

bright in honor of the feast of their holy foundress, and in the happy bridal of their new sister. A galaxy of summers fairest flowers had been gathered to do honor to the heavenly triumph of the saint and her duteous child.

Bride and her mother (a fair and comely dame of some forty summers,) were there, and several other ladies of the town, two Franciscan Fathers attended on the Bishop, and two of their scholars were enchanted by being allowed to act as acolytes. And now commenced the beautiful and touching ceremony of Profession.

The company being in their places, the line of nuns advanced up the aisle, last of all, walking by the side of the Abbess, the fair young novice, her face shining with unearthly beauty and celestial radiance.

The nuns having taken their places, and the Abbess seated in her chair, Sister Clare of Jesus, with a lighted candle in her hand, knelt down before the Bishop, and asked him to receive her to Holy Profession, and her voice clear and sweet so that every word could be heard, declared that if the whole world was hers, she had chosen and was ready to abandon it all to become a child of S. Clare, though most unworthy. Firmly she replied to the various searching questions the Bishop continued to address to her, and then the deep low chant of the *Veni Creator* floated through the chapel, and every voice joined and every heart prayed that sevenfold gifts might descend on the head of the young novice. Then on went the petitions—the veil and ring were blessed, and the Litany of the Saints intoned, and the sublime prayer of the ritual followed. "And as thou has vouchsafed to attest, saying, 'I know my sheep and my sheep know me,' acknowledge her for Thine, and grant that she may so know and follow Thee, and only Thee, that she may never give ear to or obey another's voice; Who hast promised that whosoever obeys and serves Thee here shall follow Thee hereafter." So prayed Holy Church.

Then the Bride, rising to her feet, chanted three times in a loud and joyful tone, "Receive me according to thy promise, and I shall live, and do not disappoint me of my expectations," each time the Abbess answering, "My dear-

est daughter, let it be done unto thee according to thy words," and the choir chanting "Amen;" and then, even in the still chapel, and amidst that attentive audience, there was a hush, for the solemn moment had come. The Bride knelt down and placed her joined hands between those of her Abbess, and they were bound together with a stole representing the cords which Christ Jesus out of his great love for us didst suffer Himself to be bound, and then, in a clear and distinct voice, Sister Clare of Jesus made her vows. She ended; and eternal life was promised to her if she were faithful to her engagement, and again the soft tones of the choir, like the whispering of angels said "Amen." Then the Abbess kissed the Bride, and the white veil having been taken from her head, the black veil was placed thereon, and she was bid to wear it till she came before the tribunal of the Eternal Judge. And sweetly rose her triumphant reply in the words of Rome's Virgin Martyr, "He hath put a mark and veil over my face that I may admit no other lover but Himself." The crown of rejoicing was placed on her young head, and the spousal ring was given, the bride answering joyfully, as it was placed on her finger, "My Lord Jesus Christ has engaged me to Him with His ring, and adorned me as His spouse with a crown." Then the Abbess gave her a crucifix bidding her "receive and embrace her Spouse," another prayer, and then clear and joyously rose the *Te Deum*, while the bride went round to all her sisters to give and receive the kiss of peace.

Mass now commenced, and after the Gospel Father Galway preached the sermon which was described afterwards by his audience as a very moving discourse, but which for fear of wearying my readers I dare not enlarge upon. At the time of Holy Communion the bride first received the Adorable Sacrament, and then the religious, and afterwards nearly all the lady communicated. Mass of thanksgiving, said by Father Taffe, followed, and then the party adjourned to the greensward before the house, where Bride had prepared a wedding breakfast for Eveleen as she had the year before for Mary.

(To be Continued.)