

shop, my wife and eight sons. I have never heard the Marchesa called a learned lady, but she had very valuable practical sense. She has always held that a good citizen was better for Italy than an idle priest; and she said the country had more need of honest fathers than of clerics with nothing to do. When I was a young lad my mother designed to make me a priest for three reasons: first, as an expiatory offering to the Church; second, to free herself from responsibility; and third, to secure me a living. Which is poor enough, being but two francs a day and pay for a mass, if you can get one to repeat. I was of an age to agree to anything, but the Marchesa considered for me. She proved to my mother that she could not make expiation for herself through me. I consider that sound doctrine, Signorina, though Madame did not learn it from the holy Church, but out of her own sense; and yet the Marchesa is an excellent Catholic, always keeps her fasts, and attends mass."

Ser. Jacopo had by this time fitted Michael with shoes, and stood with them in his hand, while he continued his favourite story:

"Besides, the Marchesa shewed my mother, Mary, be merciful to her soul! that she had no right to escape from accountability concerning me; and lastly she said: 'Here is a great, strong boy; he will want plenty to eat and drink; he must be busy; or he will fall into mischief, and you set him to starve on two francs a day with nothing to do. Instead of expiating your sins, he will increase his own. Very need will drive him to lying and cheating the poor, ignorant and dying, to get a few more francs for his food and lodging. There are good priests,' said the Marchesa, 'but they are men with a vocation, who have not donned the gown for the sake of two francs a day. Che, che!' said the Marchesa, 'the world must always wear shoes—make him a calzolaio,* and I will pay his fee.' And so it was, Signorina, and since then I have made my way. I took care of my mother until the holy angels assumed that responsibility; I married the daughter of a calzolaio of Bartetta; I named my first boy Sandro, for the Marchese; my second, Joseph, for the honoured Marchesa Josepha; my third, Forano, from the estate; my fourth, Marchese, for want of any other name belonging to my patrons, and since then I have been obliged to cease paying my duty to the family, in naming my children for them, simply because there were twice as many children as names."

"The Marchesa was certainly a good friend to you," said Honor, rising to leave the shop. "I hope your children are all quite well, and their good mother also."

"Well enough, Signorina, grazie. But I have sent Sandro to Firenze,† in care of a vetturino, to inquire after my wife's brother. He went there as a journeyman calzolaio in the Piazza San Marco, and we have heard that he has fallen in with some Vaudois, and is becoming heretical."

"And you would think that very evil, Ser. Jacopo?"

"It would be very dangerous, Signorina, and people like ourselves, who stand well with the authorities, had better not risk anything. See what heresy has done for the Vaudois."

"Yes, truly many of them have died for it. They must, therefore, believe it. What if their views should be true? I suppose, then, Ser. Jacopo, you feel it right that Vaudois should be outcasts?"

Ser. Jacopo glanced about, lowered his voice. "Ecco, Signorina, I cannot forget that the Vaudois are our Italian brothers. I'd much rather have the Vaudois than Austrians, and the Marchesa always held all persecution to be wrong. Cospetto,‡ what can one do? Only the best that one can. I have sent Sandro to bid brother Nanni, come and work with me, and avoid danger."

"Good-day, then, Jacopo. I hope God will guide you and yours."

"Felicissima notte, Signorina! May all the saints protect you."

Honor did not turn toward the Palazzo Borgosio, but down the Corso, to a substantial dwelling, which served as a church and parsonage for a congregation of British subjects, who worshipped God under the protection of their own flag, and were closely watched lest they should do any proselyting. When Honor was admitted by the front door of this dwelling, she saw a room opposite open, and the minister seated at a table. Before him stood a priest of some thirty years old, who seemed in the height of passion. As Honor followed the servant upstairs to the drawing-room in the piano nobile, she heard the priest thus:

"You are not ashamed to say, to teach, that we are saved wholly by grace through faith, without aid of our good works? Infamous fellow, ten thousand times infamous! I will meet you, refute you—"

The closing of the drawing-room door shut out the priest's voice. Mrs. Polwarth presently entered, and the first thing was to discuss Michael.

"Very likely some of your servants know more about him than they admit, and are trading, for his support, on his beauty and your generosity," said Mrs. Polwarth. "These Italians are very artful."

"At least, I shall have the advantage of instructing him, and he seems a bright child. As long as I call him my protégé, and provide for him, there will be one Italian whom I can evangelize without let or hindrance," replied Honor.

"That is one comfort," said Mrs. Polwarth. "Do you know that little room which we hired for the Vaudois school, and paid for in advance, has been taken away on pretence of some flaw, and we lose all our rent after one week's occupation?"

"Oh, really, I would appeal to the Consul. That is shameful."

"And it is the third time it has happened. But appeal is useless; it would only attract attention and opposition. I have taken our boxes out of the little room on the terrace, and shall have the school there, in a little, dark, close place. Then our house has been watched for three nights, so that our class of four catechumens could not get in. If we are to evangelize Italy by such means as are now in hand, our prospect is of slow success."

"This is our day of patience, of waiting, of small things," said Honor, "but by-and-by you will see the great and effectual door opened, and great things will be done for us, whereof our souls shall be glad. There is even now some fruit."

"And very poor fruit, I assure you. To-day I feel discouraged. We have news that a priest whom we thought converted and got off to England is leading an idle, dissolute life. In the number of years we have spent here we have aided the escape of three priests and a nun, and not one of them has turned out well," said Mrs. Polwarth mournfully.

"And yet you would continue to teach, and send to England those who professed to be converts, and must escape for their lives."

"Why, certainly; to do the work we find is our business, the event is for God," said Mrs. Polwarth.

"And you are only now complaining that God has not properly managed the event," said Honor, quietly.

"Thank you, I see; I will not distress myself about God's part in the work. Besides, one true convert would pay for all our disappointment; look at a De Sanctus."

Dr. Polwarth coming in caught the last word. "The Padre Innocenza, with whom I have just parted, is far from being a De Sanctus: he is in a white hot fury. Would be glad to imprison or assassinate me, and debarred those privileges, is about to destroy me in a controversy."

"Oh, by no means!" cried Mrs. Polwarth, "a public controversy would awake hostility enough to ruin our work here. Though you defeated your opponent you would be still more defeated yourself. Besides, I thought it was against canon law for priests to enter into controversy."

"But this is to be a private controversy, on paper, my dear; and as for canon law, it is not my affair. Padre Innocenza disregards it: he is a priest from the hills, some miles from the city. I am to write my views, and he is prepared triumphantly to refute them, and reduce me to contempt."

"I would have nothing to do with it," said Mrs. Polwarth, "he will garble your paper and publish its distorted form to your detriment."

"Nevertheless," said the doctor, after a short consideration, "I think I will enter into the matter, and leave the Lord to protect the exposition of my faith. You see, the proposal is that I give him a statement of the doctrines I hold, and the reasons or proofs thereof. Now, that gives me opportunity to preach to the poor young man a full Gospel, such a thing as he has never heard in his life. Perhaps for this very end God has sent him to me, boiling over as he is with rage; and taking my letter to contradict it, he may be led by it to the light. Yes, I shall write a full, careful, scriptural letter on faith in Christ Jesus, and asking God's blessing on it, may get my answer of peace after many days."

Dr. Polwarth now turned his attention to Michael, and declared him to be a Greek. To prove his point he sent for a young Greek who lodged in an opposite attic, who might converse with the boy in his native tongue, and solve the mystery of his appearance and parentage. The Greek was accordingly brought over. Michael listened gravely to his discourse, laughed melodiously, and comprehended not a word.

Mrs. Polwarth then went out to walk with Honor. On the pier they met a turbaned Turk, who had earned his square of carpet thither to say his sunset prayers. When his devotions were finished, Mrs. Polwarth begged him to speak to Michael. The Turk did so; the boy shook his head, and repeated the three words he had learned, "lady," "please," and "grazie."

(To be continued.)

A PROTEST AGAINST INJUDICIOUS EARLY RISING.

Dr. Hall, in a late number of his "Journal of Health," says: "One of the very worst economies of time is that filched from necessary sleep. The wholesale but blind commendation of early rising is as mischievous in practice as it is arrant in theory. Early rising is a crime against the noblest part of our physical nature, unless it is preceded by an early retiring. Multitudes of business men in large cities count it a saving of time if they can make a journey of a hundred or two miles at night by steamboat or railway. It is a ruinous mistake. It never fails to be followed by a want of general well-feeling for several days after, if, indeed, the man does not return home actually sick, or so near it as to be unfit for a full attention to his business for a week afterwards. When a man leaves home on business, it is always important that he should have his wits about him; that the mind should be fresh and vigorous, the spirit lively, buoyant, and cheerful. No man can say that it is thus with him after a night on a railroad, or on the shelf of a steamboat. The first great recipe for sound, connected, and refreshing sleep, is physical exercise, toil is the price of sleep. We caution parents particularly not to allow their children to be waked in the mornings; let nature wake them up, she will not do it prematurely; but have a care that they go to bed at an early hour; let it be earlier and earlier, until it is found that they wake of themselves in full time to dress for breakfast. Being waked up early, and allowed to engage in difficult, or any, studies late, and just before retiring, has given many a beautiful and promising child brain fever, or determined ordinary ailments to the production of water on the brain."

PROF. SWIFT reports that it is the opinion of astronomers generally that the comet is identical with the one discovered in Brazil on the 29th, and called in Europe by the name of Dom Pedro. It is probably a new comet. There is no division of the comet. Letters claiming the discovery in this country, and the Warner prize, continue to come in by hundreds. The letters are being carefully examined, and it is expected an announcement will soon be made as to whom the honour belongs.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

SPAIN invites the persecuted Jews of Russia to settle within her borders, and a meeting to oppose bull-fights was lately held.

THE Pope convoked an extraordinary council of cardinals to consider the recent riots. After a prolonged discussion, Cardinal Pecci's proposal to delay all action was agreed to.

A TRE exploring party, sent by the Syndicate to search for a route through British Columbia more southerly than that of the Yellowhead Pass, have so far failed to find a practicable pass through the Selkirk Range, and have no hopes of finding one.

IN conversation, the Archbishop of Canterbury said the last audible words of Dean Stanley were: "I have laboured amidst many frailties and much weakness to make Westminster Abbey the great centre of religious and national life in a truly liberal spirit."

MR. ELLIOT STOCK, who recently issued the English New Testament for a penny, is about to publish an illustrated New Testament in the French language, at the same price, for distribution on the continent. Nearly a quarter of a million of the English edition have been circulated.

BRITISH COLUMBIA has a source of serious trouble at hand in the shape of the new Chinese immigrants. These refuse to pay taxes, and otherwise treat the laws with contempt. A Yale policeman, who went to collect the school tax from "John," was inconsequently "bounced."

A FRENCH Marseillais has discovered a great catacomb before the St. Pancrazio gate at Rome. It has ten chapels and extends as far as the foundations of the Villa Doria Pamphily. All the graves have been previously opened, but the discoverer hopes that he may still come upon some which have been left undisturbed.

ONE-FOURTH of the income of the Basle Mission, which sustains 115 missionaries in India, Africa, and China, and has gathered 13,245 church members, is derived from a penny-a-week, contributed by 120,000 persons. The collections were begun in 1855, and have amounted to \$1,156,145. In 1879 they were \$53,000.

THE "Aion," a newspaper published in Greek at Athens, states that the Rev. Dr. John H. Hill, the American missionary, who is now in his ninetieth year, and Mrs. Hill, who is eighty-nine years old, celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their marriage on the 27th of April. There was a large assemblage of their former pupils and friends present. Dr. Hill has for some time been deprived of his sight. He went to Greece in 1829.

By the Congregational Year Book for 1881, it appears that the net increase of members in 1880 was very small—being only 1,792. The total is 384,332. The churches number 3,745—a gain of 71. The total number of ministers is 3,577, of whom 2,412 are in pastoral work—\$72 as pastors, 1,540 as acting pastors. Of the 3,745 churches, 945 are vacant. The total of benevolent contributions was \$1,032,272, and of home expenditures, \$3,446,489.

DR. LEWIS SWIFT, director of the Warner Observatory, recently received a letter from Mr. T. M. Schaeberle, Ann Arbor, Michigan, announcing that he had discovered nebulous matter, which he supposed to be a comet, in right ascension five hours forty-eight minutes; declination north thirty-eight degrees forty-five minutes, but daylight obscured its identity. At three o'clock this morning Dr. Swift reported that he had discovered the comet in the constellation Auriga, and that it is quite bright, being larger and more luminous than the one discovered May 1st by Dr. Swift. Its centre is strongly reddened, and from the motion, it is apparently very slow. It cannot be ascertained whether it is going directly toward or from the earth. The comet is telescopic. This is the fourth comet discovered since May 1st. Dr. Swift thinks, from the present position of the comet, it is the expected comet of 1812. It is moving very slowly toward the north west. Mr. Schaeberle puts in a claim for the \$200 Warner prize.

TWO Italian girl students, the Signorina Carolina Magistrelli, of Mantua, and the Signorina Evangelina Boitiero, of Acqui, who had previously passed, with great distinction, examinations in Greek, Latin, and Italian literature in the Roman University, lately took doctor's degrees in natural sciences. Each, having obtained the maximum number of votes, became thereby entitled to have her theses printed. The "Opinione" says that, as far as it knows, no woman has until now taken a degree in the Roman University since its foundation by Innocent IV. in the thirteenth century. Notwithstanding, says the "Capitan Fracassa," that the appearance of these young persons among the students was at first viewed with dissatisfaction by the heads of the University, their studies soon won for them the esteem of the professors, and their exemplary conduct was such that their presence among the students, instead of being a cause for dissatisfaction, commanded the chivalrous respect of their colleagues of the male sex.

A LONDON newspaper, the St. James "Gazette," following an example often set by the American press, has been taking a census of the church congregations of the metropolis. In sixty-three churches of the Establishment, with seating accommodations for 32,455 worshippers, only 6,721 persons were present, while the sixteen dissenting chapels had 4,399 present, with accommodation for 15,290 persons. Some of the church congregations were ridiculously small. Excluding officials and poor people attending for relief, there were four worshippers only at St. Dunstan-in-the-East, and at St. Nicholas, Cole Abbey, only two. One clergyman, with £1,500 a year, has a "net" congregation of thirteen. The incumbent of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, is paid £1,650 for ministering to a congregation of 224, while of the 145 persons who attend St. Andrew's, Mary-Axe, of which the Bishop of Bedford is the incumbent, with an annual income of £2,400, forty-one are officials and school children. The St. James "Gazette" is a staunch Church and State paper, but the friends of Disestablishment will derive a great deal of aid and comfort from its figures.

* A shoemaker. † Florence. ‡ Behold!
§ Look! || The usual contraction of Giovanni, or John.