

GERTRUDE MANNERING A TALE OF SACRIFICE

BY FRANCES NOBLE CHAPTER XVII.—CONTINUED

What could Gerty do? She could not for worlds say to her cousin, especially before these friends, whom she knew but slightly, "I have promised Stanley Graham to go with him."

"Have you forgotten your promise, Miss Mannering, or repented it, perhaps?" And as the polite, freezing tone echoed in poor Gerty's ear, somehow, she knew not why, that terrible hidden fear rose again in her heart—the fear that the future might not be all so smooth and easy as she prayed for.

TO BE CONTINUED KING O' HEARTS' FIRST RACE

By Anna G. Minogue in Rosary Magazine When the new Bishop appointed him pastor of the parish in Fair Fields, Father Curran, city-born and reared, had misgivings as to his fitness for country work.

the wind now and then through the bare, leafless trees, Gerty listened to the old, sweet story—the story of which no one is ever tired.

"If you knew, Gerty, what it was to me to have to part as we did without any definite word or sign of what was burning in my heart, because, going away as I was, I did not wish to draw you into a hasty engagement—even should you prove to be willing—for which your friends might have blamed me."

"How come you don't love dat colt, Mandy gal?" her husband would ask. "Dah ain't anuthah colt like dat King o' Hearts in dis world."

"With modification, the horse lovers of Fair Fields agreed in the statement. "You've a good colt there, Father Curran," observed Judge Gray, as, standing on the parsonage steps one morning, they watched the younger running around the lawn.

"See here, Father Curran," he pleaded, "let me get this colt ready for the races at the fair this fall." Father Curran demurred. He had no objections to racing, but he hesitated at entering the horse.

"But this is only a local affair," urged the trainer. "Besides, you've got to give King o' Hearts his chance. If you've a champion in that youngster, the honor of Fair Fields demands it of you."

"For the honor of Fair Fields, then," laughed he, but his heart raced with joy. Among horsemen, the trainer talked of the colt, and as the time of the fair approached interest waxed high.

"It was such a scene as Father Curran had grown to love—an innocent people at their innocent play. On the grandstand above the race track, the judges had assembled.

assistance, for they were mainly poor farmers and poorer tenants. There his success was becoming evident in improved land, better crops and a consequent increase in prosperity and happiness.

"That's all right, Mr. Scanlon," he said. "I am very glad Mrs. Scanlon is better." All signs of the meal were removed, and the granddaughter, who made her home with the old couple, met him at the door, with a lighted candle.

"After supper, the trainer talked of the colt, and as the time of the fair approached interest waxed high. It was not solely due to the fact that the owner was a man so universally liked.

"After supper," said Father Curran, turning to the house. The lower floor was bright, and he gave a grateful thought to Mandy, who forgot nothing tending to his comfort.

"This is a great pleasure, Squire Kelly!" he cried, advancing with outstretched hand. Clapping it and looking into the travel-stained young face, the old man replied:

"It's more than a pleasure to me, Fathah Curran, it's an honah, suh! I love a ho'se, as my own flesh and blood, suh. Nothing sho't of the mo'tal illness of a membah of my family, could I keep me from a race in which a ho'se of mine was to run."

"When I heard today, suh, that your colt went to the post and you not thar to see it, because of a sick old woman up in the knobs—why, I saw that not only are you a consistent follower of the Mastah, but the best sportsman I have evah known, suh!"

"No, Father Curran, you can't hire no hoss here," replied the man, beginning to unhitch his team, "but I'll have one of these ready for you in a jiffy. I don't belong to your Church," he said, as he remounted, with the horse properly bridled and saddled, "but you helped my nephew to get a scholarship at the State college last year. I'm mighty glad of my chance to serve you, suh."

Father, it's sorry I am to have brought you up!" he began. "They had hard work getting you, an' when they did, you had started. Herself was taken bad in the night an' kep' callin' for you. So when I went for the doctor, I had him to telephone for you."

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