnectant sight-seekprs. Sialls of every size, and furnished with eser
variets of eatablrs, wearables, trinkels, and tors,
were arranged in unbroken rows throigh the
eng'h of the nublec streets. Nows, with gaudy nanners flating from their ing wonderful sigh's within, iat the low charg f ne penng.'
Dincers in eresy umaginable costume, and stride the outside slage, while groups of gapiog As the day wore on, the noise and lumul grevp deafeniog, and the crowd mored in on
compact mass, unil its further progress was ar ested by a wide spreading sircus. The canva within were strogghong for a larger supply of air and space. This was the centre of altraction chiered, and an inflat acrobat, etpht sears oid performed such wonders on the tight-rope, tha was expected she mould hare the honor of
irst appearance' before her Majesty in a daps. The nrice of admission was six pence select fro lady and gentleman risitors. The
slage wrhout surnished plen'y of amesement ratis, and tt was beseiged all day by those who ere unabie to pay the admission fee. Wutho Whe circular thers orer tiers of seats wore fille miration as they walched be graceful movements of a young chyld, whose feet seemed scarcelg to
louch the sandy tioor of the arena, as she moreu hem to a lirely air, plaged bs a govis man who was concealed from the audience, A thunder
of applause greeted her when, completing he ast, she gracefully curtcied to her admire is. commenced arranging the tight rope, sessoning his busuness with sallies of wit, that drew peais
of langhter from tbe audience. The child slip. ped behiod a curtan concealing the actors, an looking highwayman.

s I'll play slower this time, Jessie,' said the man, removing the false beard he "Ware, and
krssing ber tenderly on tise cheek. 'The mas Cer's been talling to me about you; he says - Ilas Aunt Mary come?' inquired tibe child whose countenance betrayed no sign of pleasur
at her uncle's words. 'Not get, Jessie;' answered the highwarman granny ment tome. Here, take a drink afore looking liquid in a can. - No thank you, uncle; I haven't lime;' and
be bounded of, the audience greetiog her reapearance with vociffrous cheers.
'The iorisible tighmayman watched her move
ents throunh a reat in the curlain, while toe ments through a reat in the currain, while tae
down tenderly assistea her to reach the rope inom tenderily assistea her to reach the rope
tretched high ant tight abore the ground. The voling, afier a few preparatory serapes commenced a Scollish air, and the child bounded arward to the centre of the rope. All egse adience grew with he
performance, until
A lall thin man, wearing a dark moustache And a profusion of curly black hair, peered forth from bellind the curtain; his deep-set eyes were
xadd upon the fairp-liks chid witn tntense inlerest. When she finished ber task he withdrew his bead and a grim zmile played on bis features murrgg audience.
'Well done, Jessie,' said the lughwasman as se left the arena, and agan removing the fores of hair to embrace her. 'Well done, Jessie. ight.?
with abstracted atr he: urcle's mernaration for
his nart of the nerformance. A black horse
was brought formard and Jessie ran to hold the
hridll.
'Bessle,' said the highwayman, alduressing the
numal as, if it were human, - Bessie do your
wart to night as we!l as Jessie did hers, and I
warant the master woo't be sorry he hired

## Bessie espressed hifr comprebensinn of thes

 words br robbing her head againat Jessi-'fixing his kren eyes on her a verted face. ' You
are something a man might make bis fortune of if
he had the gumption to take paing with the traio ng of you.
Inestion to take pains with the crain
Jessie was geting restless, for the man's prim

Lonk at hum through the peep holf. Mease, sir
vill you let me pass?
'I way litte pirl)' said ber tormentnr, placing
ber faot on the bench Sefore hom, and thus pre- ventiog the child's escape, ' I know a gentleman
who wants a litile gurd who wants a little girl like you 10 play with his
chilisen. You'renit mnre ihan seren, are gou?

| well |
| :---: |
|  |  |

## lleman's hitle girls are ahout nose or ten. What

 soow the youngest is alwaya spoilt, dno't you?Ipssie ghanced uneacily at the curtain, but
made no answer to the thin man.

- Well, pout see?' continued the creature, smit-


## friglis. ' the gentipman would be kioder to youl than be is to mins other litile girls, and would buy gou a splendid frock to tance in all covered over

wilh suler and gold and prerious stones.
'But I weu'du't lave io dance for gentlemaris cludsen, inlerrupted Jessip, whose keea intel. ligence suppected some Iriciery.
'I Ioook here, the pentleman's chuldren lases danciny more :han sugar nleme, and this gentle-
man spends all his money 10 buy them pretty man genads all hus money 10 buy them pretty
dresses and llowers and fancy slippers, till they get so happy they don't know what to do with
therusel res;' and the thin man drew bumself up, theruselres;' and the thin man drem bumself un,
and smiled his peculiar smile down upon lus trembling auditor.
$\quad 1$ am afrail fou want the to be a ballet dancer, Well, mp dear, have you anp objections? i can asslure pou these forty children are the
nicest, pretliest, happlest, rosp-cheekiest litlie girls jou never did see. Wouldn't you like to Live along with then, my dear, eth?'
'No, no, no. no,' cried poor Jess.e, strusgling in his grasp; 'Till nesur leave Aunt Mary.
will never be a ballet dancer ; l'll die first.Loose me, sir, locse me!'
'Hiolina, halloa!' shouted Uncle Sam, fing. ing hamselt from the back of Blark Besq an!
se zing Jessee will a rolence that made hier

## ${ }^{2+2}$

'He wanl's me to go along with hun and be a
'Yes;' and he looked so fierce, and lietc' me $s \mathrm{l}$

- Ye tight, it made me cry out. On, Unot you hurt
him, Unel? Sam. Oh, stop ", she trieked.
 him, and be struck without seeing the object aimed at. Mary! Aunt Mary!' cried the child, hrowing herself by the side of the prostrato for of Sam's wite, who lad just entered and rushed thin man, tryiog to escape the blow, had thrown her Jown; the art was unt it better to retreat, and was hoding some where near.
rms, while the group of actors d hia wife in his tor reatoratives hor the injured woman. Jesste was speechless with horror and mrief, and sat at so tenderly on Sam's slioulder. Jesste saw the thin man reappear wutha tumbler of hot negus in bis band. She saw bim becion to her after be had made $\varepsilon$ sign with his fioger that what he hell went to meet him.
man. ${ }^{\text {Jessse }}$ cmplied, and five sovereigns were placed on har palm.
'Now the right-there, don't spill it,-and
look here, tell your uncle I want boil
look here, tell pour uncle I want boih your ser
wheo you want to go. She's not burt; she's
ooly frighened, that all. 'Tell your uncle the
blow fell on me; he never touctied ber. Tell
him l'll sead the mare atter him-he can go with


## ${ }^{\text {anght. }}{ }^{\text {Jessic Brink. }}$

## Jessue Brink, And theirs.?

Sain and Mary Brink.
All righ:, sai ! the than man; and be went into the arens to sing the sentimental song whi
was to complete the evening's eniertanment.

## chaprer ils.

Sam teaderly embraced bis wife when he heard from ber oum lips that the blow had no alien on ber, and he shed tears of thankfulnes mission of sucb an act.
Jegs:e held the five bright guineas, and as the
grandfather lay, sbe slipped the chinking coin explanation; the man was in a therry for his fare aud Mary was fullof anxiety lur the poor suf:
ferer, who had thought the mioutes tf ber abnce long and tediaus hours.
Tiey entered their humble home, and stood by the old man's death-bed. He was propped her artu. A bright smile crossed his head oc they entered; but his voice, as he gare them

Mary, what kept yoll so long mp dear ou said' you would only wait for Jesgle. Sur If the child has not been on the rope all these
surs ? Let me tell father,' sand Sam to his wite; Mary commenced to cook the much needed fied to help her.

## Father,' began Sam, 'I never in all my lite

Hush!' said the siek man. 'I bare mate my peace with mp gond (cod to-day, and $\boldsymbol{I}$ bape ony best to save that child from such a life as se Jessie clung
juytul surprise.
San, as sure as l'm a dying man, the stage She tan't a conmen cluld,' said Sam; 'fust iok at what she parnt to-ni, he bed. -Take st away, Sain; it won't buy my conshar to let the chini go once into any kind of
nave lad good advice, Sam. The blessed priest of God slowed me my dutp that yellow coin wouldn't make and thousands of , four dying father's mords to you this night , 10 keep that child trom plass, theatres, ind
danamg-houses, aud every mortal thag that Uncte; sadd $J$ Pessup, ay she phaced his supprerUucle,' sadd Jessip, ay she placed his supper-


Hé paid sou well, Jessstr,' sadd Sam; 'and own good, he wanted to ratise you higher hand - What!' exclaised Mary, 'do yon call a Shame on you, Sam.'
'The curse of an winang and a dying fathe: 'Oh, ston, father,' cried Mary and San in a breath. 'Father.' sald the humbled youth,
don'r curse me; $\begin{aligned} & \text { will do as you bud me, and }\end{aligned}$ don't curse me; I will do as you bid me, and
Jessie stall go no more to these places. But Inat we are to do with her when you are gone,
dont know. I've nad an offer to-mght frome the master of the Circus that almost turned mp head. Me said, if we would prentice Jessie tn
him, he wouid pay us ten pound a year as long s he liad her. I don't want to take his offer:
hit I know, if the man don't get ber means, he'll try what be can tlo by loul. Jessie was a'most mad to-night when I I an wher hona. I ing, and the master a holding ber as of he'd fairl
got her, and we could never have ber more?
'Listen to me,' sald the dying man; ' the day, is sery, who has been with me dearly all the about her ; and shook his head, and said we was
ur ing her for life. Te said we must strive scbool. I begged and prayed of him to put her ind my religion, and be brought up as a respect ble servant. And the good priest said there was such a place not two miles from haid there woulil go and see what could be done there ' What do you say to that, Jessie p' said Sam, rawiog her towards him.
I I don't boow what to
Itapp?
The nld man strptched out his orinkled isis ad. Tesse fell on her knpes bp lis side, and sobbed -I Manks for all bis love and care for her. have some rest ; don't let bim talsany more now, but go and have your suppers quietly at the
table. l'sl have mioe by-and bo? Sim and Jessie obeped, and left the stek bed take their places at the supper triole.
'It is Fridag, Jessie,' Whispered Mary
I know, aunt; and I had none of tacle's inner, only the puddiog

- Then bere's a nice
osy apple; but sag your grace first. Wha 're done supper, go to bed very quietly.'
'Aunt, is it true!

