

## THE UPS AND DOWNS OF LIFE.

CONTINUED.

Having read this letter Mrs. Simon felt deeply grateful to her brother and sister-in-law for their expression of love and sympathy, but her heart was saddened by the invitations to little Mabel. Here was another trial. Must she part with her darling, even for a few months? To keep her at home was to deprive her of a good education, to associate her childhood with misery and degradation and to lessen her respect for her poor father. To send her away whilst naturally increasing her own sorrow and loneliness, would benefit their dear child, afford her the advantages of a good education and associate her with all that is refined, religious, edifying and peaceful.

Mrs. Simon awaited a favorable opportunity to discuss the subject of the letter with her husband; he was, at first greatly opposed to the proposed arrangement concerning their child, but after listening to his wife's arguments, it was settled that Mabel should accept the kind invitation. When the little girl was informed of the plans in which she was interested, it grieved her much, being most unwilling to be separated from her loving parents. Happy child! She had never been affected by the change of circumstances when she removed with her parents from the fine mansion to the humble cottage, in which they now lived. She was just as joyful in the one as in the other: her happiness depended upon her parents' love; indeed, it is the pure love that makes home happy rather than the grandeur of the house in which we live; one home can be provided with all the luxuries which wealth can purchase yet it may not be a happy home. There is a great variety of homes; in some there is an abundance of food and clothing; in others, circumstances demand constant self-denial and abstinence; there are others again where there is occasional destitution and misery. But the only home in which happiness dwells is the one where there is mutual love, where parental devotion is responded to by filial affection and gratitude; where the members of the family are so united that they constitute one heart and one soul. No home can be happy where the parents do not regard the children "as part of themselves." It should be ever impressed on the parents' minds that, whether good or bad, children should be loved and cherished by them; a child, it should be remembered, "is a part of its parents, and if faulty should be treated like an ailing part of themselves." Parents who are selfish, worldly and without affection, beget children disposed to disobedience, self-will and ungovernability. Home is a divine institution; it is a miniature of the Church, a type of that heavenly home which the Almighty Father has prepared for His children when they have ended this life of probation. Home must be the centre of love and protection, where the helpless babe is fondly caressed and nourished, where the parental eye watches over the child during the critical period of physical, mental and spiritual growth; where there is a shelter and defence from the snares and dangers of a deceitful world; where there is a consolation, sympathy and love under all circumstances; where there is piety, patience and charity.

Mrs. Simon having provided her darling child with all that was necessary for her journey, the day was fixed for her departure from home. Fortunately, it happened, that Mrs. Dixon, an acquaintance of the Simon family, was to be a passenger on the same train by which Mabel was travelling. To this lady Mrs. Simon entrusted her daughter, who kindly undertook to see that the little girl was placed under the care of her uncle. It was a beautiful morning in the month of June when little Mabel after bidding a loving good-bye to her parents took her seat in the Pullman car by the side of her companion. The train left the station punctually, at an early hour, but would not arrive at the city of C— in Maryland State, till late in the evening of that day. The excitement and novelty of this first journey by rail kept Mabel from yawning over her separation from her mother. The different villages and towns through which they passed and the lovely scenery in the country of which they had glimpses, attracted so constantly the little girl's attention that the time did not appear to be long before she reached the place of her destination.

Mr. and Mrs. O'Neil were awaiting at the station of C— when the train arrived, to whom Mrs. Dixon gladly presented her little companion. The loving welcome which Mabel received from her uncle and aunt quickly dispelled the feeling of loneliness and homesickness with which the child was beginning to be affected, so that when the train stopped at the depot, realizing that she was in a strange city. With her uncle and aunt, Mabel took a seat in the carriage, in which they were conveyed through several streets until they reached a short avenue shaded by trees which conducted them to a beautiful cottage. "Here is your home dear Mabel," said her uncle, whilst he lifted her out of the carriage. Taking her aunt's hand she entered the house which verily had the appearance of being a happy and peaceful home. A beautiful little Spanish dog ran up to the little girl and licked her hand, as if he was also glad to see her, and a motherly cat with her playful kittens welcomed her by running around her and jumping on her lap, as soon as she was seated. Having partaken of a delicious repast Mabel began to feel the weary effects of her long journey, and was

glad when her aunt took her to the bedroom assigned to her. It was a beautiful, cosy room, adjoining that of her aunt's; the walls were decorated with sacred pictures and illuminated texts of holy writ. Having attended to her evening devotions the little girl retired to her comfortable bed and was soon in a sound sleep. The next morning on her waking she was at first confused on finding herself in a strange room, but before completing her toilet her aunt opened the door and cheered the darling child by a motherly embrace. With the assistance of the maid, who was instructed to attend on her, Mabel was soon dressed and ready for breakfast. So soon as she began to feel at home in her uncle's house arrangements were made by her aunt to make the visit both entertaining and profitable to her niece.

Mrs. O'Neil and her husband found much satisfaction and happiness in doing acts of kindness to their fellow-creatures, especially as they had means sufficient to enable them to be occasionally charitable and generous to those in want. Mr. O'Neil was a very different man in character from his sister's husband. The former was a zealous and practical Catholic, temperate and industrious in his habits and averse to men who were irreverent, immoral and dissipated. He had gained the esteem of the community where he lived, by his integrity, attention to business, ability and good judgment, and had attained a high position in a certain railway company, with which he was connected as Civil Engineer and Director. He had married a lady of highly respectable associations, the only daughter of a prominent merchant in Baltimore. She had been carefully educated at the convent and was both accomplished and pious. Mr. O'Neil had been married at this time about seven years. His home was distinguished for its refinement and culture, but it had not been blessed with children. The parental love which is implanted in our hearts interested Mr. and Mrs. O'Neil in the welfare of the children of their neighbors, and they were always desirous of rendering services to these parents who having children did not possess means sufficient to educate them according to their abilities and tastes, or according to special vocations in life. It was with this good object in view that they had invited their niece to pay them a visit. Having learned about the troubles and reverses of his dear sister's household Mr. O'Neil foresaw the serious effects of them upon his little niece, especially at an age when the child's mind is most impressionable.

It was too near the closing of the scholastic year to send Mabel to the convent as a pupil, therefore it was considered advisable that she be privately instructed for a few hours every day. On making inquiries about a governess, Mrs. O'Neil received a letter from a lady, Mrs. Tetley, inviting Mabel to join her daughter in her studies, who had a very capable governess. This was such a happy coincidence that Mrs. O'Neil at once acceded to the kind proposal, especially as Mrs. Tetley and herself were intimate friends. The two girls in becoming classmates soon became loving companions, and their daily associations stimulated one the other in several respects. The piety of Mary Tetley, who had been religiously trained from her infancy, increased Mabel's interest in religious instruction, whilst the latter's application to her studies and her cleverness made her schoolmate more attentive to her lessons, and ambitious to learn.

On the first Sunday after Mabel's arrival at her new home she accompanied her uncle and aunt to the Church of the Sacred Heart, and was present with them at the celebration of High Mass. The earnestness of her uncle to his devotion seemed particularly to interest his little niece. She had never before seen her father in church, and her childish thoughts had led her to conclude that it was not necessary for gentlemen to accompany their wives to the House of God. But it was not only on Sundays that she went with her uncle and aunt to Mass, but very often during the week-days, so that this little observing girl began to understand that religion was not a matter which only requires our attention on Sunday, but on every day, and that the Mass was not only for mothers and daughters, but for men and boys. A very important lesson which the Catholic Church inculcates strongly in the minds of the laity is that they require daily communion with their Creator and Saviour through prayer, and that the particular grace associated with hearing Mass is very useful to our souls, on the week-days as well as on Sunday. When the priest celebrates Mass he honors God, rejoices the angels, edifies his congregation and comforts the souls of the departed. At that time especially is our Lord and all His angels near us. When the angel of God appeared to the priest Zacharias to communicate to him the decree respecting the ministration of John the Baptist and the advent of the Saviour, it was when the priest was in the act of executing the priest's offices in the Temple. It is therefore expedient, when our daily labors or official duties will permit us, to begin each day of the week by worshipping in the House of God at the time when the priest is offering up the daily sacrifice of the Mass.

The priest of the parish in which Mrs. O'Neil lived was Rev. Father E—. He was very much revered not only by his parishioners but the community generally; he was an old friend of the O'Neil family and had prepared Mabel's mother for her first Communion. Accompanied by her niece, Mrs. O'Neil

called at the rectory, where they found the priest at home. He was pleased to meet the grand-daughter of his old and esteemed friend, the late Joseph O'Neil. He seemed to know all about the parish where Mabel's parents were living. He had heard that the Catholics were not a strong and influential body there and that the priest had to contend with a class—descendants of the Puritans—who were very prejudiced against the Catholic faith. Addressing Mabel, the Rev. Father said: "My dear child, I prepared your mamma for her first Communion and by me she was married to your father. I therefore feel a deep interest in your welfare. During your visit to your aunt's, I will take you under my spiritual care and try to make you such a good Catholic child that when you return home you will help the faithful priest there in his work by your good example and be also a great comfort to your mother. Many prayers have I offered up for your father and mother in their trials, and I trust that God will have mercy on them. It was arranged that Mabel should go to the vestry on certain days for a short time to be instructed with other children in catechism.

During the summer months, though the heat was sometimes very oppressive, Mabel made much progress in her studies, but she was not allowed to devote more than two hours of each day to her lessons; she enjoyed much recreation by delightful excursions into the country or to the seaside.

When the summer holidays were nearly ended, Mrs. O'Neil with her niece visited the convent to pay their respects to the Mother Superior and prepare for Mabel's reception there as a pupil. It was at this convent where Mabel's mother had been educated. Her name was lovingly recalled by some of the nuns who had known her as a pupil, and with great pleasure did the Religious welcome her little daughter to be also trained and educated by them.

What important institutions have the convents become to the society at the present day! What help do they render the pastors of the Divine Shepherd in that special duty of feeding the lambs! What comfort and support do they render to Christian parents in their efforts to rear their daughters to be wise, discreet, modest, chaste and pious. What encouragement do they give to the young to be unworried, to flee youthful desires, to pursue faith, charity and peace with them that call on the Lord with a pure heart. Those pious nuns who devote their lives to the charitable works of the Church, who have consecrated themselves to God exemplify those cardinal virtues which adorn and ennoble womanhood.

Mabel had only been for a short time a pupil of the convent when her teachers perceived that she was exceptionally intelligent and anxious to learn. She took a great interest in religious instruction and mastered quickly the abstruse questions of the long catechism.

Mrs. O'Neil was very anxious that her niece should make her first Communion and receive confirmation before her return to her parents. Fearing that her visit might be interrupted by some unexpected circumstance, and prevent her from prolonging her visit after the Christmas holidays, it was arranged, with the consent of the parish priest, that Mabel be allowed to make her first Communion on the Feast of all Saints. The venerable pastor, therefore, took her under his special care to prepare her for the participation of that Blessed Sacrament.

The unceasing interest which the faithful pastor of the Catholic Church has in the salvation of souls is one of the peculiar characteristics of the Christian priesthood. He is like the good Shepherd whom our Lord in His own Person represented, who rests not until he finds the sheep that has gone astray and restores it to the fold; who is really to give his life for his flock; who is ever watchful to protect the sheep from the wolf and to keep them from being scattered.

The ministry of our Divine Lord is, in this respect, different from other learned professions, having also a relation to the welfare of society. The medical practitioner or physician is not expected to interest himself in the welfare of his fellow-creatures individually and collectively, unless his services are solicited in accordance with equivalent remuneration. The lawyer practises his profession, not for the sole object of upholding justice, defending the weak, freely giving legal advice to the ignorant and imprudent and of benefiting society, but for the profits and honors which his profession yields for his own selfish ends. It is not so with the sacerdotal office. It was ordained not for pecuniary or lucrative ends, nor for merely personal honor and glory. Our Lord said to His Apostles when He first instituted the ministry of the Catholic Church: "Go ye to the lost sheep of the house of Israel and preach, 'the kingdom is at hand'; 'heal the sick, raise the lepers, cast out devils'; 'freely ye have received, freely give.' " "Do not possess gold nor silver nor money in your purses or script for your journey."

TO BE CONTINUED.

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## A Definition of the Faith.

Here is the definition of faith given by Louis Veuillot, the once well known French journalist:

The true faith is the one only faith, for it alone produces works of faith wholly honorable to him who performs them, wholly helpful to all other men. Were there in the Catholic religion nothing but religious Orders, the fact would suffice of itself alone to prove the divinity of that religion. To consecrate one's life to God, to devote it to the neighbor for the love of God; to embrace every kind of privation and toil and fatigue, in the one hope of heavenly reward, is an act of faith which no other religion has been able to produce; it is an act of charity which they will never perform. The Catholic religion easily accomplishes all this by means of three virtues: poverty, chastity, and obedience, which she alone has the right and power to counsel. Seek where you will, the fruit they bear are to be found only in the garden of the Church, they do not live or produce their kind elsewhere. Elsewhere is not to be found the dew they need.

## A RELIGIOUS CRAFTSWOMAN.

The old saying that a woman can not saw a board or drive a nail may apply to a majority of women, but not to all, at least not in Missoula, for there is one here who is not only a carpenter of no mean ability, but an artist as well.

The woman is a daughter of a carpenter in Montreal, Canada, and is now a lay sister of the Sisters of Providence in Missoula. Her name is Sister Magnan, and what she can do with a set of carpenter tools must be seen to be believed. Hearing of her wonderful work, a Missoulian reporter called at the academy one afternoon, and, with others, was shown into the chapel on the second floor, on the south side of the building. Here a beautiful altar of modern structure, in white and gold color can be seen, the handiwork of Sister Magnan, who made every part of it. It stands some ten or twelve feet high and is set off in well proportioned panels, around the tabernacle as well as below the table of the altar. Every piece of wood and moulding in it is fitted as close as though done by a hard wood finisher. To the right of the altar sets a dresser or vestment receptacle, which is also finished in white and gold, and is as perfect in construction as though it had come from the shop of a cabinet maker. In front of the altar is a turned railing, which was put together by this remarkable woman.

While the party was inspecting this work of art a woman was noticed by a wall of the chapel painting the wainscoting, so the party was told, and on going near it was discovered that she was graining the work in oak color and handling the graining comb and other tools as artistically as the most expert painter. The seats in the chapel have already been grained and have been well done.

Once on the outside of it was learned that from childhood Sister Magnan had a liking for that kind of work, and when a child about her father's carpenter shop, was always building houses, etc., for herself and playmates. As she grew older she advanced in knowledge in that direction until today she can build anything in the woodwork's line.

Building is her hobby, but she is confined to indoor work and excels at all her undertakings. She has made many pieces of furniture, which now adorn the many buildings of the Sisters of Missoula. Like a man she is awkward with a needle but she is an artist still. Her co-workers do her sewing meanwhile. She is not idle, for she is the convent baker and can make bread which makes the boarders smile out loud. This is not all; she is a shoemaker, too, and is as handy with a last and awl as she is with a saw and hammer. She is unassuming about her work and is said to seldom speak about it to those about her.

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