AMBITION'S CONTEST

BY CHRISTINE FABER

CHAPTER XXVII. CONTINUED

my father brought on probably by the excitement attendant upon the wedding seized him almost immediately after the ceremony, and he died in a few hours; so there was mourning in the midst of my rejoicing, Prior to this sad event my father had consented to accompany my husband and me to New was to be our future home, and a disposal had been accordingly made of Ashland Manor, so that there was nothing after the interment to tain us in Ireland. We sailed for America, my brother-in-law accompanying us. A little after we my husband's home, my brother-in-law announced his intention of leaving us. I have already spoken of my gratitude for the noble manner in which he had acted; that gratitude made me watchful to ren-der him such attentions as a gennine kindness might bestow : to take every opportunity of showing that gave him all a sister's affection; and when he announced his intended departure I strove to make for him such preparations as might show him my anxiety for his comfort. I was the more earnest in acting thus for I fancied that he was unhappy and that I was the cause. embraced me at parting; my husband was present. After the sad and lingering pressure of his arms, I could only throw myself on my husband's breast and sob out my grief for the poor fellow who was going loneliness, and, I felt, in sorrow. He wrote to us regularly letters that, while they told of the charm and incident of travel, still breathed, at least to my perhaps too ardent imagination, unrest and unhappiness, and I bade Allan insert warm and loving messages in his replies, for my whole soul ached for this generous and unhappy man. Marriage seemed not to have Marriage seemed not weaned my husband from his old ardent desire for study, and after his brother's departure he closeted himself still more with his books. I was not troubled at this seclusion, for his affectionate demeanor at other times convinced me that his regard for me had lost none of its ardor. When we were two years married Howard was born, and that event seemed to draw Allan away from his books, but only for a little while: he returned to them with apparently greater zest than ever. A year after that my brother-in-law suddenly ceased to write to us. I wondered, as the weeks and months went by and no letter came; and Allan wondered too, and he seemed to grow anxious and sad. I also was anxious sad, and I often spoke of him, for I knew not what fate might have happened the poor, unhappy young

you were born, and a year after came the cruel blow which blighted my -tears were coursing down her cheeks, and Ellen, pale and silent, wept in sympathy. "My husband wept in sympathy. told me the trouble which was preying in secret upon his soul, and shutting himself up with his books. From early boyhood, and until he met me, he had always imagined that that vow would cost his work would one day be in the Church. He could hardly tell himwhen the death of his parents left him free to assume any Manor, it was with the half-formed if not brave endurance of my resolution that immediately after that visit he would turn his thoughts seriously to becoming a candidate for Holy Orders. When he met me. the current of his thoughts completely changed, and he no longer aspired to a sacred vocation. But since our marriage he had been haunted by the feeling that he had done wrongthat he had stepped out of the sphere which Heaven had chosen for him, and that his soul's salvation was in danger unless he should sever himself from wife and children He had combated the feeling as long as he could; he had kept it secret as some thing that must wear away in time: but instead, it had grown, he said, reason. I was frantic. I knew that husbands did sometimes leave their homes to give their service to Albravely yielded them; but there was no such heroism in my nature-I could not give my husband up; I endure the thought for a moment. He said he was not going to enter the Church; he did not even intend to become an inmate of a religious house; that he was simply going to frantically protested, asking if religion, which commanded such strict attention to the duties of our state, could sanction such a wrong as this would be? I implored him to reflect if it would not be manlier. nobler, more pious, more in accordance with God's own will, since he had assumed the responsibility of fulfil its duties. He granted the the education of his son, endeavor to shape the course of the latter so that his life might flow in the he had mentioned, in order to spare channel from which his father's had himself and me the trial of parting, strayed—that Howard might become and it further stated, that I might

a priest. Even that plea was vain. All the passionate entreaties that I uttered, every burning tear that I shed, while they affected him, were powerless to alter his determination with, or without my consent, he was resolved to leave me, he said "The attack which had threatened then, forever." Mrs. Courtney obliged to pause. The recital had harrowed her feelings till they were again wrought to that pitch anguish to which they strung at the time of which she and her sobs broke forth, spoke, while Ellen, almost equally affected, cried in unison.

When, at length, the mother resumed, more than one gasping breath told how she was still far

from being calm. "When I knew that it would be useless to attempt further to change his resolution, I sought to know how often I might hear from him. never intended to write to me, he said; with his departure would sever, at once and for all time, every domestic tie. My heart seemed to freeze. I had not thought that he would proceed to such stern ngths, and my agony broke forth afresh. I besought him if he would not write, at least to invent some means by which I might know that was still living, even though I should not learn whether he were well or ill. I promised, if he would only send some one whom I should to come from him, that I would be content-that I would not ask a single question of the messenger: I would not seek, even should opportunity present, to discover his own whereabouts, until he himself should inform me; I would give the messenger no communication from myself, other than a ver bal statement of our health, and such circumstances as might immediately concern my children. He consented to that appeal, and taking one of the cards of which his tablets were composed, he wrote upon the word Morte-Death-to signify that I must consider him dead to all affections of the past-and he gave it to me saying, that whoever should bring me a similar card, I might receive as a messenger to let me know that my husband was living. Having won so much, hope made me bold to plead for more. asked, if in the future Howard should, through the wonderful goodness of God, become a priest, would he not then return-would not all the years of enstrangement which he must pass ere that event could take place be sufficient atonement for the wrong he fancied he had committed, and would he not then come back to his wife and his home? That appeal also seemed to move him; he answered as I desired, and then I solemnly promised to pray fervently that Heaven would give my boy a vocation for the priest-hood, and to watch every bent

every thought of his mind that each might be early and constantly dir ected towards the Church. I prom-When Howard was two years old ised further that no circumstances, no suffering, physical or mental, should ever induce me to pass a night from this, my husband's home -that I would make myself a prisoner, as it were, for his sake, until my hope should be fulfilled or every chance of fulfilment be lost which had been the real cause of his either by the death of Howard, or otherwise. Alas! I knew not then the anguish which in the future seemed to accept my pledge, and then he named a day in the coming week as the time of his departure. Satisfied that there were still some choice, he delayed beginning his days before that on which he would sacred studies, and when he accepted so cruelly leave me, I sought to rethe invitation to come to Ashland store myself to quiet and to silent proaching trial. Exhausted and ill from the emotions which I had undergone on the afternoon that he announced his cruel determination. I retired, early, but it was to sleep only when the night was far advanced. I was wakened by frightful dreams, and, what was worse, a terrible presentment that my husband had already gone. The gray dawn was glimmering through the windows. Allan was not in the room, nor had his place in the bed been occupied. I rushed frantically into his dressing-room. He was not there; and, scarcely conscious of what I was doing, I hurried down through the silent house to the until now it almost threatened his library, thinking that he might not yet have left that apartment, owing to the business he had been transacting there the evening before : but mighty God, and that heroic wives it was alike empty, and, faint and dizzy, I sought to return. I fell exhausted at the door of Anne Flanagan's apartment, which I was loved him too madly, too wildly, to obliged to pass to reach my own. The noise of my fall awoke her, and she came hastily out. I was still conscious, and she assisted me into her room, where I had strength enough to tell her to summon no bury himself in a distant solitude. I one, before I became utterly unconscious. When I recovered, I found myself uttering wild words. I jumped up in terror, for I suddenly remembered all the anguish of the past hour, and I felt I had been raving of that which I had meant to maintain so profoundly secret.
Anne's face told me that she had learned something from my incoherthe married state, to remain and ent sentences. I questioned her. My surmise was correct; and, finding truth of what I said, but he declared that she knew so much, I told her if he acted as I desired that total all that had happened. I was glad aberration of mind, with perhaps even a decay of physical health, hour, and she promised the secrecy be the inevitable result. I I desired. Afterwards I found on seized upon another plea; for him my own dressing table the note to remain, and by superintending which Allan had left for me, and which stated that he had gone thus secretly, and in advance of the time

explain his mysterious absence in that which was to bring his father any manner I chose. Of course there was but one explanation which I could or would give of his absence: I was virtually a widow and I donned a widow's costume and replied to all the inquiries, which a time

Oh! bitter, bitter was the separ ation! I used frequently to think it was heaven's own retribution for the broken pledge of my youth, and then I used to fancy that I had really wronged the noble heart of my husband by giving to him affections which of right had belonged to another-that I had no right to his love or confidence, and heaven itself had deprived me of them. With such remorse was I constantly tor-mented, and the only drop of comfort in my cup of woe was the thought that by faithfully endeavoring to fulfil every iota of the pledge I had given Allan, I might become worthy of his regard, and by patiently enduring all the agony of my enforced widowhood I might atone to heaven for my early sin.

"When a little over a year had elapsed a strange foreign looking man came, bearing the card Allan had promised to send. I cried with joy over the bit of pasteboard. knew the inscription on it so well, it was almost as if I was clasping my husband's hand. I bade the messenger tefl that we were well: and true to my promise I refrained from asking a single question, though my lips quivered to do so. But even had I yielded to my impulses and yielded to my impulses and inquired for my husband, I would not have been answered, for the strange man signified that he would bear my message, he at the same time made signs that he could

not speak. I pressed the stranger to accept my hospitality. He only shook his ead, and evinced that he desired to depart as speedily as possible. in every year he came after that, always maintaining the same silence, and though I poured forth the cry of my heart to him, that he might bear to Allan, I refrained from asking a single question. All my energies were devoted to the care of Howard and you. My heart used to sink when I saw the delicacy of Howard's constitution, for he seemed so often, in his very early boyhood, near to death's portals. When I consented to permit him to attend school, and accompanied him to procure his admission, what was my surprise and my delight to behold brother in law in the person of the religious to whom I addressed myself. Francis Courtney had become Brother Fabian."

There was a slight scream and a start from Ellen.
"Brother Fabian my uncle?" she

cried, her whole face lighting up with the joy occasioned by the strange disclosure.

Yes, your uncle," repeated Mrs. Courtney, and then mother and daughter were silent for a few minutes, as if both required time to recover from their agitation.

We had a long interview," Mrs. Courtney at length resumed, Howard's childish ears could not listen to what we said, for Brother Fabian, having died to all ties of kindred, did not wish the child to look upon him as a relative and I, having long before taught your Brother and you to regard father as dead, did not wish my boy, who was intelligent beyond his years, to hear the confidence I was now all—my pledge to Allan—the hope and go home with old Patrick in the on which I built his return, and how regarded my suffering as retribution for my broken troth to him. He made scarcely any reply, and he was cold and strange, I thought but then I deemed that the result, per-haps, of his ascetic vows. Howhaps, of his ascetic vows. ever, he promised that all care should be bestowed upon Howard, fallen into such careful hands. Eagerly I watched the bent of my son's mind, delighted when I saw its greed for learning. He seemed to be piously inclined, and were it not for the anxiety which his health still occasionally caused, my hope would have been buoyant indeed. When I attempted to seek consolation from brother Fabian, when I would have him say that Howard promised fair to one day enter the church, his stern manner repelled ne. I felt always as if his religious life caused him to view my broken troth as being more base than it had appeared even to his worldly eyes. and that he was constantly remem bering that fact against me-that it even militated against the affection

he might have had for Howard. " Now you will be able to judge of my sorrow and well-nigh despair, that it when Howard was attacked by that I'll die." illness which resulted in his going to Europe. The end seemed so nearly accomplished he had already expressed a desire to enter college, in order to begin his sacred studies that I could not be resigned to his death. Did he but live ordained. I felt I could willingly yield him: but oh! not before. In the extremity of my grief I ventured to appeal to Brother Fabian, that he might give me hope of my boy's re-covery; but his answer was only a him capable of entertaining a remembrance of the past. It was heaven's will to spare Howard; but his very convalescence dashed my hopes. His conversations with you were not such as would indicate that hint," he whispered, "so aisy, Jerry, his mind still turned to the priest- aisy, my boy." hood, and fervently I prayed that Jerry winked back in sympathetic any suffering might be sent upon approval and the talk ran awhile

back. And his conversations with you inspired me with new alarm The opinions he advanced were not such as a young neophyte of the Church should entertain, but those of one who was imbued with but curiosity or other motives prompted, worldly ambition; whose faith that my husband was dead to me for would yield rather than his life should be deprived of its object. He vas not himself aware that he was advancing theories inconsistent with the principles he had been taughtit was simply the ambition of his clever mind which was clamoring but I saw and knew the danger in which he stood, and my heart sank indeed. I had refused to give him to God through death, but the world would claim him, and, perhaps, ruin

TO BE CONTINUED

PATRICK CASSIDY'S NATAL DAYS

As Patrick Cassidy, seventy years old, or young rather, limped down the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City after high Mass on the seventeenth of March, it was no easy thing to keep one's footing on Buttoning up his the icy sidewalk. great coat tightly about his chin the old man, however, stepped out bravely, trusting to his big blackthorn stick to hold him up in any immediate disaster. He evaded the more treacherous places as best he might amidst the throngs of people who like him, had been to honor Ireland's patron saint at the great celebration just concluded in the famous Church which the Irish have raised to the honor of his name in Manhattan.

A smile like the morning sun on Mangerton Mountain in his own Kerry, lit up the old man's face. there was Officer Tim O'Sullivan on duty at the crossing and that meant top o' the mornin' " and Patrick's pot on you," and a " come over and dhrown your shamrock soon as you can, boy," to the pair of

them. Now it may be stated here that Dhrownin' the shamrock" to either old Patrick Cassidy or the son of his life-long friend, Jerry O'Sullivan, meant nothing of a more intoxicating nature than the strongest cup of real Irish tea that Mrs. Norah Cassidy could brew in the brown teapot that always stood, as a kind of family in stitution, at the back of the kitchen range.

Hurrying up to have the first word with the big "cop" whose uplifted hand flung Fifth Avenue's traffic back and forth like an ebbing and flowing tide, old Patrick met with the fate that waits on all rashly impulsive folks. He stumbled on a jagged spar of ice, tried to regain his balance and then pitched, headlong, almost under the wheels of a big limousine. Stopping all traffic from both ways with a wave of his hand, as imperious as any ever used by a Cæsar of old, Tim O'Sullivan lifted the old man in his arms and carried him to the other side of the street. A whistle call brought four officers to the spot.

"Hennessy," said Tim to one of the four about him, "this is my father's old friend, Patrick Cassidy you know where he lives on Seventh Send a man up to Billy Hughes at the hotel on the corner to have a taxi take him home and tell Billy himself to come along and take care of him. Then I want you to go Patrick," said Jerry, "tell me about to Mike Doolin at this near drugstore and say that I said he was to imparting. I told my brother in law bring some bandages down with him all—my pledge to Allan—the hope and go home with old Patrick in the get Mass. When he heard the Rosary story. officer he gave the crisp command "Jim, telephone my father and say he is to spend the whole day with Mr. Cassidy to keep his mind off the parade, for I know his wife won't let him out again this afternoon. I'll be

over as soon as I can." In the meantime Patrick Cassidy and I thanked God that my boy had had come to his senses again in the taxi that was whisking him up to his Seventh avenue home. Looking around him Patrick found Billy Hughes and Mike Doolin supporting him on either side and felt a queer stiffness all over his aching body.
"Is it killed and dead entirely I

asked the old man. what't happened to me, at all, at all? On hearing that he was still in the land of the living, Patrick drew a long breath of relief and declared that not an inch beyond the next

corner would he go in any cab so long as he could put a foot under him. "Sure the life would be fright-ened out of Norah," he said, "and this bein' St. Patrick's Day, when something sthrange always happens to me. Wasn't I born on St. Patrick's Day, and married on that day, too; ave, and I have a feelin' in my bones that it will be on a St. Patrick's Day

Finding the old man was only a bit shaken up after his fall the two men left him at his own door and went back to report to Officer O'Sullivan. In the meantime Mrs. Cassidy was bustling around getting a hot cup of tea for her lord and master after his morning's outing, and it was in full enjoyment of this "Patrick's pot," that old Jerry O'Sullivan found his friend when he called after a short time. With many winks and hand-shakes and putting of fingers to lips behind reproach to me for having supposed his wife's back Patrick made Jerry understand that not a word of his accident was to be repeated: " She'll be packing me off to bed with as many blankets on me as there's skin on an onion, if she hears the least

Jerry winked back in sympathetic me, only that Howard might become along natural channels. The Euro. was a widower and took a shine to study.

"the ould part," were thrashed out to marry him as soon as the country to a finish, then, with a little insin was settled. Many a time she kept uating cough, Patrick asked: afthernoon, Jerry ?"

Indeed, and the man has more away in the garden. sense than to be outsthravaging along 'night I want to be tellin' you about I the cold sthreets such a day as this,' struck in Mrs. Cassidy, "you're not forge with an armful of pike-heads goin' to expose yourself to your death in such wheather, Jerry, and himself Norah's garden. When I got to the there is leapin' out of his skin to be middle of the Lynch's pasture, at the out cheerin' and yellin' like a gos-

Jerry soothingly, "I am goin' to spend the whole day here with yourelf and Patrick, talkin' about old times, and, maybe, along in the me from behind and sent me spraw evenin' Tim and a couple of the boys lin' into the ditch behind Norah's and girls will come up and bring my house. On account of the darkness fiddle, and we'll have a real St. Pat- I did not know what I fell over or rick's party for ourselves."

Old Patrick Cassidy's face beamed again like the sun on his own beloved Kerry hills, and Norah jumped out of her chair like a colleen of sixteen. to be goin' and gettin' the dinner ready and a few things for the middle of the field and the ditch childher when they'd com.' one of your currant cakes, Norah, alanna," said Patrick, " and don't be too light with the currants."

Left by themselves, the two old cronies lit their pipes and drew up close to the warm stove, in happy As luck would have it I had no sooner anticipation of a long day's shanna-

"Jerry, I was dhreadin' you were goin' to tell Norah about my fall this armful of steel, that had broken said Patrick, looking mornin'." around first to make sure he was not overheard. "God knows there are no secrets between us but herself and the childer are killin' me with kindness and if something out of the way didn't happen to me once in a while I would feel like I was bein' smothed in cotton wool. Musha, amn't I the same myself,"

said Jerry. "Between Mary and the boys, I'm bein' kilt with kindness, Sure not a hand's turn do they let me do and myself one of the hardiest workmen that ever earned a dollar. Patrick, avic, the worst thing about growin' old is to be coddled to death when you were never used to out of it that would freeze your heart such treatment in your young days." Oh, well, Jerry," said Patrick there's many a man at our sagely, age tryin' to make a livin' for himself and maybe family, too. Thanks be to God we have good childer that took that load off our back many a year ago and that are only too glad and ready to make the end of our lives as happy as our hearts can If you haven't love in this want. world, Jerry, you have nothing-now

' How was it up at the Cathedral this mornin'?" asked Jerry. "I went to St. Brigid's myself, and we had a grand sermon and the crowds of the world were in it. hardly get a seat, at all, at all.

that's what I say.'

"Oh, it was grand in St. Patrick's too," answered Patrick, "but somehow all through Mass I kept thinkin of the old chapel at home in Kilglen and the neighbors comin' in on a St. Patrick's Day with their little sprigs of shamrock. Arrah, Jerry, do you remember old Mike Monahan that used to give out the Rosary before Mass on Sundays? Well, it ran into head this mornin' about how he called down a man from another parish one time for darin' to take up Mystery that he had no right to bedad. I nearly laughed in church thinkin' of it."

I don't remember the happenin'

"Well, this man was travellin' to bein' given out he thought it no harm to take up the third Mystery, but up jumped old Mike, and turnin' a look on the poor stranger that put the heart crossways in him, says he: What part of Ireland did you come from, or is it ignorant you are that you don't know that this is Peter Lynch's Mystery?'

The old men were cackling over Patrick's story when Mrs. Cassidy came in from the kitchen bringing a spicy smell of cake-baking with her Jerry," she said, " so long as himself there is in the humor of talking about old times get him to tell you of the night before the Fenian risin' when Sergeant Kelly took him for a ghost.'

Yerra, woman, hold your tongue, muttered Patrick as if the reminis-cence was little to his liking, "the sergeant wouldn't have taken me for any ghost it you hadn't put it in his

"Well, tell us the story anyhow, urged the other two old folks.

"It was just before the 67 risin, began Patrick, "I was courtin' Norah there at the time and there was more divilment in her head than any other colleen in all Kerry. You remember father had a carpenter shop on the Killarney road, and through them troubled times he was preaching against the Fenians night, noon and mornin,' moryah! Sure his cabbage garden was the hidin' place we had for the guns, and it was himself used to make the pike handles for the boys for miles around. There were two potato pits at the back of the house full of guns with the spuds packed in as nice as you please on top of them, and the middle of the haystack was full of pikeheads. Why, Norah's old mother lay in bed, a dying woman, by the way, for a whole month with Dr. Murphy pourin' physic into her and six bran'-new rifles between the feather ticks under her. Norah herself there was such a hater of Fenianism that there was no one at all for her but the police. You were gone out of Kilglen then, Jerry, so you don't remember Sergeant Kelly. He

war and the latest news from Norah, and the young divil promised "Are him beside her by the kitchen fire to see the parade this while her father and the rest of us were either fixin' pikes or hidin' them Well, on the was comin' over from Dan McGrath's and two guns to hide with others in back of Norah's house I tripped and fell over something soft and hairy You're right, Norah," answered and with two big eyes shinin' like

depended on it, than something hit lin' into the ditch behind Norah's what hit me, but that field of Lynch's aving a bad name as bein' haunted, I thought it was the spirit of old Ton Lynch, who gave information in '98, was afther me. I don't know how many jumps I made between the where I landed, but they were good jumps, if I do say it meself. When I got to the top of the ditch and looked over the other side what should I see but herself there and Sergeant Kelly lain down flat on the top of the ditch than the moon came out between the through its covers. I tried to pull the tails of my coat over them, but that only made things worse for the lights kept coming out in glints where the wind flapped my old cottamore up and down. It wasn't long before the sergeant's eagle eye spotted me, for I saw him pointing his finger my way, and that was when Norah, there, came to the rescue. Giving a shriek out of her that would raise the dead she flung her arms around the sergeant's necl and held him back against the wall. At the same time, whatever it was chased me over the field began to make a low shivery kind of a sound and gizzard. I could hear Norah yellin' at the top of her lungs. James, dear, for my sake, don't go near it. Don't you know it is the ghost of the '98 thraitor that is in it and it will mean your death to cross its path. James, James, come into

near it, James, I won't let you 'By this time I was aware of what Norah was trying to do to save me and I began wavin' the tails of my old coat up and down to make it look more and more like a ghost with a flashlight attachment, until after awhile I saw her pull the sergeant inside the back door and, flinging my load into a lilac bush in the corner of the garden, I ran for home like the divil was after me. Of course I may tell you, I didn't take the short cut over Lynch's field, either. The next St. Patrick's Day, Norah and myself were married in Kilglen and came out to this country, so that's the end of my story."

the house and get myself and father

to see you home. I won't let you go

" No. it isn't, Patrick " Norah said you didn't tell us what it was that frightened you in Lynch's field.' Patrick Cassidy laughed sheepish

"Sure, it was Lynch's donkey I over, and Mike Monahan's old goat that, somehow got into Lynch's fields, and butted me across the rest of the way. That darned animal used to cry like a banshee whenever he felt like it anyhow."

Jerry O'Sullivan laughed long and

Do you know, Patrick," he said, that James Kelly's son is runnin' a notor thruck here in New York, and I met him a week ago at Daniel Flynn's wake? We were all sittin' around tryin' to pass the time tellin stories, and he told us about the night his father had seen the lantern of old Lynch, the informer of '98 shinin' on the top of a ditch in Kerry. Here Mrs. Cassidy came bustling

in from the kitchen: "Come on, now," she said, "it is time the two of you stopped palaverin.' I've the finest piece of corned beef out here that ever ended its days in a bed of cabbage, and, Patrick, avic, you can have all the current cake you're wantin' with your tea."

The two old men needed no second invitation, and, sitting at the head of his plentifully spread table, Patrick Cassidy lifted up his hands in grateful prayer "to the Giver of all good things." "Holy St. Patrick," he prayed in conclusion, "I was born on your day and married on your day and many more throuble has hap pened to me on the same day that Ireland honors ye, but holy Saint let me die on your own day, too, and I'll be satisfied

Patrick Cassidy's prayer was granted. Last St. Patrick's Day, as he knelt at High Mass with a sprig of shamrock in his coat—a sprig of shamrock that came from Kerry and was pinned in its place by his devoted old wife, Norah, before he left home and with his Rosary beads in his fingers, he slipped off his seat and only lived long enough to receive the last rites of the Church. A kindly worshipper beside him, who held the told man's grey head on his knees to he end, said he babbled of "Kerry, Norah," and "the boys," before he died, but his last words were : "O. Jesus and Patrick, into your

hands And so an exile of Erin went to

rest.

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