

# FATHER DE LISLE.

By Miss Taylor

(A Tale of fact in fiction's garb.)

(Continued from last week.)

## CHAPTER XI.

"Alive a queen, now dead I am a saint;  
Once Mary call'd, my name now Martyr is;  
From earthly region debarr'd by restraint,  
In lieu whereof I reign in heavenly bliss.  
Rue not my death, rejoice at my repose;  
It was no death to me, but to my woe;  
The bud was open'd to let out the rose,  
The chains unloosed to let the captive go."

Poems by Father Southwell.

From the broad Roman road which led from London to Chelmsford, a narrow lane turned off and passed directly into the avenue of Thoresby Hall. The house was a large building, in the then modern style, such as we are wont to call Elizabethan. It formed three sides of a quadrangle, which enclosed a of a spacious court-yard. On one side of the hall were glassy slopes and beds of flowers and bushes, and these slopes ran down to a small piece of water, on the opposite side of which ran a grove of lime trees, whose branches interlaced each other.

The window of one of the principal rooms in the hall was wide open, and near it sat a lady at work. Ever and anon, she turned to speak to another lady, also sitting near the window, but in a different attitude. The chair in which this latter was placed was of a curious construction, and well lined with cushions, and the fragile form that reclined in it was that of a cripple. The thin fingers, unnaturally long, hung down by her side, and the pale face and sunken eyes told of long and constant suffering. She spoke gently in answer to the anxious looks of her companion. "I am very comfortable, darling sister, do be at ease concerning me for awhile."

Is it possible then, that this is our friend Mary Thoresby, and the sufferer Blanche, of whom we remember her speaking at Castle de Lisle?

The bright looking Mary was changed considerably—she had passed into a calm, thoughtful woman, somewhat older than her years. We can trace that she has endured much—indeed, she has had cause. Her mother has been dead for some years, after a long illness, and the charge of the household has devolved on her, with the constant attendance on her sick sister.

Blanche had been just on the eve of quitting her father's house to follow her earnest desire of entering religion. The day before, a priest having happened to arrive it was arranged a Mass should be said by him. At this Mass Blanche was more than usually anxious to assist, it being her last opportunity ere leaving the home of her childhood forever.

The Mass was said in a small chamber near the roof of the house from whence an easy way of escape might be found in case of alarm. This room, or loft was reached by two ladders, which led into different parts of the house. The Mass was just over when an alarm was given, and a party of men, in search of the priest rushed into the house. The priest and the other gentlemen instantly sought the roof, and Blanche felt that if she could only remove the vessels and vestments which, in the haste, were left on the temporary altar, the pursuers would be off the scent. She gathered them all up, and as the feet of the men were ascending one ladder she left the room by the other. In her haste she missed her footing, and fell from an immense height. She was picked up by the terrified servants, insensible, and, as they thought, dead, but still clasping close to her breast her sacred charge. Lady Thoresby was at the time ill, and Mary attending

on her, which had been the reason why Blanche had been the only woman present at the Mass. The alarm hastened Lady Thoresby's death, and Mary went from her mother's death-bed to what she supposed to be that of Blanche; but Blanche did not die. Her fall had rendered her an incurable cripple, and a life of continual suffering was her portion.

Not only was Mary compelled to witness the severe daily suffering of her sister, but a deeper shade had been thrown over her life by the necessary postponement of her marriage with the Viscount Clinton, a young Catholic nobleman to whom she had been just betrothed. During the last few months Blanche's general health had decidedly improved, and Lord Clinton had been earnestly pressing that their marriage should take place, and that Mary should not leave her home, but still remain the nurse and comforter of her helpless sister. To this Mary consented; and the marriage would take place soon after the arrival of a priest who was expected at the hall.

"Mary," said Blanche softly, "while I slept this morning, saw you Clinton?"

"Yes, dear," answered Mary, blushing; "we were together in the lime-grove."

"That is a favorite spot of yours," said Blanche smiling. "And did he tell you any news?"

"We were speaking of the old subject," answered Mary. "The sorrows around. This late act of the queen hath affrighted us all. To lay violent hands on an anointed sovereign and sister-queen betokens such virulence against our religion we know not what will come next."

"Poor Mary Stuart," answered Blanche; "'tis well for thee, at all events; the prison bars are broken down, and the bird set free. But it must have been sad to die without the sacraments; that was such frightful cruelty on Elizabeth's part."

"Ah," said Mary, "Clinton hath heard the particulars of her last hours; most touching and wonderful they are."

"When she found that her almoner, Le Preau was to be kept from her (although he was in the castle), she wrote to him, begging him to keep vigil that night with her and for her, desiring to make her general confession to him thus, being prevented from doing it otherwise,—declaring she died innocent and requesting absolution.

"But a joy beyond price was in store for her. Some time ago, the Holy Father, seeing the malice of her enemies, and to what lengths they were tending, sent her the Blessed Sacrament. It was enclosed in a gold ciborium, richly jewelled, and with it he sent his permission that, if in the hour of death, she were deprived of the assistance of a priest, she might communicate herself."

"Oh, how marvellous a privilege!" exclaimed Blanche; "beyond what has been granted even to the saints. I suppose a woman's hands have not even touched the Blessed Sacrament since the Blessed Clare defied the heathens. Go on, tell me all about it."

"So, on the morning of February the 8th, arising from her rest, during which she had continued to pray, she entered alone into her oratory. No one went with her, her loving servants were without. No eye save the adoring angels, no ear save the listening saints, saw her awful act,\* or heard her whispered prayer."

"Oh," said Blanche, "what must have been her feelings in that hour! did not her thoughts wander back to her own 'Belle France,' to the solemn hour when, perchance, in the royal chapel, and clothed in silvery robes, the child-queen made her 'first' communion? Ah Mary, how fair looked the world to her

\*See "Lives of the Queens of Scotland."

## Canadian Pacific TIME TABLE

|   | Lv.   | Ar.   |
|---|-------|-------|
| Montreal, Toronto, New York and east, via all rail, daily   | 15 00 | 12 30 |
| Montreal, Toronto, New York and east, via lake and rail, Mon., Thurs., Saturday   | 15 00 |       |
| Tuesday, Friday, Sunday   |       | 12 30 |
| Rat Portage and intermediate points, daily except Sunday  | 8 00  | 18 30 |
| Lac du Bonnet and intermediate points, Wed. only  | 7 00  | 19 30 |
| Portage la Prairie, Gladstone, Neepawa, Minnedosa, Shoal Lake, Yorkton and intermediate points, daily except Sunday                             | 7 30  | 20 40 |
| Rapid City and Rapid City June, daily ex. Sunday  | 7 30  | 20 40 |
| Pettapiece, Minitota and intermediate points, daily except Sunday   | 7 30  | 20 40 |
| Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Moosomin, Virden, Regina, Moose Jaw and intermediate points, daily except Sunday                                   | 7 30  | 20 40 |
| Morden, Deloraine and intermediate points, daily except Sunday  | 8 25  | 14 00 |
| Glenboro, Souris and intermediate points, daily except Sunday   | 13 35 | 12 15 |
| Pipestone, Reston, Arcola, and intermediate points, Mon., Wed., Friday  | 7 30  |       |
| Tues., Thurs., Saturday   |       | 20 40 |
| Napinka and intermediate points, Tues., Thurs., Sat. Mon., Wed., Friday   | 8 25  | 14 00 |
| Brandou Local, daily except Sunday  | 16 30 | 12 20 |
| Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Calgary, Lethbridge, Macleod, Prince Albert, Edmonton and all points on coast and in East and West Kootenay, daily | 18 05 | 8 50  |
| Stonewall branch, daily except Sunday   | 16 50 | 10 20 |
| Winnipeg Beach, daily except Sunday   | 16 10 | 10 00 |
| St. Paul Express, Gretna, St. Paul, Chicago, daily  | 13 55 | 13 40 |
| Emerson branch, daily except Sunday   | 15 45 | 10 45 |

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## Canadian Northern TIME TABLE

| Leave Winnipeg    | STATIONS  | Arrive Winnipeg   |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| <b>EAST</b>       |   |                   |
| Daily ex. Sun.    | St. Boniface, Ste. Anne, Steinbach, Bedford, Sprague, Warroad, Beaudette, Rainy River, Stratton, Emo, Fort Frances.   | Daily ex. Sun.    |
| 10 25             |   | 16 25             |
| Mon. Wed. Fri.    | Mine Centre, Glenorchy, Atikokan, Keshabowik, Mattawin, Kakabeka Falls, Stanley Jct., Ft. William, Port Arthur.   | Tues. Thurs. Sat. |
| 10 25             |   | 16 25             |
| <b>WEST</b>       |   |                   |
| Mon. Wed. Fri.    | Headingley, Eli, Oakville, Portage la Prairie, Beaver, Gladstone, Plumas, Dauphin.  | Tues. Thurs. Sat. |
| 10 45             |   | 17 00             |
| Tues. Thurs. Sat. | Headingley, Eli, Oakville, Portage la Prairie, Beaver, Mayfield, Humerston, Halboro, Glendale, Neepawa, Eden, Burnie, Glen-smith, Dauphin.  | Mon. Wed. Fri.    |
| 10 45             |   | 17 00             |
| Mon. Wed. Fri.    | Sifton, Ethelbert, Minitonas, Swan River.   | Wed. Thurs. Sat.  |
| 10 45             |   | 17 00             |
| Mon.              | Bowsmann, Birch River, Novra, Mafeking, Powell, Westgate, Erwood.   | Wed.              |
| 10 45             |   | 17 00             |
| Mon. Wed. Fri.    | Ashville, Gilbert Plains, Grand View.   | Tues. Thurs. Sat. |
| 10 45             |   | 17 00             |
| Fri. Sat.         | Fork River, Gruber, Winnipegosis.   | Sat. Tues.        |
| 10 45             |   | 17 00             |
| Mon. Wed. Fri.    | Oak Bluff, Sperling, Homewood, Carman, Leary's and intermediate points.   | Tues. Thurs. Sat. |
| 7 00              |   | 17 50             |
| Daily ex. Sun.    | St. Norbert, St. Agathe, Morris, Myrtle, Roland, Miami, Belmont, Wawanessa, Brandon, Ninette, Minto, Elgin, Hartney and intermediate points.  | Daily ex. Sun.    |
| 8 05              |   | 18 25             |
| <b>SOUTH</b>      |   |                   |
| Daily             | Twin City Express between Winnipeg, Minneapolis and St. Paul, 14 hrs. 20 min. Via Can. Nor. and Great Nor. Rys. Morris, Emerson, St. Vincent, Hallock, Warren, Crookston, Ada, Glyndon, Barnesville, Fergus Falls, Alexandria, Osake's Sauk Centre, St. Cloud, Clearwater, Monticello, Ossea, Minneapolis and St. Paul. | Daily             |
| 17 20             |   | 10 10             |
| Daily             | Minneapolis and St. Paul Express via Can. Nor. Ry. and Nor. Pac. Ry. Morris, St. Jean, Lettelier, Emerson, Pembina, Grafton, Grand Forks, Crookston, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Superior.   | Daily             |
| 13 45             |   | 13 30             |

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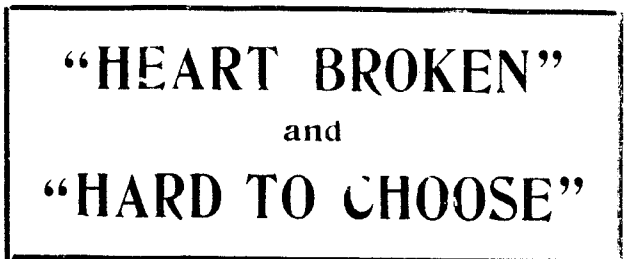
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One of the pictures is called

### "Heart Broken"

We will not let the reader into the secret of what has happened, but one of the merry little companions of the woeful little maid who has broken her heart is laughing already, and the other hardly knows what has happened. Cut flowers nod reassuringly at them, and a bright bit of verdure covered wall stands in the background. There is something piquantly Watteauesque about one of the petite figures, suggesting just a touch of French influence on the artist.

The other picture presents another of the tremendous perplexities of childhood. It is called

### "Hard to Choose"

As in the other picture, we will not give away the point made by the artists before the recipients analyze it for themselves. Again there are three happy girls in the picture, caught in a moment of pause in the midst of limitless hours of play. One of the little maids still holds in her arms the toy horse with which she has been playing. Flowers and butterflies color the background of this, and an arbour and a quaint old table replace the wall.

The two pictures together will people any room with six happy little girls, so glad to be alive, so care-free, so content through the sunny hours amidst their flowers and butterflies, that they must brighten the house like the throwing open of shutters on a sunny morning.

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