## THE CATHOLIC RECORD.

# "Sightless Couriers of the Air."

SEPTEMBER 18, 1895

red into a ads of perbut he bent if to avoid

ning, '

lid begin he den, almost

many in the

ity in an Eastern manufacturing town, where through the loyalty of my friend Bagley I had obtained work as e prisoner. er, pleaded e feared he okkeeper in one of the mills. I make no pretentions to being strongminded and the lack is a lucky one, think. Whatever is strong is apt to a came in ni, the probe stiff and rigid, and if over-tried will break, since it cannot bend. My mind, such as it is, is elastic. When make the nse silence I am joyous, it never acts the skeleton ainful, and at the feast by reminding ; on the conthe great trary, it urges: "Go ahead, old fellow, and have a good time. When there is nothing of triumph ense crowd he suspense

else to do, then make yourself miserable, if you like, with regrets and he interrupted. "Not necessary," he said. "I'll lamentations." Florence, naturally, is more pensive. I have often seen her in those first days, when bitterness would re-

heads, in a the words cur, fairly forcing herself to be blithe. brief, clear, so as to be companionable with me. Such exertion is never wasted; it their point vork as they accumulates a reserve which develops into habit. Now she worries less than s sure of his sly, Bertoni ept on with I do, and when I worry the weather must be gloomy, my feet wet, my pockets and my stomach empty and s goal was prisoner's meage in something wrong with Florence. In a word, we love each other so dearly m the first :

minds of his the investi twenty-one liss Calvert's rst clew that e murderer ; ollowed ; and ically to the occupied on lisinterestedoffer to work intimely end his interest ortant clew to bring the ED.

### Has Lived to the daily

enrick from read with inshop Kenrick 's recreation. at most men h, he was work. and meditation ation. The e at 4 and de yer, the cele-d the divine ever deviated When away annoyance rve his daily Archbisho Grace with , which he with him on ay the Archur before the stroke of the d him on his This practice one occasion city churches, rmed that His quarters of an urned that he

merely smile at each other, though we

I remember when the shadow of my

own trouble first rested on me, the words of an old servant with whom I

had ever been a favorite : "Face it,

seemed to be that day by day her eye-sight was fading. Yesterday she

sight was fading. Yesterday she could see but little, to day less. To-

"It shall not be !" I vowed. "There is Dr. Duane in the very next street :

the speech of people, the papers are filled with his wondrous skill as an

optician. I will stop and send him the

first thing in the morning. He will prevent, he will cure, oh ! I know he

And Florence was so confident, too.

that we went to our rest comforted,

though I knew in that secret conviction that never deludes through glamor

smile through tears.

morrow-

will

the blazon of love.

home coming.

Florence

Trouble had come to my dear wild Florence and me in the early days of our married life-terrible trouble, which this simple narrative will both explain and remove-but for a year past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trough sickness or sorrow or past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trough sickness or sorrow or past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trough sickness or sorrow or past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trough sickness or sorrow or past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trough sickness or sorrow or past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trough sickness or sorrow or past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trough sickness or sorrow or past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trough sickness or sorrow or past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trough sickness or sorrow or past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trough sickness or sorrow or past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trough sickness or sorrow or past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trough sickness or sorrow or past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trough sickness or sorrow or past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trough sickness or sorrow or past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trough sickness or sorrow or past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trough sickness or sorrow or past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trough sickness or sorrow or past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trouble, sorrow or sorrow or past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trouble, sorrow or sorrow or past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trouble, sorrow or sorrow or past we had been living in calm felic-terrible trouble, sorrow or sorrow or past we had been living trouble, sorrow or sorrow or past we had been living trouble, sorrow or sorrow or past we had been living trouble, sorrow or sorrow or past we had been living trouble, sorrow or sorrow or past we had been living trouble, sorrow whether through sickness or sorrow or any other misfortune. My stringency stood me in good stead, however, for past we had been living in calm felicthere were not patients awaiting, and I was shown at once into the breakfast

sharp. "Well?" he asked abruptly, never

pausing from his roll and eggs. I told him my name and address and

console, at least kept me so far removed with whom I had quarreled. from desperation that I was enabled to ally, then, I administered the dose of perform my daily task like the calcu- poison from which he died." lating machine I was expected to be. Home at last ! And there was Florence the doctor. watching in the little sewing chair by "Go through a similar experience," the window; there was Florence hold-ing the door wide open before I reached the threshold. Less though her sight was than on the day before, still it was keen enough to see me. (1) Like him. Harry," sha cried, here the threshold. Less though her sight control of the threshold watching in the little sewing chair by that common decency keeps us from ing the door wide open before I reached noticing the specks which flit through the threshold. Less though her sight

noticing the specks which flit through our genial sunlight. Of course, in this town of our exile we had no friends ; not that we craved any, but we couldn't have had any, heewver urgent our desire. I say, "of course," though the reason therefore must at present be taken on faith ; it existed, and lustly, never fear. Evenings, then, after supper, it was our wont to sit down to a cozy game of cribbage, and, with the lamp on the stand between us sending a gentle stand between us sending a gentle boy's beloved face again ! He's going glow over all the little comforts which to help me : never for one instant for-

giow over all the interview of the start over a start of the start over the start "But what can we do?" I moaned, ceiving what they would do. Now, feeling as if the world had started a poison is an agent; hence a murderence's taste, and with the many exciting and merry incidents of the game, it did seem as if time made a double spurt out of envy, because he had to twirling the wrong way. "I must work, and you can't be left alone and stick to his scythe and glass and owl and all the other old curiosity shop odds my God ! I must work or we'll starve ; and ends which he deems essential to yet perhaps that would be the best ending !" "Hush, Harry," said Florence. his personality. One evening, when

we had been overgay, for Florence had "You forget he's going to help me. made a succession of false plays, to our I've had time to make my plans, and mutual raillery, she rose from the table of a sudden and went, somewhat unsteadily, I noticed, over to the little rocking chair by the window, in which that she should be so vindictive. But there's Polly. And do you know I she used to sew and watch for my could see quite well enough to write " Come over here, Harry," she said. her to come-just for a short visit, you " Turn down the light and come over

know, which I did ?" by me, I want to talk with you." Now, if I had been strong-minded, I think this fact brightened me a little-at least Florence could still see. Perhaps the doctor might help her to doubtless the strength would have sustained my heart ; as it was, however, be better before she was worse. The most skilful physician looks on the down it plumped to the stretching of its strings, for I felt that some evil was dark side, and reasonably so, since his about to be revealed, not some evil to me-that I could face and withstand point of attack so often lies in the shadow of death. I little reckoned the with a jest-but alas ! some evil to infinite pain and difficulty under which I passed over and sat by my wife's that letter had been written. have ever been childishly tossed by hope, as if the strength of a nurse side, holding her hand for a few mo-

ments in silence. Then something occurred which recalled a scene when could send one to the stars. And there was Polly, truly ! Pretty she had sat by me in shameful confine ment, administering comfort; a tear fell on my hand, and there barned like Polly Chester, my wife's cousin, who was still living at our old home. I "Oh, Florence, Florence ! what is

liked Polly, she was so bright, sweet-tempered and capable. She had not been irreconcilable, nor bitter; she could suspect them.' "'I wanted to feel for the telling that we were alike in the darkness," would come and be light to that dark Florence replied, "for, Harry, I an Florence replied, "for, Harry, I am room for that little while, which might going blind." "Oh," the doctor wishes to see you "Blind !" I repeated mechanically, at 8 o'clock," said Florence, suddenly, Her uncle used to call her his sunand then a thousand trifles thronged after I had eaten my supper. "Suddenly," as if I did not realize as I hurried to the appointment that "Don't be so impatient, my friend," my memory, once disregarded and now avenged by the gibe. "I told you so;" the mistakes at cards, the as I hurried to the appointment that her forgetfulness had been a preven tive to my worrying. Certainly the doctor was friendly for a stranger. He brought me up into uncertain steps, the groping after things mislaid. "It cannot be! It shall not be!" I shouted. And thentive to my worrying. and then-ah! I cannot relate the soothings of which I was the object, his study and sat me in a comfortable habit of coming to Mr. Prime's house?" " Oh, the Mackinnans, the Murrays, chair by the grate, with as good a cigar as an ally as I ever smoked in the soft, submissive words of gratefulthe Dunbars-sober, respectable folk, ness for blessings vouchsafed in my best days. It was not until long belonging to the Scotch Church, which after that I appreciated that the light the Primes attended. The stupidest the midst of so awful a calamity Her dear eyes, whose very light had detective in the world, and I employ been beneficence toward me ! Even must have shone full and strong on the ultimate example of crassness. now, when the evil days are dead and my face. "I am deeply interested in your wife's case," Dr. Duane began. "It wouldn't have wasted a thought on buried, I cannot endure the possibility any of them." "It is a far cry from a claymore to of her affliction, and so we never speak of it, and if reference does occur we

which seemed to combine into a sort of concluded that the proof was not strong spirit of adventure. Sorely, sorely county to justify him in putting the ever I had been in my queerest days, of the ways of women ? She must say protested Florence, "of showing his devotion to me."

remained for a space in silence. room, where the doctor was taking such cheer as dares lurk in bachelor loneli- "Protect? When I was first ar-

ing from this man which, if it didn't as it was proved, had cheated me and

few days, and then light, and my ing is essentially a feminine crime-boy's beloved face again ! He's going women, I think, are braver than men, but their bravery is passive, not active. They dare, but they shrink from per

ous woman would naturally choose it, and hide her face and have hysterics helpless in—in—that dark room! O while it was performing its deadly mis-my God! I must work or we'll starve ; sion. If you had made this subject a study you might retort that slaves have ever been addicted to poisoning. Most true ; but the essential of slavery is de

true; but the essential of slavery is de pendence, and women are our depend-ent class. What sort of poison was used, by the way?" "Oh, the commonest sort, which is sold every day to everybody for the destruction of vermin. Do you know the District Atterney made a point out

the District Attorney made a point out of this against me, arguing that a shrewd man would select some ordinary household stuff to avoid tracing. couldn't help from agreeing with him though I'm not a shrewd man, however

much people insisted to the contrary, directly I was charged." "You're not sore, you're not sensi-tive, you're quite indifferent, now

aren't you ?" reflected the doctor, with a pleasant little laugh. "By the way, who composed Mr. Prime's family ?" "My mother-in-law, Mrs. Prime, a So I sedate, severe old lady ; Miss Chester,

her niece ; my wife and myself ; sev eral prim, old-fashioned maid servants; a prim, old-fashioned butler. These have been in service for years and still remain there; good, faithful souls, without wants or grievance-no one

" Perhaps not, perhaps not. And Miss Chester, she is the cousin for whom your wife has written, I suppose. I over to Florence. She had drawn her "Yo

The doctor whispered softly and then be only for a little while. Then, too, Polly was prompt in her arrival, and St. Vitus' dance would be inertia to my twitchings. Oh, the men, they "You don't protest your innocence?" though I never had cared for Mr. Prime's views on any subject, I found were all alike ; and she did despise

ious and discordant elements.

narticulate now are calling !"

perched on her false hair ?"

and to rejoice.

cheer as dares lurk in bachelor loneli-ness. He was a young man, as I have said, of middle height, spare, with a pale, impassive, clean-shaven face and tired of protesting. People lis-small eyes, which would have seemed mean had they not been so bright and sharp. "Well?" he asked abruptly, never pausing from his roll and eggs. degeneracy and former crimes of an soon, ah! so soon, Florence had to accused. But as for making any im- shun all light and chose to sit in her lieved all along that their sight would I told him my name and address and Florence's disstress. I had begun to state my moderate circumstances when he interrupted. "Not necessary," he said. "I'll call and do what I can. We will talk later, when we can talk understand-ingly. Good morning." Cool and abrupt, but not ill-natured, there was a nimbus of power emant-ing from this man which, if it didn't every family not constituted of stone as she spoke, yet they smiled to and putty, form a deliciously private vanquishment of that trembling. as she spoke, yet they smiled to the thought I was going mad, dear," she

ison from which he died." 'You're a queer fellew," observed e doctor. and personal language, untranslatable, ''You're a queer fellew," observed talk," so the Germans, those experts ing like a little child to my hand. whispered and then fell asleep, cling-The next few weeks brought wonin domesticity, call it, which so often

drous, rapturous changes, for the doc s the blend into affection of inharmontor's prophecy came true, and Florence saw once more-and, curious trivial I must confess that Polly and I did most of the chattering. Still, if changes-for though we were one in Florence was more silent, she apprerejoicing, she had very little to say re ciated just as vividly and laughed, oh, garding her recovery, or, indeed, any so unrestrainedly. It did my heart good to hear her, though I throttled thing else. I noticed, too, that, especi ally toward Polly, Florence acted many a sob in my throat, which rose

peculiarly-not that she was positively unkind, but somewhat indifferent and responsive to her unselfish mirth. Little wonder, indeed, that the blind at times somewhat severe. Her whole bearing also had altered : she carried should be taciturn. A sleepless vigil bearing also had altered: she carried through the watches of the night will herself almost haughtily, and again say: "Hush, for voices unheard and and again I noticed her dear eyes flashing and an excitable color rising But one evening Florence fairly in her cheeks. But I was too happy to

be critical or captious. I readily ac-cepted Polly's explanation that no one could act naturally at once after such vied with me in jocund remembrances The faithful doctor, cautious even his promises, had been undeniably sanguine that morning. Already her dear spirit was preparing to forget a strain.

The doctor's calls became briefer and less frequent, and at length ceased for a full fortnight. Then one evening, "And is old Mrs. Murray still alive, Polly ?" I was asking, " and does she wear that same bird's-nest bonnet while Florence and I were at our old game of cribbage and Polly sat at one side reading, he entered the room without ceremony. I saw that bright, 'She is not dead, but she sleepeth almost fierce light shine in Florence's as usual right through the service from long prayer to her namesake, eyes; I saw that burning flush flash through her cheeks, and I expected "The Old Hundredth,' " retorted Polly. "But her false hair is gradually perchsomething, I knew not what.

"You are quite a stranger, doctor." ing on top of her bird's nest bonnet!"--"Oh dear ! oh dear !" laughed Flor-

I began. "Yes," he said calmly ; "I've been ence. "Such comical people as we have known ! Tell me, Polly, is Sandy doing a little detective work as a vaca-tion. I've been busied at your native Mackinnon as devoted as ever. You remember Sandy, don't you, Harry? That great lump of an innocent, with town, Mr. Hilton, with the result that the murderer of Mr. Prime has been apprehended and has confessed. He bulging watery eyes and a hyena's urned out to be that imbecile Sandy grin." "And two teeth, 'arcades ambo'-Mackinnon. You remember our con-versation? A curious verification of that is, both yellow ?" I interrupted. "I should say I did. He was always my theory that a roisoner is likely to

e a dependent—" Here there was a sweep and a fall, clinging to Polly's skirts like an over-grown baby. Really, Polly, such inand Polly Chester lay prone at our feet moaning. "Mercy, mercy !" Pretty, blithe, good-natured Polly, fatuation is dangerous-supposing he should become jealous! Why, he

could destroy the entire community what had she to do with such a humili with perfect impunity !" "Oh, an idiot is always harmless," ating posture, with such shameful words?

said Polly. "Sandy wouldn't hurt a fly. I couldn't imagine his killing "Yes, dear Harry," said Florence, softly, "as we have suffered, so we must be merciful." U. LABELLE, MERCHANT TAILOR. 372 Richmond Street. anybody." "I could have bitten off my tongue

"Since you are well again I don't care anything about the affair," I pro for having provoked such a heedless answer and have shaken this frivolous "But I don't understandyour wife has written, I suppose. I over to Florence. She had drawn her chair further into the recess and was "Yes, Polly is a bright, merry girl, thoughtless, yet unselfish, and never way. So I made haste to where she cronched rather sullenly."

3



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eded rest and ait, when His

### Bell.

k, writing in speaks of one ms which were beyond recogtestantism : times what is wo after death, uly a passing en the soul ap t of doffing the al, but before ken place. Its le know by its amongst them to remind them to spare a few of this world to on to be beyond rn toward God some time after it was again t was known as ounded to let all or earthly cony, and to beg nal repose of the

ng the passingof a parishioner itself to the ily be restored, villages. It was and charity, as ave been helpful

ionesty. t if when you ask Emulsion he gives . He knows this is take Cod Liver Oil. F. Kellock, Perth. 'miae having been use of Dr. Thomas' Ireland, telling his In consequence I d half a dozen by nd, this week."

is mysterious, and I'm a student, hence a poison," agreed the doctor; " and so, according to our sociatic method, the interest. There is no growth or blemish or degeneration. Her eyes are functionally sound and strong, but you seem the most likely object of sus-

picion." "That's what I told you in the first their nerves are affected through the reflex action of some shock, I should judge. I believe I can tone and re-Master Harry !" she had said ; "you store them, though there's certain to must face it." And so, when at length be a period of absolute disability. In must face it." And so, when at length be a period of absolute distantity. In that the scenes and I will be a period of absolute distantity. The function of the puppets of honor and esteem order that this may be as brief as of the puppets of honor and esteem possible, I must ask your confidence." I friendship for which men strive.

that she would willingly deceive her-self if happily she might deceive me. Yes, though shut out from the world, I had heard of Dr. Raymond Duane, and in the unanimous voice of praise. A young man still, he had enjoyed

unusual advantages at home and abroad, and had profited by them. People never seemed to tire of telling People never seemed to tire of telling standing ten to two for acquittal, I be good night, and may courage and per-of his ability, his nerve, his kindliness, lieve. The District Attorney finally sistence attend you."

so happy as when doing a kindness. change the subject.

your name. He merely avowed the deed and told where he had procured "And the Dudleys," I exclaimed, with enforced gayety. "Those five long superannuated girls and the one the poison, and where he had hidden the part not used, and then went off forlorn little boy who drew pictures of his father in the hymn bock ! You surely must remember, Florence. My into a succession of convulsions which, landed him in an asylum and will shortly send him into his grave ; but God ! child, what is the matter ?" And Isprang to her side, for, as I had bent forward, I had caught a glimpse of her for the future I would advise you to reserve your fascinations for more rational objects \_\_\_\_" face and it was ghastly, as if from

"I had no connection with it," horror. cried Polly, boldly; "I merely sus-pected that he might have done it, for "I am so very tired," said Florence, feebly. "I wish you would help me to my room, Harry," and as I bore her he was very angry one day when uncle scolded me. And if Harry had ever been in real danger I would have away her hands clung to my coat, as the hands of a little child will cling from sudden fright. And when we told the little I knew. As it was, it wasn't at all necessary, and such a fuss were together in her room she gave is ridiculous : as for fascinating him, 1 way unto a burst of tears, hysterical, never did. I can't help it if I'm atbroken, gasping ; piteous to hear and tractive to men. They are all fools in piteous to behold. that respect."

"My darling, what is it? what is And pretty Polly, tossing her head,

"Your silly admirer never mentioned For \$3.00.

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