

### HRONICLE ATHOLIC C

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## RASH PROMISES. DY JACQUELINE.

(From the Morning Star.)

### CHAPTER 1.- REVERSES.

Twilight was filling all the room with its soft, soothing presence, lending a ruddier glow to the low fire that burned in the grate, to temper the chill of the early autumn evening. Sitting near the window, with an infant asleep on her lap, sat a woman, who, though of middle age, still retained the beauty of younger years.

A settled, sad expression of countenance had chasel away the joyous smile of happier days, and her eyes, large, grey, and luminous, looked now ' heavy with the weight of unshed tears.'-They, for a time, had been steadily fixed upon the stars, which were coming slowly out of the ' hungry blue,' like lamons invisibly flashing over the darkened path of a lost and weary traveler. Some assurance of help, some need of patient endurance, seemed to have glinted from those silent messengers down into her sad heart, fur a smile mingled with the shadow, as if some new born hope had entered therein. Raising the sleeping baby genily to her bosom, she pressed her lips upon its brow, then casting her eyes over act. You know, mother dear, how long poor to the other side of the room, where stood a large, old-fashioned canopied bed, upon which was lying in a quiet sleep, the figure of a once handsome, stalwart man, now reduced by a long and painful sickness to a mere stadow of his former self, she heaved a long, heavy sigh. She was in the act of approaching the bed to lay the infant down, and assure herself of her husband's repose, when the door quietly opened, and a little low voice called, in a whisper, ' Mamma.'-She left the room, and was met in the ball by two lovely little boys, each so like the other, that it must have puzzled even an accu-tomed eye to individualize them; only the mother's heart could tel at a glance which was Edwin and which Norman.

Ob, mamma,' they both exclaimed in a breath. catching hold of either hand, vet speaking very low, 'sister has the tea all ready, and she has made something so nice-something she read about out of a great big book, as big-as big almost as the Dictionary."

'Now, Eddy,' here interrupted the more re

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beretofore so belpless, that conjured the nice little muffins, may be able also to help you more effectually in these tast darkening days ?'

Then, looking softly and earnestly in her mo ther's face, and drawing her chair close to her side, she continued :

'Mamma, darling, I have a secret-the first I ever kept from you; and it has been, O! such dreadful bard work.'

"That is news indeed, Laura ; but I don't believe it is anything very serious. Not a lover, I hope, unless, indeed, that Irish Knight, a descendant of a long line of kings, has suddenly appeared, and taken your heart by storm."

' Now, mother, why will you always he joking me about those detestable Irishmen. You know that I hate them, and never, never mean to marry one, even if there is not another man left."

"Well, well, my child,' said her mother, soothingly, ' I'll say no mare, for indeed my jok. ing days seem over; only serious thought and hard work lie hefore us all now; so tell me your secret, dear, and then I'll be better able to judge of its import."

· Indeed, mother, it is something very serious; but if you feel inclined to blame me, you must try to remember the motive that impelled me to the father has been sick, and how little hope there seems to be of his ever heing well enough again to attend to business. Then, his creditors are so merciless, pressing so hard almost a dying man, and seizing and selling what with a little time would be a fortune, just, too, to gratify their own rapacity. Well. I saw a long time ago how things were going. for love and sorrow are two great enlightenments, and sharpen the faculties of the young as well as of the old Seeing and weighing all this, I began to rub my little head, to see if something worth while could be got out of it; then I bethought me of the good education father had given me, and so I thought the best thing I could do would be to turn it to some accoust. Thereupon, I started off with

my bright idea, and submitted it to Father Sand cid Col. Chamberlain, who know all kinds of people, North and South, and they, to my great delight, approved of my plan, and promised to result of her absence, that only the glow and

news of Laura's project to hun. Though his agitation was intense at first, by degrees his wife's reasoning, and a full and brave expose of their present position, and the inevitable distress that

looked out of the future at them, convinced Mr. Lambert that the refusal of his consent would only entail, perhaps, even a heavier sacrifice upon them all.

At this juncture Laura entered the room, car rying a neatly arranged tray, with her father's meal. He had not sufficiently recovered from his agitation to speak for a few moments, but at length he complumented her upon the facility she showed in her new vocation of cook and maid.

'Your mother, daughier,' he continued, ' has been telling me of the great financial scheme though the necessity be, yet I must agree with her, that, alter all, it is better for you to fill some a lady, rather than stay here to be a drudge to the family.'

'Now, that is my own dear papa,' exclaimed Laura, jovfully, jumping up and kissing him warmly. But this was just the worst thing she could have done; for when the heart is full, and feeling kent down by mere force of will, an affectionate word, a loving act sends the torrent sweeping down every barrier. So, Mr. Lam bert, already depressed and weakened by his long illness, and the many reverses that had followed, broke completely down; and throwing his arms around his daughter's neck, he wept like a child. Mrs. Lambert also gave way to her long pent-up feelings, and the baby, intuitively feeling that something was wrong, set up a scream that completed this modernized Nicbe, but eventually proved the means of quieting the tears of the rest of the group Quiet and composure being once more restored. Laura forced her own feelings to cheer and divert her father, entertaining him with such vivid pictures of her Southern castles, such bright anticipations of the

offering a situation to me as governess, with a ing a weary expression creep over his tace, she this.' salary of fifty dollars a month. And now, I only kissed him good night, and started off, as she Tin said, to 'look after Romulus and Remus, who mu t by this time be ready for bed.'

may he even beyond such a courier. Who treshed and cheered by his unbroken sleep, and them against the force of their own inherent as a foreign stranger. Laura's attention had knows but that the same little head and hands the haby getting restless, had crawled and nestled vices. They are impulsive in everything ; quick nest been called to him by observing his gaze close to her father, and lay crowing, and trying to sin, quick to repent; and as for their other fixed very intently upon her at the breakfast to perform the acrobatic feat of putting her little failings to which you so strenuously object, you table, the first morn of her journey. After that, pink toes into her mouth. It was a good oppor- must remember that there are idio-syncracies, she noticed that he was generally, during the turity for Mrs. Lambert to break the startling | nationalities, of which God takes a different account from ourselves.'

> "Well, well, mamma, I cannot argue the question ; I only know that I don't like the race, and pever mean to.'

'And, no doubt,' replied the mother, laughing, ' will end your prejudices by marrying one of the most exaggerated type.'

'Never! Not Brian Borrothme himself could tempt me !'

"That I can believe; for the historical picture that has come down to us of that gentleman's royal costume, would scarcely make him sufficiently attractive to so fastidious a young ladv as yourselt.'

Laura had been dressing during the conversation, and was now ready to go out on a visit that little head has been cogitating, and painful to Col. Chamberlain, to tell him that she was ready to accept the position he had secured for her, and to make all the final preparitions .sphere wherein you can exercise the qualities of These concluded, she returned home a little beavy-hearted, as the realization of the separa tion from her family pressed more heavily upon

> Beckoning her mother from her father's room, she said, with a choking voice, 'It is all settled, mamma, and Col. Chamberlain has been so kind. He is even going to procure me a free passage on the Erin, as he is well acquainted with the captain fand clerk, both of whom, he says, are clever, gentlemanly men, and will take good care of me if no one else offers among the passen gers.'

"When does the boat leave?" asked Mrs. Limbert after a pause."

" In four days, and I have so much to do to get ready."

'Four days !' slowly repeated her mother. 'So soon! Oh my chill! my child! I cannot let you go !'

' Now, mamma, remember your promise, and keep up your own brave heart. Think how much I may be able to do towards getting father well, and keeping Alice at school another year."

It is true, my child. A mother's mission is help me through. To day Col. Chamberlain glamor of youth can paint and dream. Finding one of self-sacrifice from beginning to end, and received a letter from an old friend in Mississippi, that she has succeeded in her object, and observ- 1 must not shrink, at this late day, even from

day, the sole occupant of the main cabin, always intent upon some book, the reading of which he varied by walking rapidly up and down the saloon. He was rarely seen in the social hall, and never at the card table, save occasionally as a looker-on of the mysterious and exciting gaines of poker, brag or Boston. These games, and the characters who devoted themselves night and day to them, afforded him great amusement ; but he declined every invitation to try his hand at the great or little misery,' rr open his pocketbook to 'go it \$100 better.' Consequently hewas set down by the men as a stuck up Englishman, and by the ladies as a model of morality. Whenever Laura took her seat at the plano, he would stand listening like one under a spell, but never joined in the audible admiration that always followed her performance.

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On the evening of the second day out, Mr. Banks, the clerk, made his respects to the ladies. Apologizing to Laura for not sooper acknumledging the honor her charge conferred upon him, he said, ' I rarely can leave the office until we are fully under way, as there is always an accumulation of work after leaving port; and duty, you know Miss Lambert, must take precedence even of the ladies. But how do you like our boat?

' Very much,' replied Laura, ' and the life and motion are charming. I can now understand the fascination that such a life seems always to have for you river men."

'Have you observed the decorations of the cabin? Don't you think the green and gold panelling harmonize with the name? and the harp-the barp, you know, of Erin, is it not splendidly executed ?'

'Oh, yes,' replied Laura, coloring slightly ; but'-and here she heartated--

"But what, Miss Lambert ? Don't be afraid ; ask any question you choose.'

· Well then, before I commit myself past forgiveness, tell me, Mr. Banks, if you are an Irishman ?'

' Neitler I nor Capt. Nelson have that honor. but both are full blooded Americans. But," seeing her drift, ' the owner of this hoat is one. and, I must say, as noble and generous a man as Time fies when his wings are barbed with lives; and this floating palace he built as a monument of love and remembrance to his dear na. "Well, then, I may now answer your questhe Rhine would think, if they should find such strong ratriolic proclivities carried out by some 'I think, Miss Lambert, that though they might not like the associations, they would at least admire the sentiment; for love of home and country strikes a chord that vibrates in every heart.' Laura felt the polite reproof, and was sorry she had started the subject. It was always hateful to her, and yet some strange fascination of fate seemed ever drawing her into it. Others had now joined the circle, and entered into the

ticest Norman, 'that is a secret, and you pro mised not to tell, because sister wanted to surprise mamma; and now you've gone and toid and now you have my long cherished secret." her all about it."

"No, I hav'nt, Norm; have I now. mamma? I only said it was something nice; and I'm sure that's just what they told me Santa Claus would ed sugar plums, and oranges, and a gun, and a l tears : sword, and ever so many fire crackers, etc.'

under this happy reminiscence of a year gone, a door at the end of the ball opened, and a lovely gers?' young girl-a blue-eyed, golden-haired blonde -was seen standing by the side of a brightlyarranged tea-table, bountifully spread with a plain but appetizing meal, the place of honor being given to a plate piled up with smoking bot muffins. A look of surprise, chased by one of love, and Mrs. Lambert, turning, kissed the bright face of her daughter.

Why, what a universal little genius, Laura, you are going to be-even learning to cook with a success that might shame an older hand. But. my darling, I fear your desire to gratify me has delicate tastes of former years, and learn to look only for the barest necessaries in our cuisine."

brow, and catching an earnest, questioning look | mother dear, and look at the silver lining of the | time." from the twins, she recovered berself, and at cloud, and say that you are willing for me to go once turned their thoughts into a more cheerful vein, and to the enjoyment of their anticipated continued, quite warmed up with her vivid treat.

Tes being over, Norman was sent to see if everything was still quite in his father's room ; the report being favorable, the boys went with bert took a seat by Laura, and began to assist circumstance.' in washing up the tea things.

'My poor darling,' said ber mother, 'you cannot know how it distresses me to see those delicate little hands already growing rough under such work as this. If I could only be ubiquit. ous, and fill the post of nurse, maid, and housekeeper, then, indeed, time might be more agree. ably and more profitably spent. But, alas ! now, when of all my life I most crave and need the nerves." wealth that can purchase ease and pleasure for

my dear ones, I find only a penury, that pinches harder every day. If it were not for my faith and trust in the Oae who rules and orders all him; your voice is the oracle that settles all ing, like demons.' these changes, I should lose heart entirely when doubts. But there is his bell. I shall pray for 'That is true of a class,' replied her mother; these changes, I should lose heart entirely when doubts. But there is his bell. I shall pray for before me like a black rolling cloud.?

wait your and father's permission to accept it ;

Mrs. Lambert's heart was to full for words. All the poble sacrifice involved in this heroic step of her beautiful daughter, was prefigured in an instant to her mind. She could only clasp put in my stocking; and I'm sure I never guess. her in her arms, and ejaculate between her thoughts, chased away all the fatigue of her or ornament to complete Laura's outfit for her all her adornments. I wonder what travelers on

But how can I lose you? How fill your But just as Eddie's entbusiasm was growing place at home, and send you, so young and mexperienced, among cold and indifferent stran-

> "We mus'nt think of that, mother dear. It is the present necessity alone that we must meet, and leave the rest to God. Only think of what fifty dollars will do for all of you at home, and how far it will help to spin out the little lund, that is growing so beautifully less every day --Then, you know that I dearly love to travel, and

I have always wanted to see the beautiful South -the land of the orange and myrtle. And you will be so busy nursing father, and the baby, and looking after the boys, and writing letters to Alice and me, that you'll have no time to miss made you forget how necessary it is for all of us me. And, perhaps, who knows-for God is so now-all but your dear father - to forego the good and prayer so potent-that dear father may get well, and we'll have our own dear old home again, and be as happy as we were before But, seeing a shade deepen on the fair young all these sorrows came upon us. So cheer up.

iorth to seek my fortune. Only suppose,' she

dreams, 'only suppose that I may find my knight with the golden crest, in the shape of a big, burly cotton planter, who'll do all kinds of wonderful things for us all, to which Giges with his their marbles into the kitchen, and Mrs. Lam- ring, and Aladdin with his lamp, will be a mere

Mrs. Lambert smiled sadly at the vission of these cloud castles.

"What will your father say, Laura? I fear this news will make him worse. He is so proud, and rebels already so much against his helplessress; and the idea of you, his idolized, frail child, being sent forth alone into the wide, cold world, will be too much, I fear, for his weak

'Indeed, mother, I have dreaded that, too; but I depend on your influence to carry my tea to bid him good night.'

CHAPTER II .- SEEKING FORTUNE.

day's labor. Awaking refreshed, she proceeded new home.

at once to the kitchen to get breakfast ready. but found that ber mother had been there before her, and already had, with the assistance of the little boys, made the fire. and had the kettle boiling for the coffee. Each was full of sym pathy for the other, in being compelled to such hard and strange work for the day, and after

various awkward blunders, and a few slight burns, the two ended by half laughing, half crying over the difficulties of their new occupation.

'Never mind, Laura,' said Mrs. Lambert, as she upset a pan of potatoes. 'this kind of work at any rate will be soon over for you."

'I must confess, mamma, that I shall not be sorry, for though I generally come off victor, still it is not without a good many bard rubs, as my poor hands and burnt clothes can testily .--But with all your other duties, you can never be able to attend to this department when I am gone ; so we must look up somebody at once, in

'Yes, I have already been thinking of that, and have a girl in my mind that I shall like to secure.'

'Not an Irish woman I hope, mamma?' 'Yes, none olber.'

'Ob! mamma, you will be tormented to death."

'Perhaps so; but not more by one of that race than another. Your prejudices are unac- burt while I am to the fore.' countable, Laura, toward that people, and, 1 althat you doubt them so much?'

'Because they are dirty and unreliable.' 'Well, do not the same qualities exist among

good and bad among our own? Why then should you make these the exception?

'Yes, but I never any good in the Irish except a few external manifestations. They go to church, and pray like saints, and come out, point. You know you can do anything with and behave, with their drunkenness and swear.

I think of the future-that future which goes your success, until I come in with his toast and f and yet the fact of their going to church proves

sorrows, and though every moment of the four days was filled with occupation, yet the final tive land.'

hour struck only too soon. The relatives and few friends of the family, who had remained tions. I was going to ray when you asked me A sound sleep, and bright dreams, that took faithful through all their adversities, now proved how I liked the boat, that I admired everything their hue from the tenor of her last waking their interest by contributing some article of use but the name and associations that characterize

Col. Chamberlain had found a lady and gen. tleman who were going nearly the same distance of the foreign speculators in their midst," as Laura; so, between their care and that of the capthin and clerk, her parents felt assured of her protection.

The bardest task was the parting with her father. Even the ever-cheering voice of hope failed to deaden the premonition, as she looked upon and kissed over and over again his white

brow and pallid, quivering lips, that she should never see his dear face in life again. Words died upon her lips, and only convulsive sobs were audible. As she reached the hall door, she was subject.

met by the new servant, who, with her apron up to her eyes, gasped out between her tears: May the Lord Almighty in Heaven keep you. dear young lady, and send your purty face back soon again, to give light to the house, which will be dark enough without yees.' Spite of her prejudice, Laura had been rather prepossessed order to enable me to get ready without loss of by this woman, of whom they had received an excellent character; so, only thinking of ber mother's future comfort she bade her a kind good-bye, adding, 'I hope, Catherine, that I will fud you here when 1 return, and that you will do all you can to help mamma through with her many cares.'

· Indeed you need never fear that same, Miss Laura. I like the madam and the childer, God bless them, and not a hair of their heads shall be

One long, last embrace, and mother and mest begin to think, irreconcilable. Why is it daughter felt the bitter pang that a first separation always brings. The novelty of the change, the excitement of motion, the ' coleur-de rose' tints that crowned all her anticipations, soon dis classes of every other people? Are there not pelled the deeper sadness of leave-taking and separation.

The boat was an elegant one, the passengers we will have to class you with the blind that of a good class, and many of them disposed to won't see. I am not an Irishman, but I always make the trip one of pleasure. Laura's musical like justice; and with all their natural faults, we talent was constantly called into requisition, and must not lose sight of their virtues. As to the when she played or sung, the occupants of the sparseness of her great men, her records show gentlemen's cabin gathered as near the line of many a page blazoned with deeds, enlightened demarcation as was permissible. Among these and beroic. Such statesmen as Burke, Sheridan, was one particularly distinguished by his hand- and O'Connell; such jurists as Grattan, Curran that they are not eatirely lost, but, through some face and elegant bearing, which, with his and Emmett ; such poets as Goldsmith, Moore, 'Perhaps, mother dear, that a land of promise Mrs. Lambert found her husband much re- faith, feel the need they have of grace to uphold style of dress and unusual reticence, marked him and Mangan, ought to be sufficient to redeem

'Why,' resumed Mr. Banks, 'do you dislike Ireland and her people so much ?'

'O! please don't press me too close, or I shall have to give only a woman's reason-because.'

• Of course ; but because what ?'

"Well, they are ignorant, dirty, and untruthful, and would rather beg than work.'

All those counts may be true in individual cases, and so they are of every nation and degree; but, on the other hand, no people have given greater proof of courage under danger, endurance under suffering, fidelity under change and trial, than even the most ignorant of the frish race."

"Well, 1 grant you that,' replied Laura ; 'but, after all, the virtues you have enumerated are only animal instincts; commendable, it is true, but not exceptionally praiseworthy. Besides, Ireland is behind almost every other country in great men or heroic deeds."

'Oh! what a mistake,' here cried out several Voices.

'I am afraid, Miss Laure,' said Mr. Jewel. an old gentleman under whose care she was, " that