THE CATHOLIC REGISTER, THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1904

BRAVEST OF ALL

He was eighteen years old, but he feelings. did not look more than fiteen, and shone in his face, and the look in his out to sea. Then the launch, after ceived before another order was a lamp. They were so excited that uniform of a West Point cadet eyes told plainly how he felt. That cruising up and down for a few min- given, and a steam iaunch was racing they never thought of wending one of the made him look younger still, a mere child, in fact. On the trip across the continent he had spent most of the continent he had spent most of the attempt to vindicate himself. time gazing in a dull, apathetic way between father and son there came a explained. The launch had been sent the captain and his son; but the boat my wife's hands and said: out of the car window. He seemed coldness, more painful for both than to need cheering up, and some of the nessengers had tried to do so, but as Everything that a loving mother to need cheering up, and some of the nessengers had tried to do so, but as passengers had tried to do so, but as Everything that a loving mother their efforts had served only to em-father and son, but the days slipped barrass the boy they let him alone, by and the breach between them only. and he was glad of it. He had been became wider. Mrs. Kern saw with at West Point for six months- six despair that all the happiness was dymonths which seemed to him like a ing out of the lives of those she loved

ent.

months which seemed to him like a so dearly. hideous nightmare. Now it was all so dearly. over and he was going home, or One day, hoping that if they were rather he was going to Magdala Bay on the coast of southern California, conciliation, Mrs. Kern had, by art-where his father and mother had full manoeuvring, induced them to go ful manoeuvring, induced them to go out fishing in) a row-boat on the Frented a cottage for the winter. When his mother had kissed him out fishing in a row-boat on good-bye at the steamboat landing bay.

The captain and his son started at the Point six months ago he was wrapped up in dreams, which culmin- early in the morning, taking lunchated in a graduation dress parade and con with them. A dense sea log that hung over the bay did not deter the receipt of a commission in the them, as it was propitious weather Engineers. But they did not last long, these dreams. They melted for fishing.

away day by day, until hope gave After pulling about for several hours and trying various deep waplace to despair-and now he was ter-holes for rock bass, they came roing home in disgrace. upon the stranded hulk of a sailing Cadet Francis Kern had been grantvessel, and as they pulled nearer the "sick leave" for three months, ed hulk they caught a glimpse of what pending action on his case. All this looked like the steam launch of a knew it. He was leaving the mili-tary academy, he knew, forever. The warship, but it quickly disappeared in the fog. dazed to speak. The smoke cleared

away from the wreck for an instant. The captain proposed that they whole world knew his story, at least board the hulk and fish over her and they saw that part of the stern of the hulk had been carried away. it seemed so to him. The passengers on the overland train seemed to have sides; so they made their rowboat last to some wreckage that hung over The rowboat, which had been moored some inkling of it. The conductor, the stern, and the boy assisted his under the lee of the stern, had been smashed into kindling wood, and people who gathered at the stations crippled father to climb to the deck, fragments were floating on the water. where the train stopped seemed to where they made themselves comfort-The shell had also set fire to the have heard it. In the song sent up the green water which swirled below able, and dropped their fishlines into dry timber, and the stern was soon, by the shining steel rails as the train them. enveloped in flames and smoke. The captain turned and gazed to-

sped over them to the Pacific he fan-cied he heard an accusing voice call-When Cadet Kern left the military wards the shore with a look of deacademy it was expected that he ing to him in derision, "Coward, spair. It was but a few hundred would resign. In fact, the superinyards to the promotory, but even a coward!"

tendent had intimated as much to And still he had done what he the captain in his letter, but as yet thought was brave and right. He cult to swim through the surf that could not understand it at all. Some-thing must be wrong, he thought, with him or with his ideals. The been guilty of cowardice. He intend- pled as he was, the feat was impos- but no gumption. After waiting in bad more he thought over the events of ed to ask his father what course he sible. He must stay on board the vain all morning, he at last found horse sense in it than I've heard in past six months, the more should pursue, and while they were hulk and take the chances. all alone, buried in the fog, out there "With the authority of one accustompuzzled he was. In fact, for weeks he had lived in a kind of trance, on the stranded hulk, it seemed a fa- ed to command in times of peril, the dazed at the injustice done him, for vorable time to bring the matter up, captain said to his son: but he hardly knew how to begin. He "Jump overboard and swim deep down in his heart he knew that he was not a coward. had never told his father why he had shore." The one consolation that he had

refused that challenge to fight. He The boy knew that his father must studious young man, alone. All the was in the thought that his father had never tried to explain his conduct or to excuse himself, but now He knew that little village of Mag- ized that his big brother kept him his hards theory, had had the job on would understand, and if his father who had shown his bravery more than who had shown his bravery more than be must present his case, and he did be must prese was as embarrassing to his father as would consume the hulk, if, indeed, The young man looked gloomy when could face the world unashamed. As yet he had not written his it was to him.

As yet he had not written They Father, I want to a parents anything of his troubles. They thing," he blurted out. "Father, I want to ask you someof the battleship. But the boy, come or send some one within two whose courage had been doubted, al- hours. I told him he needn't trouble did not know of the persecutions to The captain looked up from his fishthough face to face with what seemed to come himself if he could send one

which he had been subjected by ing surprised, with a vague dread certain death, did not flinch or hesi- of his men, and I'm afraid the fervor upper-class men, for he had borne everything in uncomplaining silence. of facing an ordeal. "If a man you had never seen be-

had to make some explanation. He intended to tell them of the challenge which he had received from an upper-class man to fight, what would 'That dependent is how to fight, what would you do?'' asked the boy.

But with the captain it was differ- vessel, and the officer in command and after turrets, to the men at the "Here 't is; bring me a candle; no, He did not utter a single word gave some orders to the captain of rapid tire guns on the superstructure, bring me a kerosene lamp.' of reproach, but he could not hide his the sailer which caused him to come to everybody on board the Montana: My wife and her mother fairly Grief and mortification about and alter his_course, standing and hardly had the order been re- tumbled down the stairs to get him the servants who were hovering a litwould the distance off, watching the wonder-When the So the captain and his son, were soon reached it; at least it seemed so to lamp was brought he shoved it into "Now.

the captain and his son on the strand- stranded ship. "Can't I set it down under ed hulk, because the wreckage which The captain of the battleship, who spot in the pipe?" she said. listered the deck hid them from view was in the launch, told how dum- The man had marked an x on the founded he had been when the boy pipe on which he wanted the heat Suddenly a tongue of flame leaped from the mouth of one of the after was seen signalling, for shortly be- from the lamp directed. turret guns; a dull "boom" rolled fore the firing began a boat had "No, you can't," replied the plumb-

been sent to the wreck, and had made er, "not unless you give it to your across the water, a shell came scream ing over the hulk and burst with sure, he thought, that there was no husband to hold, and I want you to startling concussion against the rocky, one in the vicinity of their target. hold it, anyway, for he's more ner-cliffs of the promontory a few hun-In the wardroom of the battleship vous than you are, and I'm afraid he there were more explanations, and might set the house afire.' dred vards away.

the executive officer asked why it was a rough one on me, but Instantly father and son realized their terrible position. In that mo- that they did not amp overboard admit I was rather agitated, for ment of awful danger it was the boy and swim ashore when the firing be- had been very much scared. tickled my wife, though, and she'll and not the war-scarred veteran who gan. Then Captain Kern, looking all the never stop talking about it. was first to act.

time straight at his son, told the In about three minutes there was The lad started to wave his cap, that he might make their presence naval officers what had happened, and use that we stood, a happy trio, naval officers what had happened, and crackling and the third frozen spot his hair. The captain told the same watching the water gushing into the the battleship. The next momentstory to Mrs. Kern that afternoon, bathtub, when we heard the plumber

another shot echoed across the water. and she cried with joy and thanks- stamping up the back stairs. This time the aim was better. There giving and kissed her boy and said "The waste pipe in the kitchen, was a frightful explosion under the she always knew he was a hero. wasn't frozen at all. Any fool of a stern of the wreck, and father and Cadet Kern did not resign from plumber could have told that, and a son were half buried under falling de-West Point, but a few weeks later little proddin' with wire fixed it. Tell bris and splinters. The boy assisted

yourself the bravest of all."

THE REAL PLUMBER

with which I urged him not to put

the men appeared about 5 o'clock.

his father to rise; both were unhurt, he made a journey to washington handlin' that sink.' he made a journey to Washington your servants to be more careful in. the President of the United States. We had forgotten all about the And the President caused an order to wastepipe, the fatal wastepipe, as the

be sent to the superintendent at West college bred plumber had led us to Point giving an account of Cadet think it was. We thanked the plumb-Kern's heroism. Then he placed his er man and got a grunt for our po-hand on the boy's shoulder in a kind, liteness. We told him how we had fatherly way, and said: been worried for fear if we turned the "Go back to West Point, my boy. water off the house the boiler would The country needs boys like you to burst.

"Who told you such nonsense fight its battles-you have proved that?" he snapped.

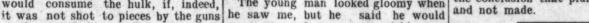
We said the young man at the shop had. "Aw, him." And his disgust was

beautiful to see. "I knowed it was The haughty plumber has been sanot the head boss. That little jackpowerful swimmer would find it diffi- tirized in song and story for many anapes don't know a thing. years, and a subordinate tells in sounds just like him."

Then he gave us a five-minute talk ther. It contained a lot of very. grammar, but there was more any talk of the same length in many a day. After the man was gone my About noon things looked no better wife wrote it down to keep it for

and there wasn't a sign of a frozen hints in the future. to the pipe thawing, so I hustled over to the He was in the house about fifteen plumber shop again. There was the minutes. His studious assistant boss had pondered over our troubles for

remain behind on the burning hulk. other men were out at work. I realhis hands three-quarters of a day and dala Bay was five miles distant, and to 'tend store, and the big boss went had done nothing worth mentioning. After all this I have about come to the conclusion that plumbers are born



for

us

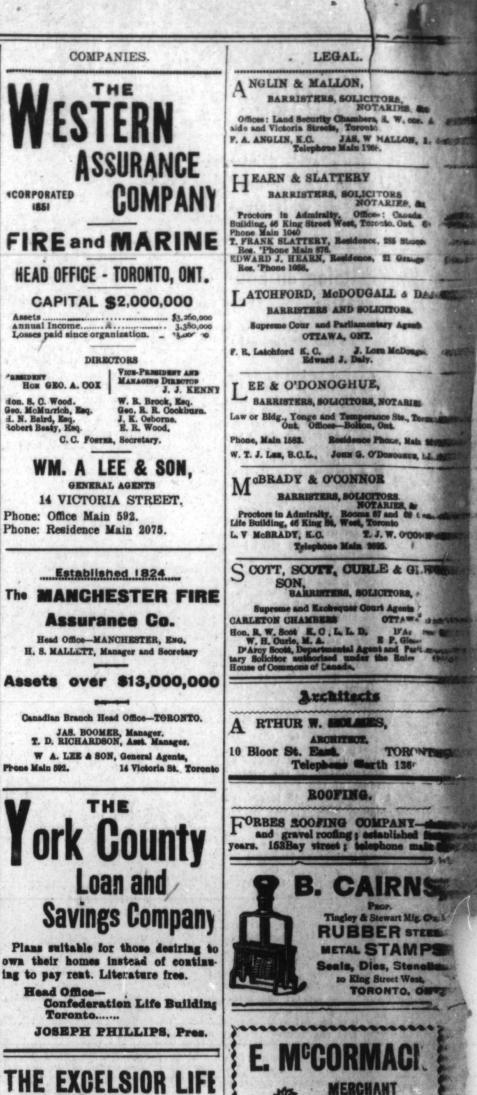
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GRANTE

class man to fight, and why he had tain, hesitatingly. fused that challenge, and how in

"Well, suppose that you had not asequence of his refusal he had been shunned, ostracised and pro- given the man any cause to feel claimed a coward by his fellow- offended," the boy went on, mercilessly: "suppose that you had never in-It had taken a good deal of moral jured him in any way-that you had not perform. cadets.

courage to refuse to fight that upper- not done anything, then?" "I would tell him to go about his class man. The challenge was 'unprovoked-there was absolutely no business," said the captain, grimly. reason why Cadet Kern should fight But the boy was determined to have a battle with his fists with a cadet it out. He asked:

"If he called you a name which you against whom he had no grievance and to whom he had not given the did not deserve, a thief, for instance, slightest offence. Of course, when what would you de?"

"If a man insulted me, I would ance, they had called him a coward, thrash him," the captain answered but still he declined to accept a chal- decisively. There was a silence which lasted

tenge; and then the trouble began which ended in him leaving the academy. He had struggled along hope-lessly under the stigma of coward-their fishlines. At last the boy said, ice, trying to bear his burden with brokenly:

"My leave of absence is nearly up, the fortitude of a true soldier, but the end came at last; sleepless nights father. Do you think that I ought worry broke down his health, he to send in my resignation?"

The captain looked away so that fell behind in his studies, and at last his son could not see his face, and he was forced to give up the battle. The cloud which hung over Cadet said in a voice trembling with emo-Kern when he left West Point follow-| tion:

"Yes, you must resign." ed him across the continent and set-

The fog began to lift, the sunbeams tled over the little cottage at Magshot through the blanket of mist that dala Bay like a pall. telegram had informed Captain enveloped land and sea, the world be-Kern that his son was coming home, gan to smile again-but not for Cadet hidden the wreck from sight, the sig- Then I said:

Francis Kern, because he could not nals would certainly have been seen but the surprise which this news gave him was nothing in comparison with see it through his tears.

the shock he suffered when he read a letter from the superintendent of the military academy, which arrived the same day.

The letter was written in a kindcaptain's feelings, but it was a cruel montory that formed the northern ed an age that the boy was up there the waste that was left from the litly spirit, with a view to sparing the blow to him, for he could read between the lines. Although he had risen from the ranks, the captain knew somethin t about the customs south were the towering brown cliffs which prevaile at West Point. His south were the towering brown chins of the pronortory with a line of of wind blew the dense black clouds into them tubs in a minute. There was form anything he gave me. white breakers foaming at their base. of smoke away for an instant, and an it is now!" to an untimely end by wounds which he had received in the Cuban cam- by the promontory.

service crippled for life. All his ful sight met the eyes of the captain hopes, all his ambitions were centred and his son. About three miles "Cease firing!" yelled the officer music. in this boy, of whom he was so away was a magnificent battleship, through the telephone to the lieu- ed up his face as he smelled some- have to keep my bed. In March, Mrs. Kern found the captain its white sides glistening in the tenant in command of the second bat- thing bad and said: proud. in an armchair on the porch looking morning sunlight. terv.

put over the vast blue waters of the "One of our new battleships, the The tears were trickling Montana, I think," remarked the cap-is furrowed cheeks, and in tain, looking at the great warship in the fighting-tops, to the forward big snowy boots scattering icy parti-"I was for eight months an invalid." and was the letter from the admiration.

rintendent of the military aca-| The smoke was curling lazily out She took the letter and of her funnels, but the ship remained Then she looked into the stationary in a position just abreast ead it. hushand's face and said: of the stranded hulk. She was so far "But you, father, you do not doubt our boy, do you?" even the officer on the bridge.

The captain did not answer. He reached for his crutches, and, chok-ing with grief, he hobbled silently into the house head towards the stranded hulk, but When the boy came home that night suddenly, after proceeding about half his mother received him with open the distance between the battleship arms. Her heart was unchanged in and the wreck, the launch veered to its love, and when, with his head on wards the north, and looking in that her shoulder, he told the story of direction the captain and his son saw trouble which had led to his leav- a sailing vessel bearing down between ing West Point she only yearned the the battleship and the stranded hulk. The launch steamed up to the sailing more to comfort him.

When the captain looked into that He was a big brawny chap, cover-ndaunted boyish face he flushed to ed with grime and with icicles on his think that he had ever doubted his mustache. He was cross and tired son's courage; but there was no time for he said he's been busy since day for reflection. The desperate situa- break and saw no end to the work tion demanded action; action which cut out for him. But there was the captain, dieabled as he was, could something about the way he stalked into the kitchen and threw his eye Her Restoration to Health Causes The battleship began firing the guns around the corners down around the

"No, father, I shall stay here with himself out showed my desire

you," he said, with quiet determina- some one else, At all events, one of

tate in his choice.

relief:

of her secondary battery at the range and the boiler that gave doomed hulk. Twelve-pound, six- confidence at once.

pound, and three-pound shells began We poured our tale of woe into his to crash and burst around, while the ears, but he didn't say a word except flames crept steadily forward from to grunt once in a while. He kept the stern. The two men sought re- on looking at the pipes, and then, fuge behind a pile of wreckage in the right in the middle of our story, he bow. Again the captain urged his walked to the cellar and went down. son to swim ashore and leave him, He was gone about five minutes and telling the boy that it was useless we stood there, my wife, her mother, for him to remain any longer, but and I, looking at each other and not cial)-While Canada stands aghast at the boy took a different view of the knowing what to do.

situation. My wife was for ordering him out A stump of the foremast still re- of the house for his insolence, but her est and best of her citizens; while mained on the wreck, and amid a mother and I both said we liked his the medical profession stand helpless storm of bursting shell Cadet Fran- looks. We felt he knew his business. cis Kern started to climb it, with his When he came upstairs I said: coat in his mouth. It was a mira- "Well, do you think you can thaw cle that the boy was not struck by out the frozen place in the main celsome of the fragments of the shells lar?"

which the battleship continued to pour in a hail about the burning hulk. "Ain't any froze place," he said. her, and who to-day is a strong, "Thawed it out with a match and a healthy, happy woman—a woman handful of this oily cotton waste I who knows Bright's Disease in all

When he reached the top of the mast have in me pocket. he began to signal frantically, wav-ing his coat to and fro. Had not sit down, draw out my handkerchief thick clouds of smoke so completely, and wipe my brow-it was so sudden.

nals would certainly have been seen by the battleship, for they had tele-scopes levelled at the hulk to ascer-the laundry?" the shock he suffered when he read As the sea breeze swept the banks scopes levelled at the hulk to ascer- the laundry?"

taken refuge lay in a cradle between his boy with prayers on his lips for pipe leak, for the frozen place was up cure for Bright's Disease, and that two reefs jutting out from the pre- the safety of the brave lad. It seem- against the woodwork. So I took that cure is Dodd's Kidney Pills.

end of the horseshoe that enclosed amid bursting shot and shell. Once the bonfire I made and wrapped it Magdala Bay. The great ocean stretched away to the north and west, while a few hundred yards to the solute, unflinching, fearless. It was the face of a hero, re-the the top of the basis It happened that a sudden gust water squietin' out of the open faucet ease and Sciatica, but I got no re-

was Dodd's Kidney Pills that drove Magdala Bay was hidden from view officer on the bridge of the battle- He had left the door to the cellar away the terrible disease, raised me ship, who was watching the burning open and we heard the splashing of from my bed of suffering, and made paign, and he had retired from the; by the promontory. paign, and he had retired from the; In the offing, oceanward, a beauti-hulk, saw the frantic signals of the the water, just as he stopped talk-"I was for years troubled" "I was for years troubled with a My wife said it sounded like

But the plumber only pucker- pain in my back, at times I would 1900, I got so had with pains in my back and hip that I was more help-"What more's the matter wit ye?"

less than an infant, and at times gave We told him about the bathroom, "Cease firing!" was the sharp com-

cles over our fine carpet in the front and my sufferings during that time hall, although we didn't mind it a were something too terrible for away.

We followed after him silently and I think respectfully. In the bath-room he looked at the pipes, felt of HOW THE CURE CAME them, took out a tool, a sort of wrench it happened to be, and began band induced me to try Dodd's Kid-plaint. tapping. Every time he made a tap on a pipe he would say: "No freeze for I never expected to get better.

the sounds.

a plumber tapping a sick pipe, for den he grunted

n his Stricken With Bright's Disease, all Hope of Life was Abandoned.

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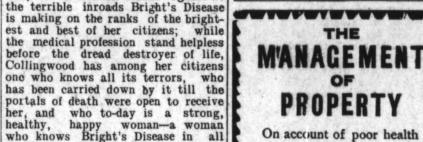
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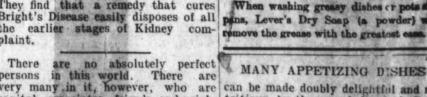
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since. When I feel a little out of soris I get a box of Dodd's Kidney "I was for eight months an invalid, Pills, and they drive all the pains

the earlier stages of Kidney com-

there," "No freeze there," and you But I tried them, and I thank God persons in this world. There are can be made doubly delightful and nulief almost from the start, and af- capital associates, friends and neigh- tritious by the use of Eoreen's Peer-

a plumber tapping a sick pipe, for "It is three years since I started not half so we'l stand a keen scru- and sterilized, thus keeping perfectly using Dodd's Kidney Pills, and I have tiny as some of those in whom he for an indefinite period. Borden't not had a return of my trouble discovers flaws.



It was very much as the doctor pounds your chest when he thinks you've got pneumonia; indeed, it was Condensed Milk Co., preprietors.

Scientific American.

on of any scientific journal. Terms, 85



