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which tells now good Our Lady is to mourners.

I heard some sound within, and it was unthinkable to go further on such a night if I could secure lodging here.

So again I struck lustily upon-the door for a family determined to the such a such as such as

So again I struck lustily upon the door, for a famished tourist in a desolate land is not easily put off, and I prepared to draw upon my most wheedling powers of persuasion when the door opened. But all that I forgot when suddenly a bolt was drawn, for I was rendered dumb by the face I looked upon.

"I thought you was Passon," a voice said dispassionately, "and I only opened the door to tell you to go."

with me I dunno."

She was sitting with her hands expressive of apathy in her lap, and made me think of Dicksee's "Hopeless Dawn."

"She's not The Lady, but Our Lady," I corrected, "and she lost her only Son."

I had shot my arrow at random, but Mrs. Trevean, pierced by it, rocked in anguish and fixed her hopeless eyes on the picture while she told me her own sad story.

"There bain't none," the old woman said; "leastways, not this side the headland, and you can't go over that—not the night."
"There bain't none," the old woman said; "leastways, not this side the headland, and you can't go over that—not the night."
"There bain't none," the old woman said; "leastways, not this seemed to me nothing less than a miracle was taking place in this

to miss my way, and I can't go

"I wanted none here the night,"

burned in the open ingle, which was a deadly disappointment. 'I've been out, away down to the she answered tonelessly, as she lit a candle, whose light showed her curiously frozen features. "It's why the fire be not lit. But you be wanting to dry yourself, I

It would be delightful," I admitted, wondering a little at her lack of Cornish hospitality; "but,

if it's a trouble to you—"
"And isna everything a trouble to me? she burst out unexpectedly.
"To draw breath this night the greatest." And, with that enigmatic answer, she turned to the turf fire and skilfully kindled it with dried

As I watched her I knew suddenly that beneath her numbness blazed a madness of grief; though, like Admetus when he welcomed Hercules, she would not let it hinder my entertainment. There was no energy in her movements, though energy in her movements, though she was strong and wiry, but an unnatural listlessness. Of course I had no right to stay, but the fire-light springing up held me after the dark, wet dreariness outside. Besides, I had no idea where to find another shelter. Nevertheless, the tragedy in her eyes froze the small talk on my tongue, and I sat sheep-ishly silent while she boiled the

me on my way to the cove. A stranger's a nuisance to you to-night." I dared not do more than hint that I knew her in sorrow.

Was all too lat away, though the fascinated her, and her real consonity that I knew her in sorrow.

hint that I knew her in sorrow.

"It's no one but a stranger I'd'a
let in the night," she returned,
"and there's never a path to the
"and there's never a path to the
"and there's never a path to the lift odge."

"and there's never a path to the lift odge."

"and there's never a path to the lift odge."

"and there's never a path to the lift odge." cove. You'd be over the cliff edge instruction ended. "I'd a deal rather find her church with her last words under her breath, but I heard them. "You'd best go back to G—" You'd best go back to G—" Yo

She spoke almost with hostility. I was beginning to assure her I should not dream of such a thing when suddenly she threw up her arms as if to ward off a blow.

"So many great families now no more. They had their spring and

"Don't ee look at me with they blue eyes of yourn," she cried. "They be as like my Don's!" And, grows pale, withered, and blasted."

able orbs, said:

"You can sleep in my Don's bed,
who won't never need it no more."
And still I was dumb, though I

and still I was dumb, though I

Trevean herself had known herself had known

but Mrs. Trevean, pierced by it, rocked in anguish and fixed her hopeless eyes on the picture while she told me her own sad story.

go."

"I beg your pardon," I said.
"I'm not the parson; but wfll you kindly direct me to the nearest chalter?"

she told me her own sad story.
"And now, if you knows more about her you can tell me," she ended. "I've heard say as my grandmother, when she lay a-dying, kindly direct me to the nearest shelter?"

For I knew myself an intruder, who had no right to ask entertainment from a woman stricken as this one must be. She impressed me as exhausted by grief.

ended. "I've heard say as my grandmother, when she lay a-dying, couldn't pass peaceful-like till she that that picture along of her, and there was something she died muttering. I says it meself sometimes: 'oprapronobs,' instead of

"But I must," I returned. "I'm afraid I've been foolish enough of Wesleyan chapels. I knew that Cornwall had been the last country to lose the Faith, but I had never skin," she said, rousing to some faint attention for the first time. "You'd best come in, I s'pose."

There was still some book."

There was still some hesitation in her invite, but, albeit I knew myself unwelcome, I accepted, not knowing what else to do. My hostess's next words were strange.

"I wanted none here the night,"

"I wanted none here the night,"

"There was still some hesitation in here was still some hesitation in here invite, but, albeit I knew my grandmother," I begged gently, "if it doesn't worry you and you can remember, and then I'll tell you all I know about Our Lady and her Son, and it's a good deal!"

"There was still some hesitation in her invite, but, albeit I knew myself to the some more about your grandmother," I begged gently, "if it doesn't worry you and you can remember, and then I'll tell you all I know about Our Lady and her Son, and it's a good deal!"

"I wanted none here the night," she admitted—a fact of which I was already aware; "but you're a stranger, and you didn't come by way of the cove, or I'd 'a met you."

"You've been out yourself in this wind and rain?" I asked, rejoiced to be over the threshold, though no fire burned in the open ingle, which was

woman saying her prayers at that grey monument of early Christian-ity. "And the holy well near here? Did she visit it, and do you ?"
"Well-water be better'n pumpen'

water be better h pumpen water," Mrs. Trevean said prosaically, "but I don't drop in pins to get the good will of the piskies, if that's what you mean. Time was when its water was used for the physical property of the said that the said tha christenings, and my graffdmother told as a figure of granite usen stand above it afore the boys smashed him throwin' stones."

"The saint to whom it was dedicated," I murmured, perceiving how the "fair humanities of the old religion" had passed till they were as dim as the Scilly Isles on

I tried Mrs. Trevean with some of the names preserved in Cornish geography: with St. Blaze, patron of wool combers; St. Piran and his lost church; St. Nectan, whose silver bell will ring again for the true Faith, and many another; but she had nothing to contribute to saint-lore except a saying of her grandfather's that "Joseph was in the tin trade," which I transposed to "St. Joseph to the tinner's aid."

It was my turn now, and I spoke of Our Lady, so needed in the cot-tage of Consolatrix Afflictorum." ishly silent while she boiled the kettle and gave me tea.

"It's wrong of me to bother you," I stammered at length, breaking the awful silence. "As soon as I've finished my meal, you must put me on my way to the cove. A was all too far away, though it

heard them. You'd best go back to G—."

She mentioned the town I had left at midday. It meant fifteen dreary miles to retrace, so I repeated that I should try for the cove. At that she flashed out fiercely.

"You ll not do it. My Don wouldn't never let a stranger along that way the night. What you mean is you wants to bide here, I s'pose?"

Passon or the Minister. I've allus been a restless one and wanted more'n they could give me, and by the mercy of the Almighty it's been given me the night, when I'm nigh daft with wishness. Now that I so did Mrs. Trevean revert to the Faith of her Catholic ancestors and to the fellowship of Blessed Cuthbert Mayne. By force of contrast

bert Mayne. By force of contrast I thought of the lament of Borlase

summer sunshine glare, their wane, decline, and death. Their light

before I knew what was happening, she rushed from the room with some weird imprecation which sounded like "In numny dumny."

Now, a poor priest must use what was Providence has given him and a way as Mrs. Trevean, in whose Now, a poor priest must use what eyes Providence has given him; so I could not apologize for my blue ones. But here was an opportunity for me to minister consolation, though what to do or say I hadn't an idea. However, my hostess returned in a few minutes, and, looking once more at my objectionable orbs, said:

"You can sleep in my Don's bed,"

daily added in as unexplainable a way as Mrs. Trevean, in whose heart the old beliefs welled up naturally. Had some healing virtue emanated from the old picture, whose history was like that of the holy wells, with supernatural qualities unknown and uninvoked, or was the cause of her reversion that strain in her intense character denounced by Protestant writers as superstitious?

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And still I was dumb, though I perceived now she had lost someone, probably by sudden death. Looking round helplessly for an inspiration, my eyes fell on a picture in the poor room, and went no further. A Catholic picture of Our Lady hung on the wall! Deo gratias!

"I'm a young priest, and I don't know how to comfort you," I said,

spend my autumn holiday walking in Cornwall, I had not reckoned with the October storms, and here I was knocking, impatiently upon the barred door. The cottage might be empty, for no smoke came from the low chimney, and yet I believed I low chimney, and yet I believed I low chimney, and within, and it

"but there's someone here, it seems, who would know exactly the right way. I can't tell you how thankful I am her picture is in your cottage," and I thought of the hymn which tells how good Our Lady is to mourners.

"Be you looking at the Lady?" she pilgrims to Mass sturdily across the Cornish Moors, using on the way her old ejaculations: "In way her old ejaculations: "In Nomine Domini" and "Ora pro nobis."—Eveline Cole in Catholic

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London, Sept. 22.—English Protestantism is beginning to get alarmed at the increasing numbers of conversions to the Catholic Church in England and Wales, and Protestants are being circularized with statis-tics of the increase amongst Catho-

The Protestant alarm is based on official figures published by the Catholic authorities, and the note of alarm sent out has its own interest for Catholics. In the six

In the Archdiocese of Westminster there has been a steady increase in the number of conversions each year for the past seven years. In 1916 the converts received numbered 958 but at the end of 1922 the total for the twelve months had risen to 1,971—more than double the figures for 1916. The combined totals of the seven years in this archdiocese alone reach 11,506.

This accounts for conversions only, and does not take into account the number of baptisms in these years. The most fruitful year, from the point of view of conversions, was 1920, when some 12,621 persons abjured Protestantism, and embraced the Catholic religion. The lowest figure was for the year 1916, when only 8,601 conversions were recorded. But for the past five years the average number of conversions annually has been about

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