## THE BLAKES AND FLANAGANS.

BY MRS JAS. A. SADLIER. CHAPTER XXII. CONCLUSION.

Mr. O'Callaghan lived about two years after Tim Flanagan, and then calmly resigned his spirit into the hands of Him who gave it. His whole fortune, Amounting to thirty thousand dollars, amounting to thirty thousand dollars, came into the hands of Edward Flanagan, with the exception of four thousand dollars divided between the nephew and niece of the decased. So John nagan was two thousand dollars rich Finnagan was two thousand dollars richer by the death of Mr. O'Callaghan; but, neither John's two thousand, nor Edward's twenty-six thousand, was considered any equivalent for the loss of the kindly old man who had been looked up to as the head of the family ever since Tim's decease.

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Lawrence Daly had comme mess for himself a couple of years be-fore, and his uncle's legacy "gave him a good lift." He and Annie were both a good lift." a good lift. He and Annie de aven blessed their efforts with success. They still kept on the same small business, and hoarded up their little capital, so were wholly independent, and able to give their young family a good educa-

Daniel Sheridan and Jenny were still the same easy going, good hearted couple, able and willing to assist the needy, never making any show, yet respected and beloved by all who knew The last glimpse we had o them they were jogging merrily along, on the road of life, in a comfortable Darby and Joan sort of way, the one helping and supporting the other through the various sloughs and rough which marked their journey to places which marked their journey to the tomb. Every year, when the hurry of the paschal time was over with their son Peter, they used to go and spend a couple of weeks with him, sometimes accompanied by Mike's family or Annie's, but more often by themselves, leaving some of the others to take charge of the house while they were

Miles Blake and his wife had entered on a cheerless old age; lonely and solitary they lived together, surrounded by cold and chilling splendor, which had no longer any charms for them. Miles had always been of a dogged and reserved turn, but of late years he had grown gloomy and morose; religion had no consolation for his bruised and wounded heart, for he had never tried or tasted of its sweetness. A Catholic at in name, he hardly ever approached the sacraments, unless it might be once a year, just to avoid the extreme awarded by the Church to those who neglected their paschal duty. Mary went oftener to confession, but somehow, its healing balm gave little peace to her mind. She became fretful peace to her mind. and irritable; subject to fits of queru-lous impatience, during which she made every one around her miserable. Th was, that conscience was lashing both husband and wife ; they could not but see in their present desolation, the effect of past imprudence; and in their humiliation, the consequence of rashnes and presumption. The warnings of the good and wise, now numbered with the dead, rose up before them in characters of flame, and seemed, as it were, to sear their souls. Their children were sehamed of them -that fact was clear they had no claim on the sympathy of their relatives or former friends, for they had turned their backs on them in the day of prosperity, when they cal-culated on friends of another class. Look where they might, all was gloom, and yet they could not raise their eyes to that better world where sin or sorrow has no place. At times one or the other would begin to yearn for the tion of an outraged parent, and say: "Well, after all, I think I'll go and see Henry, or Eliza to-day," which ever it might be, but the visit would be sure to tear open the old wounds and add still others. On one of these occasions, Miles returned home with a lowering brow and a teverish flush on his cheek.

at the door, "how did you get on? was Henry at home?"

"No, he wasn't at home," returned Miles snappishly, "and if I'm spared twenty years, I'll never darken his door again—nor you either, Mary, with my consent. Let them go to the devil,

where they are going headlong."
"Why, what has happened to make "H's not worth speaking of," said Miles, "for it's only what I might have expected, but still and all, it's hard enough for a father to be so treated in his son's house. When I went in, I was showed into that little room opposite the best parlor, and the girl told me well, I waited and waited, and walked about the room, and sat down again, but no Jane appeared. So I rang the bell and asked the servant if I couldn't go in and see her mistress, as I wouldn't detain her long, and only wanted to speak to her and leave a message for my son. I wish you'd see the terrified of the girl, as she cried: dear, no, sir, you couldn't go in on any account, Missis would never forgive me-la, sir they're quite grand the people that are in there.' Well, I was vexed enough you may be sure, but I asked if I couldn't see the children, and se the girl went out to look for the that they wouldn't come, the unnatural young cubs; and it's what I heard one of them saying: 'If it's my old Irish grandpa that's there, I don't want to see him. I don't care—you may tell him so, Sarah, if you like.' With that, the girl came back to tell me that she guessed the children must have gone out, for she couldn't find them nowhere. If I didn't give her a look, she never got one, I tell you, and she got as red as a coal, but she said nothing, and neither did I. Out I walked, and it will be a month of Sundays before ever I cross that same threshold again. Those and I. Out I walked, and it will be a month of Sundays before ever I cross that same threshold again. Those thildren are growing up in a bad way, coind I teli you, Mary !"

A strange presentment seemed to opposition. Many a worthy son of Irebath and was put to the blush by Henry T. Blake's example, cited for their imitation by those who hated their race and "And what about those poor children are growing up in a bad way, coind I teli you, Mary!"

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"I know it very well," said Mrs. Blake, "and that is just the way the world goes all over. Like father like son, and like mother like daughter. Eliza's children aren't one bit better, and how could they? how could any of them be what they ought to be, when neither Zach nor Eliza has any religion worth speaking of, nor Henry either, neither Zach nor Eliza has any religion worth speaking of, nor Henry either, and as for Jane, her religion isn't worth having, though she has enough of it to make her as black as the ace of spades. I declare to my heart, Miles, it makes my brain reel at times when I begin to think of all these things. When I see the Flansgans and the Sheridans, the Dalys and the Reillys, all getting on as well as heart could wish. Good obedient children they always were, and now they are good religious fathers and mothers. They're eligious fathers and mothers. all contented and happy, well liked by God and man, and then just look at the Flanagan's, I'm sure there's not the Flanagan's, I'm sure there's not a more prosperous family in New York, or a more respectable one, though they're all so religious; and yet you used to say that religion dldn't pay well in this country. Ah, Miles! we didn't think of all this in time, though it was given tald up by them that's now it was often told us by them that's now

"Ay! there it is," said Miles ; "it's always the old story over again. Flanagan's advice haunts me when himself is in the grave. It will haunt me do what I will, but I'll tell you what it is, Mary, don't you be casting it up to me—don't now, or you'll not be thankful to yourself! Those hateful proph ecies of his are ringing in my ears from morning till night, like a death-bell, and you must be coming over them

This was the termination of many debate between Miles Blake and his wife, and very often the dispute waxed so warm that Mrs. Flanagan was called in by the servant, who, being an old follower, was anxious to restore peace. advanced, these recrimina tions became more frequent and more violent, until Mrs. Flanagan was obliged to have recourse to Dr. Power. then rapidly nearing the fatal bourn He was unable to leave his own house, but Mrs. Flanagan contrived to have Miles and Mary go there one m under divers pretences, and the good priest exerted all the little energy that re nained to him to bring both partie to a more Christian frame of mind. He at length succeeded in convincing them that it was now more than ever their interest to live in perfect harmony, on account of their children's estrangement, and that idle retrospections were both useless and ill timed. From that day forward there was a vast improve-ment visible in both husband and wife; happiness or contentment they did not expect in this world, but they were induced to think more of the salvation of their souls, and to bear the hardships of their lot as a means of expiat-ing their sins. Their reconciliation acquired a solemn character in their eyes by the death of Dr. Power, which took place soon after. He had told them at the time that he spoke to them from the verge of eternity, and the event showed that he spoke prophetically. He lingered yet a little while, though wholly unable to perform the principal functions of his almly resigned to the will of God, and awaiting without fear, the final sum-

tion. Thank heaven he lived to see the Catholic children of New York amply provided with the means of education. Dr. Power was a mighty man in his generation-in the early other would begin to yearn for the society of their children. Now it would be Miles, now Mary, who would endeavor to overcome the natural indignation of an outraged parent, and say:

society of their children. Now it would day when his services were most required,—but a mightier than he described into the arena where the School question was being agitated, my good sir, and leave religion on the specific response to the present. It has been said and through his thrice blessed exer tions, the Empire City can now boast of old that of as good Catholic schools as any on glad, -so it of the Western Continent. The Brothers of the Christian Schools and the Jesuit Fathers labor conjointly in the Christian education of youth, doing for boys what the Ladies of the Sacred Heart

nons. He died as he lived in close

communion with his God, and a martyr

to the iniquitous system of lay trustees.

the man who stood by them

Long, long will his memory live in the hearts of the Catholics of New York, as

roublous times, and soothed the sor-

rows of their struggling state with his

nild eloquence and his gentle ministra-

"Well !" said his wife, meeting him at the door, "how did you get on? and the Sisters of Charity do for girls of all conditions. New York has now its Jesuit colleges, its Christian Jesuit colleges, its Christian bools, its Mount St. Vincent, and its ed Heart, watchwords, of hope and y to generations yet unborn.
And Henry T. Blake and his sister,

Mrs. Thomson, saw all these Catholic institutions rising and flourishing institutions rising and flourishing around them, but no child of theirs ever entered such sacred walls. The dark spell was upon them-the cold indifference of their youth—their year long neglect of the means of grace their contempt for Catholic customs and Catholic devotions had grown into a hard callous crust, impervious to the genial rays of faith, hope, or charity. Religion was dead within them, and the world—the fashionable world, was the god of their worship. They sent their children to the same schools where their own faith had been ship wrecked, and the consequences wer the same, only more decided. Henr r. Blake came from Columbia College very bad Catholic, his sons went into it without religion of any kind, saving a sort of predilection in favor of the Baptist sect—what they came out may well be guessed. Ebenezer and Samuel well be guessed. Ebenezer and Samuel were trained up by their mother and were trained up by their mother and her family in a wholesome horror of Catholicity, and a great contempt for everything Irish; it is, therefore, quite probable that they are now to be found the front ranks of the Know-Nothings, urging on the godless fana-ticism of the age, in a crusade against the religion of their fathers and the children of their own race. As for their father, he gloried in his freedom from all prejudice, as he was pleased to call piety and religious influence. He was a staunch opponent of the Cath lie party in all their struggles for needom of education, and by his inent talents did good service to

their creed, and many a time was the fervent exclamation heard: "I wish to God he hadn't a drop of Irish blood him, for he's a disgrace to his name But still the world smiled on Henry T. Blake; he attained to a prominent position at the American bar, and after position at the American par, and after some time got into the legislature. Outwardly, all went right with him, but inwardly, all went wrong. A fine intellect, a noble nature, were going rapidly to ruin for want of the pruning rapidly to full for wait of the hand, and the salutary restraint of religion. The mocking demon of doubt and incredulity was gradually taking possession of that soul whence faith had been so early expelled. Henry T. Blake was fast becoming a scoffer-s de laimer against all religion.

Still it must not be supposed that Henry T. Blake ever formally left the Henry T. Blake ever formally left the Catholic Church. On the contrary, he always called himself a Catholic, and would never listen to any suggestions recommending a change. Many a time he was besieged with all the reasoning and vituperative powers of Tomkins Pearson and Com-

of Tomkins, Pearson and Com-pany, but he had still a way of getting out, and generally contrived to evade the discussion. He used to spike the enemy's guns, as he laughingly boasted to Joe Smith. Once, when Tomkius, Milmore and Jane were belaboring Catholicity with all their might, and endeavoring to persuade Henry to "come forth from Babylon," he tool them all by surprise.

Now do you really suppose," said he, "that you are going to make a Protestant of me? If you do, I tell you candidly, once for all, that you are you candidly, once for all, that you are egregiously mistaken. No Catholic can ever become a Protestant in heart, though some may be found to conform outwardly for motives best known to themselves. As for me, I had no mind to play the hypocrite, so you may give up the notion of making me a convert. I give you fair notice now, gentlemen, so that you may in future spare yourso that you may in future spare your-selves the trouble of angling for me. Believe me, you have no bait that can

entice me.
"But, my dear Mr. Blake," said
Tomkins, "you seem to have cast off
much of the mire of Romish superstition;
I did hope that your excellent understanding was awakened to the saving knowledge of the truth which is in "—

"Don't mention any sacred names, I pray you," said Henry laughing; "you and I understand each other, Mr. Tomkins, at least I hope so. Now, mark me, reverend sirs, I shall be always happy to see you in my house, and at my table, so long as you let me alone about religion; but, if ever either of you renew this attack, from that moment my doors are closed against you. You may talk to my wife here as long as you please—provided you don't make a Mormon of her, and aggregate her to one or other of your families; but, for me—I am a very bid Catholic, I am willing to own, but, I shall never be a Protestant."

The two ministers were extremely disconcerted; for, to say the truth each had been calculating on Henry as a convert for some time past, and this udden annihilation of their hopes was more than they could bear with equani mity. It took a good solid slice o potted beef, ditto of cold roast mutton, washed down with half a bottle or so of ood old port, to revive the inner mass f each reverend propagandist. Having paid their respects to the excellent lunch set before them, they began to feel better both inwardly and outwardly and their contumacious host was as sured by both that they would never again impugn his religious belief. was all because of their pressing de sire, they said, to secure

salvation.
"Many thanks, gentlemen," said
Henry laughing, "for your kind an
xiety about my spiritual welfare; but
allow me to tell you, now that I am allow me to tell you, now that I am speaking plainly, that, when I consider my salvation in danger, I know who to call in. Let us eat, drink and be merry. wine maketh the heart

glad,'—so it does; but, religion maketh the heart sad—that is my conviction.'' And well might Henry say so. To him religion wore the lowering aspect of a stern monitor, a severe mistress he knew her not as the gentle soother of human woe—the one sweet drop in life's bitter cup—the magic glass that brings the joys of heaven within the reach of the humble, hopeful Christian. He never knew the sweetness of re ligion; how, then, could be love or

prize it? And so it was, too, with his sisternay, still worse. Although believing in her heart, like Henry that all religions were but a sham, still, she had not the firmness to adhere to her own. Very early in her married life, she left off going to confession, simply because Zachary turned the practice into ridicule. When her mother used to re-monstrate with her on the danger of such neglect, she would cut her short with: "there's no use talking, ma! cannot, and will not have Zachary and all the Thomsons laughing at me. They do make such fun of me about confession that it makes me feel downright miserable. I must only wait for the chance of going unknown to any of

"But, what if death came on you before you'd have the opportunity?"
"Oh! no fear of that, ma! I hope I shall have time to get the last sacraments-surely, God will not take me so very short.

"There's no saying, Eliza," said or mother, gravely; "I was too long her mother, gravely; "I was too long of your way of thinking myself, but, thanks to God and Father Power, both your father and I have had our eyes opened. Take care of what you're about, Eliza-death might be nearer

than you suppose."
Eliza smiled, and said: "I hope not, ma! but you're really enough to frighten one almost to death. There's no use in your taking on so, for I have already told you, that confession is altogether out of the question—at least

for some time."

A strange presentiment seemed to

iren of yours," said she: "what is to come of them?"
"Why, of course, ma! I intend to

why, or course, ma: I intend to bring the girls up Catholics, but Zach-ary insists on having the boys go with himself Indeed, I'm afraid I shall have some trouble with Arabella, for some trouble with Arabella, for she seems to be more of a Protestant than a Catholic. But, then, after a year or two more, I shall persuade Zachary to send her to the Sacred Heart, and that will make all straight. Evelina, too, must go when she gets to be nine or ten years old. Will that

please you, ma?"

Mrs. Blake was far from being satisfied; but, as Eliza said, there was really no use in talking, so she had to give in for that time, though the dark reboding still lay heavy on her heart almost unconsciously to herself.

Eliza was then very near her confinement. Preparations for the grand

ment. Preparations for the game event were going on rapidly, and no cloud seemed to darken the bright heaven of her hopes. But the sky darkened all at once, and the lightning lashed, and the thunderbolt fell with an awful crash. Eliza got over her confinement well, and gave birth to an other son; but, immediately afterwards inflammation set in, and she lived but a few hours. She had, still, time enough to make her peace with God; but, her whole anxiety was to live, not to pre-pare for death. To the very last she could not believe it possible that she was to die—to be torn from her husband, her children, her happy home—so young, too, and so unprepared. No! no! it could not be—God could not be so cruel. Alas! God was not cruel; he was only just. Mr. and Mrs. Blake were sent for in great haste when their daughter was found to be in danger, and the first thing the mother did was to send off for the priest. Eliza herself would not hear of the priest, because she could not believe herself in danger Zachary helped to keep up the illusion, saying it was time enough to send for a priest when there was no longer any hope. Meanwhile, Mrs. Blake's messenger went to the priest's house, but, there was no priest there. The two were out on sick-calls in opposite directions. After the lapse of ha hour or so, one of them came in, and set out immediately with the messenger. But he came too late. Death was be-fore him. The soul was already gone to meet its Judge, and to answer a bar of Christ for all the years and all the graces it had squandered away. Time was no more for Eliza Thomson; she had departed ten minutes before the entrance of the priest, crying out, nay, shricking, for "a priest!—a priest!"—but no priest came. "Oh! mother!" cried the wretched woman. "mother, pray for me—but, what good can prayers do me? I didn't pray myself when I was able. I didn't confes I didn't do anything for the other world

and here I am on its threshold."

"Eliza, dear," whispered her heartwrung mother, " pray to the Blessed

"Ay! pray to her!" murmured Eliza, "pray to her now when I can't help myself. I hav n't prayed to her— I let every one around me—even my own children—speak slightingly of her oh ! I have no friend !-no friend ! Her voice failed her. She could only articulate, "my poor-poor children! oh, Zachary! have pity on them!-and she spoke no more. Her death was not accompanied with much bodily pain; but, it was fearfully, awfully, sudden, and overshadowed with the dark wing of despair. Her features, hitherto so fair and so sweet in their expression, became, all at once, withered, and old, and stamped, as it were, with a heavy sorrow. Alas! for the death of the careless, indifferent Christian. Well might a great saint of modern times make it his constant prayer: "Be my death sudden if Thou wilt, oh, Lord! but not unprovided!"

Mrs. Blake never got over the effects of that shock. She died of a broken heart a few months after her daughter, leaving Miles lonelier and sadder than ever. Bending beneath the load of icant, grief and remorse, uncared for, unpitied years, by his son, he would have been, indeed, a pitiable object with all his wealth. But Heaven had left him one resource. The Flanagans gathered round him with their kindest attentions; and he was, finally, induced to take up his abode at Mr. Fitzgerald's, where Ellie and her mother made his last days pass away more calmly and more happily than he had ever dared to expect. Henry sometimes represented to his wife, that it might be well to take the old man to ive with them on account of his money, which he might be tempted to leave to the Flanagans. But Jane would never

hear of any such thing.
"Let them have him," she would say, "and welcome. I wouldn't be worried with his odd ways for all the money he has to leave. If he is so unnatural a father as to enrich fawning

sycophants like them at the expense of his own flesh and blood, why, let him do it. We can get along without his money." Henry demurred, occasionally, but, it was no use, Mrs. Henry was The truth was, though she did not say so to her husband, she had a nervous fear of an old Catholic grandfather coming in contact with her children, fearing lest they might begin to backslide under his Jesuitical teachings. Like many others of her she had a very vague idea of Catholicity, and knowing nothing at all about Jesuits, or what they really were, she was in the habit of setting all good Catholics down as Josuits, and it was the great business of her life to keep her husband from becoming Jesuitical. As for her children, she was quite sure of them, for she eleverly managed to keep them aloof from all "Jesuitical influence," i.e., Catholic society. And

this was Jane's hobby, if hobby she had. Eliza's death had interfered with her plans considerably, for Henry was so frightened that he actually went to Mass four Sundays running, and was once in at the Confiteor. He even had an idea of going to confession, and did really go as far as the Church door, for that purpose, one fine Saturday afternoon; but, a professional friend came up at the moment, and asked him where up at the moment, and asked him where to persuade Miles to make a will in he was going—was he going to Church? The satirical smile that accompanied the words was fatal to our poor friend. He utterly refused. At length, however,

said he was just going in to look at a certain painting lately placed in that Church, and invited the other to go with him. No, he thanked him, he was in too great a hurry just then. Some other time, perhaps; but, in the meantime, he took Henry off with him to have a mintimizer at a neighboring time, he took Henry on with him to have a mint-julep at a neighboring saloon. That was the turning-point in Henry Blake's life, and his guardian-angel covered his face and wept. Conssion was never again thought of, except, in a dreamy sort of problematical way in connection with the closing scene of life's drama. Meanwhile, Henry Blake's sympathies are all with Henry Blake's sympathics are all with confession hating people. He will descant in eloquent terms on the antiquated folly of praying for the dead, making use of holy water, venerating relics, and other such Catholic practices, and will go so far as to admit that the first Reformers were certainly right in endeavoring to prune the old tree from all such monstrous expressences the growth of dark and

the old tree from all such monstrous excrescences—the growth of dark and superstitious times. He was particularly severe on the Pope, poor man! for "having or holding" any temporal power, and he was often heard to say that that alone was enough to make a sensible man ashamed of being a Catho lic. The States of the Church ways a great abomination to Henry T. Blake. He thought the Pope had no ousiness with temporal sovereignty, and that it was quite a mistake for him to pretend to any. The last accounts we heard of Henry, he was holding a confidential correspondence with Mazzini, taking care, at the same time, to pubfact so honorable to himself and the free country to which he had the happiness of belonging. In short, the Pope was a tyrant—the worst of all tyrants, a religious tyrant—and Henry . Blake made up his mind to frater nize with any man who declared against him. The Austrain Emperor was enough, Napoleon the Third something worse, the Russian Autocrat worse still; but, worse than all was Pius the Ninth, the despot of Rome. Such were and are the sentiments of Mr. Henry T. Blake on that much-discussed question -the temporal power of the Pope.
From this melancholy picture let cheerful char-

turn to one of a more cheerful char acter. Let us visit, for the last time the quiet, happy home of Tom Reilly and his mother. The blessing of God was in them and on them, and year after year their affairs prospered more and more. Tom, though considered close and hard by all his acquaintances, was yet a bountiful benefactor to the poor. What he gave to them he gave in secret, knowing that our heavenly father seeth in secret. Tom was in no way ostentatious and least of all in his charity. Even his mother hardly knew the full extent of all his liberality, though, in other respects, he made it a rule to consult her in all his affairs. True it was that Tom never spent his money, like other young men, at the theatre, for Tom had a wholesome dislike to theatres. He never went "on the spree," and seldom indulged in mint-juleps, sherry cobblers, or any other such bacchanalian devices. It was no wonder, then, that he was down as hard and saving. But there was no institution of Catholic charity in the city to which Tom was not a con tributor, and many a desolate home was made cheerful at times by his pitying kindness. It was his pride to have his mother as well dressed as any woman of her age need to be, and every summer he insisted on her going for some weeks to Staten Island, or Rockaway, or some watering - place. At first,

Reilly was very unwilling to go out her son, but in order to ensure her compliance, Tom always induced some of her friends to go with her at his ex pense. There was not in New York city a happier pair than Tom and his worthy mother. They had a nicely-furnished house, small indeed, but tasteful and comfortable. Together they went out, and together they came in. Mrs. Reilly was a weekly communicant, and Tom made it a point, of late lized years, to receive every month. The country is honored by that country fate of the Blakes and the Dillons was with some badge of distinction, wil a salutary lesson to him, though he had never been to say careless in regard to his religious duties. Mrs. Reilly and piece of brown eloth made in the form her son had a god child in every family amongst their friends, and one of Mike family Sneridan's boys was called after Father O'Flynn, of illustrious memory. This was a compliment that won the good lady's heart, and many a handsome suit of clothes, and many a costly toy was provided by her for the little Ber nard, whom she set down as a future priest. When any cloud overshadowed Mrs. Reilly's mind, or any difficulty arose in the housekeeping department, she would go down to Fred Fitzgerald's and have a talk with Mrs. Flanagan, and have a talk with Mrs. Flanagan, and that generally served to put all to rights, for Mrs. Flanagan was still and ever the same prudent, judicious, kindly creature, and she was looked up to with love and respect, not only by her own every one with whom family, but by

Mrs.

she was acquainted. It is needless to say that Zachary Thomson soon found it necessary to marry again, and his second wife being a Protestant, of some advanced sect, poor Eliza's children were brought up in evangelical religion—I am not quite sure but it was Unitarianism. That was what their step-mother professed. though, being rather a strong-minded woman, she considered herself fully competent to choose a religion for her-self and modify it, when chosen, to suit her own peculiar views. Of course the children were carefully trained up in the way they should go, especially as the second Mrs. Thomson had none of her own to claim her solicitude.

Mrs. Henry Blake became quite hos

tile to the F anagan family on account of Miles's expected legacy. Indeed, she could hardly speak of them with patience, and used to take occasion, from their supposed delinquency, to say that hypocrisy and cunning always went together. The Flanagans used to smile when any of these stray reports or observations reached them and "Time will tell," was their only answer. They had done all they could

he was induced to make a compromise, dividing one half of his money between the children of Henry and Eliza, and leaving the other half for distribution amongst the Catholic charities of the city. He would fain have left some mark of his gratitude to each of the Flanagan's, but they all positively refused. They did not need it, they said, and even if they did, they would not have their names in the will on any account, for fear of giving scandal to those who would be but too well pleased to get hold of such a handle. This, however, was not to be known till Mile's death, which had not occurred when we last heard of the family.

And now that I have brought my story to a close, I would beg all Catholic parents to "look on this picture, and on this." It is for themselves to choose whether they will have such sons as Tom Reilly, and Mike Sheridan and Edward Flauagan, or Henry T. Blake and Hugh Dillon—daughtors like Elilie Flauagan, or like Hannah and Celia Dillon. Under God, it depends entirely on themselves. I have carefully avoided all exaggeration or undue coloring in this simple tale. I have merely strung together a number of such incidents as we see occurring every day in the world around us, growing out of the effects of good or bad education. If it be true—and I fear it is—that a large proportion of the children of Catholic parents are lost to the Church in America, it is altogether owing to the unaccountable folly of the parents themselves in ex-posing their children to perish. Catholic parents who so act are more innan than the heathens of China and of Madagascar who destroy their helpless infants. They throw them to eaten by dogs or swine, or expose them to the savage denizens of the forest, but what is the destruction of the body in comparison to that of the soul Ah! it would be well if Catholic parents would think more of these things than they do. If they would only consider that they are accountable to God and his Church for the precious gift of faith, and are bound, under pain of deadly sin, to transmit it to their church pure and undefiled, they would not dare to send those children to godless schools, where they are almost to lose that precious inheritance or to have it so shorn of its splendor, so poor and so feeble, that it is no longer worth having. The faith of a young man or a young woman, brought up under un Catholic training, is no nore the faith of their fathers mothers, than the vile brass-ware displayed on street stalls is the pure gold

of the jeweller.
In conclusion, I will lay before the eader some appropriate remarks on this subject, from the pen of an American prelate: "Though the Catholic can prelate: "Though the Catholic Church in this country has increased much more largely by conversions than is generally supposed, yet, for the most part, its rapid development has been owing to the emigration of Catholics from foreign countries; and, if we de sire to make this increase permanent, and to keep the children in the faith of their fathers, we must, above all things, take measures to minds of the rising generation of Catholics with sound religious principles. This can only be done by giving them a good Catholic education. In our present position, the school-house has become second in importance only the House of God itself. We have abundant cause for thankfulness to God on account of the many blessings which he has conferred on us; but we will show ourselves unworthy of these blessings if we do not do all that is in our power to promote every good work by which they may be increased and confirmed to those who shall come after

THE END.

## THE SCAPULAR.

Suppose that some one who signalhimself in the defense of his with some badge of distinction, will of a scapular, and entitling us to a special blessing, be worn with respect? It may be held that the wearing of

the scapular is simply a bit of superwe attribute any stition. Granted if power to the material object, the bit of cloth. But we do justly attribute great power to the Mother of God in whose honor scapular are worn. Blessed Virgin herself, when, in she appeared to St. Simon Stock of England assured him those wearing scapulars with and devotion would never be pun ished with eternal torments; sur the Mother of the Saviour power of putting her promise in execu-tion. The wearer, however, must hold the badge with veneration and endeavor to lead a life of rectitude. It will not do to expect protection through the scapulars unless there is a correspond-ing endeavor to lead such a life as will merit the stamp of her approval.

Since the advantages are great and the requirements few, the badge of the Blessed Virgin should be worn with respect as a garment of respect of protection, just as one wears the insignia of office of privilege, placing trust in the protective power of the Mother of God.
All Catholics should be careful not to neglect to avail themselves of the simple means of grace by enrollment among those whose desire the aid of the Mother of God. All Catholics should be careful not to neglect to avail themselves of the simple means of grace by enrollment among those who desire the aid of the Mother of God against the temptation of life and in the struggle of the hour of death.

There is such a thing as a man having in this world spiritual possessions as well as material possessions, and being thus possessed he can look through the shadow and see the substance, he can reach out and touch vanished hands, see the faces of those whom he has loved and lost, can come

LITTLE PIERRETT HER COURAGE WON A HEARING GIFTED FATHER. By George Waldron.

Pierrette stood upon the and gazed out into the world favorite point of vantage at the three dirty broken step to the shop door. It was a big world as she beheld glimpse of people hurrying noisy, crowded boulevard, m figures did on the sheet magic lantern which was such to children long before the graph was thought of.

The street itself was a ver

one in one of the poorest Paris. It was very narrow with cobbles, and the house side were so high than whete came out on her doorstep in ing there was only quite a n of sky for her to gaze at, count the stars in.

count the stars in.

But to - day Pierrette
neither at the boulevard no She is thinking hard, and look of determination come little face as she murmurs : it, I will !"

Pierrette is a tall, sli child about nine years old very pale, and looking as had quite enough to eat. the grown-up, old-fashioned so often seen on the faces dren of the poor who have themselves, but it is lighter of magnificent eyes, so soft —eyes that will make her f ever she goes. Her bair is into a tight knot on t head, but little curls tha kept in order peep out her Altogether she is a picture child, hardly in keeping we clothes and squalid surroun The shop is tiny and "Comestibles" is written door and they take the fo

of onions, rows of sausage every stage of ripeness, a on a counter, and all sorts ing things in tubs. Altogunsavory place, but I known no other home, a well contented with this yesterday. Yesterday! and it seem She was standing in this

when she heard Granny when she heard craimiy to a customer inside the it's a long time for one years; but I don't think him much longer. He is his heart out, poor man! Pierrette had suddenly they were talking of father, whom she loved sionate adoration of a l that has all its affection one object. She had tor

staircase, burst open the attic room, and thrown h of the man sitting t The man smiled at he her soft hair. "What is How thou art panting!"
"Oh, daddy, dear da
Pierrette could utter, a him. He is quite a y much over thirty, with t eyes as Pierrette. B half starved look there hopeless and despairing has the face of one t

failed in his life's race, to see in one so young. Ten years before Pi handsome Italian youth had come to Paris to t his fiddle and 1,00 worldly possessions. ervatoire and fully, having obtained recognized the genius who prophesied a brill And then Pietro a singing student, youn himself, and beautiful. married and lived for eaven of their own hard, and giving lesso thing else to earn mo Pierrette arrived, to con and it was very bard to three. But Pietro was in public, and then the come. So they moved room this very one, in Veuve Jourdain's sh

waited.
But one day poor P
with a racking headac
he was delirious; the
to the hospital, where
months. Then when
crawl home again,
more him coarring the waited. met him, carrying the ing into tears, told him

She was very weak, Pietro's illness was She died less than a taken away. No wo and it was many a d his attic home again. had cared for the bab own. She could not parting with her n Pietro to stay in her her when he could.

Then he went to and was met by anoth was dead, of the same nearly killed Pietro.

And from this mostruggle. Pietro ha

training, and, theref him or cared about obtained a post in minor theater with s eked out by giving third-rate schools, n third rate schools, in anything that offer sake. And she had years old and the de "Oh, if I could be he would sometimes could make them lis

But ten years is a Pietro had entirely sunny Italian natur and he only wonder he could hold out for he could hold out it
Only yesterday!
sleep for thinking
terrible words. It
had crept out acr
vard and had wand
in a dream. At la
little garden near