

MOONDYNE.

FOOK THIRD.

ALICE WALMSLEY.

By JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY.

TWO HEADS AGAINST ONE.

Sir Joshua Hobbs sat in his Department Office in Parliament Street, with every sign of perplexity and rage to his face and attitude. His contest of authority with the unknown and mysterious man had fairly crushed him. In the face of the official whom he had trained to regard his word as the utterance of God itself, never to be questioned nor disobeyed, he had been challenged, commanded, degraded. It was a bitter draught; and what if he had only taken the first sickening mouthful?

He was interrupted in his morose reflections by the entrance of Mr. Haggett, whose air was almost as dejected as his superior's.

Haggett stood silently at the door, looking at the great man, somewhat as a spaniel might look at its master. The spare curian of his lips was folded into leathery wrinkles round his capacious mouth.

"Haggett," said Sir Joshua, turning wearily to the fire, "what the devil is this man?"

"He's a rich Australian," began Haggett, in a confidential voice.

"As?" said the Chief Director, without looking at him.

Mr. Haggett, returning not even a glance of resentment, accepted the correction and remained silent.

"Haggett," said Sir Joshua, after a pause during which he had stared into the fire, "when does the convict ship sail?"

"In two weeks, sir."

"I want you to go to West Australia on that ship, Haggett."

"I, Sir Joshua? Leave London—I shall be ordered this year—I shall—"

"Pshaw! I want you, man. No one else will do. You can attend to private matters on your return. I shall personally assist you with my influence."

"Well, Sir Joshua?"

"No one else can do it, Haggett."

"What is to be done, sir?"

"I want to know all that is to be known in Western Australia about this Wyville."

"Do you suspect anything, sir?" asked Mr. Haggett.

"No, I have no reason either for suspicion or belief. I know absolutely nothing about the man, nor can I find any one who does."

"And yet that commission—"

"Yes—that was a disappointment. In one or two cases I have heard of the same high tolerance, given in the same secret manner."

"Were the other holders mysterious, too?" asked Haggett, reflectively, folding and unfolding his facial bagpipe.

"They were all cases in which philanthropic might met with opposition from officials; and this strange but unquestionable power was given as a kind of private commission."

"I strike down all the rules, and—"

"Yes, yes," interrupted Sir Joshua, striking the coal with the tongs; "but there it is. It must be acknowledged without question."

"Have you no clue to the reason for which this special authority was given to him?" asked Haggett.

"I have not thought of it; but I am not surprised. This man, as you know, has reformed the Indian Penal System at the Andaman Islands, expending immense sums of his own money to carry out the change. Afterward, he was received by the French Emperor as an authority on the treatment of crime, and had much to do with their new transportation scheme. A man with this record, accepted by the Prime Minister, was just the person to be specially commissioned by the Queen."

"He is young to be so very wealthy," mused Haggett.

"Yes; that is mysterious—no one knows the source of his wealth. This is your mission—find out all about him, and report to me by mail within six months."

"Then I am really to go to Australia?" said Haggett, with a doubtful aspect.

"Yes, Haggett; there's no other way. Inquiry into mysterious men's lives is always worth the trouble. You may learn nothing, but—it had better be done."

"Well, Sir Joshua, I want a favor from you to return."

"What is it? You shall have it, if it lies in my power."

"Send that prisoner, Number Four, on the ship; but countermand the order for the Papist nun."

"You want the nun to remain?"

"Yes, sir; they ought to be separated. This Wyville takes a great interest in Number Four. It was he that sent the nun to her."

"Certainly, Haggett; it shall be done. Stay, let me write the order now."

"Thank you, Sir Joshua," said Haggett, rubbing his hands.

"There; take that to the governor of Milbank. Number Four shall be sent with the first batch to the ship. The nun is to remain."

Mr. Haggett departed, and as he walked down Parliament Street, glancing furtively around to see that he was unobserved, he smiled to the uttermost reef.

FEMALE TRANSPORTS.

The morning arrived for the convict ship to sail, and the last chains of male prisoners were mustered in the prison yard of Milbank, ready to be marched to the train, for embarkation on the convict ship at Portland.

In one of the pentagonal yards stood the female prisoners, fifty in number. They whispered covertly to each other, enjoying for the first time for years the words that were not orders, and the faces that were not cold.

"What is your name?"

"How long has your served?"

"What nice hair you have?"

"Will they cut off our hair again in Australia?"

"Were you lagged before?"

"That one there, with the red mark on her cheek, was sentenced to be hung."

"This is my second time."

These were the words that might be

heard in the ranks—short sentences, full of direct meaning, such as are always spoken when formality is absent, and curiosity is excited.

The male chains having been inspected by the governor, who was accompanied by Mr. Wyville, had marched to the railway station.

Four great wagons or tumbrils rolled into the yard, to carry away the female convicts. Before they entered the wagons, the governor addressed the women, telling them that their good conduct in prison had earned this change; that their life in the new country to which they were going would be one of opportunity; that their past was all behind them, and a fair field before them to work out honest and happy lives.

Many of the prisoners sobbed bitterly as the kind governor spoke. Hope, indeed, was bright before them, but they were parting from all that they ever loved; they would never more see the face of father or mother, brother or sister; they would never more see an English field or an English flower. Their lives had been shattered and shameful; but the moment of parting from every beloved relation of youth was the more embittered, perhaps, by the thought of their unworthiness.

When the governor had spoken, they entered the tumbrils, and the guards fell in. The old governor raised his hat. He was deeply affected at the scene, common though it must have been to him.

"Good-bye, and God bless you all in your new life," he said.

The driver of the front tumbril looked round, to see that all was ready before starting his horses.

"Wait," said a tall man, who was rapidly and eagerly scanning the faces of the women, as he passed from wagon to wagon; "there's a mistake here."

"What is the matter there?" shouted the governor.

"There is one prisoner absent, sir," said the tall man, who was Mr. Haggett; "one prisoner absent who was ordered for this ship."

"What prisoner?" asked the governor.

"Start up your horses," shouted the governor; and the first tumbril lumbered out of the yard.

The governor was looking at Mr. Haggett, who stood beside the last wagon, his face a study of rage and disappointment.

"That prisoner was specially ordered for this ship," he repeated. "Sir Joshua Hobbs wrote the order with his own hand."

"He has countermanded it," said the governor curtly.

"When?" asked Haggett.

"Two hours ago," said the governor. "The prisoner will remain in Milbank."

Mr. Haggett looked he would have led to the glance Mr. Wyville stood close to him; but Haggett never met his eye during the scene. As he departed, however, in passing him, he raised his eyes for an instant to Mr. Wyville's face and said:

"I am going to West Australia. I shall soon return."

Mr. Wyville's face might have been of marble, so absolutely unconscious did he seem of the presence or words of Haggett.

The tumbrils rolled from the yard with their strange freight, and Mr. Haggett strode from the prison. He stood on the poop of the transport as he sailed from Portland that afternoon.

More than once that day did Haggett's words repeat themselves like a threat in Mr. Wyville's mind; and when all was silent in sleeping London that night, he arose from the study-table at which he wrote, and paced the room in sombre thought.

His mind was reasoning with itself, and at last the happier side conquered. He stopped his dreary walk, and smiled; but it was a sad smile.

"Poor children!" he murmured; "what would become of them here? I must instruct Teparati, and—"

He said, looking reverently upward through the night, "It will be done."

VII.

AFTER NINE YEARS.

So the state of Alice Walmsley was not changed by the six months' absence; indeed no change had resulted from the increased hatred of the Chief Director for Mr. Wyville, and the sleuth-dog errand on which Haggett had sailed for Australia.

Alice did not know nor think of the causes that kept her from transportation. One day she was quietly informed by the warden that the ship had sailed. She hardly knew whether to be glad or sorry, for her own sake; but of late she had not been quite one in the world. Her eyes filled with tears, and she clasped her hands before her.

"You are sorry, Number Four," said the warden.

"She was so good—the made me so happy," answered Alice, with streaming eyes.

"Woe?"

"Sister Cecilia."

"She has not gone," said the warden, smiling, as she is coming here good day, Sister; somebody was crying for you."

The joy of Alice was unbounded, as she held the serge dress of Sister Cecilia, and looked in her kind and pleasant face. The change in Alice's character was more marked in this case than in any circumstance since the gleam of the flower had caught her eye in the cell. The strong will seemed to have departed; the self-reliance, born of wrong and anguish, had disappeared; she was a simple and impulsive girl again.

Between the innocent happiness of her young life and the fresh tenderness now springing in her heart, there lay an awful gulf of sorrow and despair. But she was on the high bank—the sunny field beyond, and, as she looked, the far shore drew nearer to her, and the dismal strait between grew narrower.

"Alice," said Sister Cecilia, gravely, when the happy greeting was over, "it is now time that something were done for your release."

The light faded from Alice's face, and after a long look, full of sadness, at the Sister, she bent her face into her hands, remaining silent.

"Would you not like to be free, Alice?"

"I am happy here—I do not think of it—why do you ask me?" she said, wistfully.

"Because it is not right that an innocent person should remain here. Tell me

the whole sad story, child, and let me see what can be done."

"O, Sister Cecilia, I cannot—I cannot!" sobbed Alice. "O, do not ask me—do not make me think of my sweet little baby—I cannot think of it—indeed, I cannot speak of that!"

"Alice," said the nun, "your baby is with God, saved from the stains and sorrows of life. This woman," and the voice of Sister Cecilia grew almost severe, "this terrible woman, who heard that she is a bad and wretched woman, Alice—deserve nothing from you but justice. God demands justice to ourselves as well as to others."

"I cannot accuse her," answered Alice, in a low voice, gradually returning to its old firmness. "She has suffered more than I—God pardon her! And I know that she suffers, as I do."

"Well, poor child," said the nun, deeply affected, "we must ask for pardon, then, for you."

Alice rose from her low seat, and stood before the window, looking upward, with her hands clasped before her—an attitude grown familiar to her of late.

My dead mother knows I am innocent of crime," she said slowly, as if speaking to her own heart; "no one else knows it, though some may believe it. I cannot be pardoned for a crime I have not committed. That were to accept the crime. I shall not accuse her, though my own word should set me free. Do not ask me to speak of it any more, Sister Cecilia. I shall remain here—and I shall be happier here."

Sister Cecilia dropped the subject, and never returned to it again. From that day she treated Alice Walmsley in another manner than of old. She spoke with her of all the crosses that came in her path, either to herself or others. By this means the latest sympathies of Alice were touched and exalted. She entered with interest into every story of sorrow or suffering of the unfortunate, related to her by the kind little Sister.

In this communion, which, if not happy, was at least peaceful, the months grew into years, and the years followed each other, until four summers more had passed through Alice's cell.

During these years she had developed out of the prison, the light was by her surroundings. It seemed that youth had been too thoughtful, too unstable, too happy, even to indicate her future. That bright girlhood was the rich, fallow ground. The five dark years of her agony and unselfish were the seasons of ploughing and harrowing the fertile soil and sowing the fruitful seed. The four years of succeeding peace were the springtime and the early summer of her full life, during which the strong shoots grew forward toward the harvest of ripe womanhood.

Toward the end of these four years a word of change came to her cell—she was once more selected among the fifty female prisoners to be sent on the annual convict ship to Western Australia.

It was during the preparation for this voyage that Will Sheridan returned, a rich man, to find the shattered pieces of his love and happiness. It was during one of these quiet days within Alice's cell that he, without, had wandered through London, a heart-stricken man, vainly seeking for interest in the picture-galleries and churches. It was during one of these peaceful nights within the cell that he, without, led by the magnetism of strong love, found himself beneath the gloomy walls of Milbank, round which he wandered through the night, and which he could not leave until he had pressed his feverish lips against the keyhole of the prison.

On the day when Will Sheridan at last stood before the door of Alice Walmsley's cell, and read her beloved name on the card, she sat within, patiently sewing the coarse cloth of her transport dress. When the door opened, and his yearning sight was blessed with that which it had longed for, the stood before him, calm, and with a beautiful, wild downcast eyes, according to her own modesty and the prison discipline.

When he passed her door a few weeks later, and saw within the sweet-faced Sister Cecilia, and heard, after so many years, the voice of her beloved, in one short sentence, which sent him away very happy, she dreamt not that a loving heart had struck upon her words as a parched field drink the refreshing rain.

Strong and so futile are the out-reachings of the soul. They must be mutual, or they are impotent and vain. Reciprocal, they draw together through the density of a planet. Single, the one reaches for the other weakly, as a shadow touches the precipice, hopelessly as death.

But that which we desire, we may feel; but that which we desire, we cannot think, might just as well be non-existent.

THE PACK IS TOO FAST.

This is a question that from time to time is discussed in scientific journals, and when it comes in the vast number of broken down, listless and prematurely old men found in every community, one is almost forced to admit that the race is deteriorating. The causes leading to this decline in manhood are various, and among them may be mentioned overwork, mental strain, loss of sleep, over-indulgence of appetites, and excesses of various kinds, all leading to shattered nerves, loss of vital forces and premature decay, and often to insanity. To all this suffering Dr. Williams' Pink Pills come as a boon. They build up shattered nerves, enrich the blood, stimulate the brain, and restore the exhausted system. All who are suffering from any of the causes that break down and enfeeble the system should use these pills, and will find them a sure and speedy restorative. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold by all druggists, or will be sent, post paid, on receipt of price—50 cents a box—by addressing The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

A lady in Syracuse writes: "For about seven years before taking Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discoverer and Dyspeptic Cure, I suffered from a complaint very prevalent with our sex. I was unable to walk any distance, or stand on my feet for more than a few minutes at a time, without feeling exhausted; but now, I am thankful to say, I can walk two miles without feeling the least inconvenience. For female complaints it has no equal."

Minard's Liniment cures Dystemper,

CHRISTIAN UNION.

[The following able paper on this subject was sent to the Toronto press, but refused insertion.]

MR. EDITOR:—

After perusing everything in the journal coming in my way, only one article of Christian Union, I must say, as an outside observer, I may be pardoned for expressing a doubt: whether the discussion on the question, by ministers of the Churches, have impressed all readers with the conviction that it is the advancement of Divine truth, and not rather the material interests of the religious public, or, at least, the ministerial body, who are really uppermost in the thoughts of some of those who are advocates of the movement. It is to be hoped, indeed, that I may be found to be in error in this conjecture, which to many may perhaps seem somewhat ungracious. But, aside from this, and looking to ultimate results, it must be confessed that, personally, I feel wholly unable to appreciate the view that differences of opinion as to the contents of the Revelation of God to man, in respect to doctrines or observances, furnish reasonable warrant for relegating any portion thereof to the region of the unknowable, to that of mere "theology," or to the category of non-essentials, or even of sufficient importance to be contended for specifically, for the correction by Churches claiming to teach in His name. Such a view, in my judgment, can only be entertained by those who have a confused notion of the conditions implied or required for the public promulgation of revelation in the sense of its author; who have unappreciated the method actually adopted by God for conveying His message to mankind; and who, besides, overlooked the fact that (to adopt the *modus loquendi* of scientists) it is impossible to conceive Almighty Wisdom revealing an order of grace for the guidance and salvation of men, yet including in its doctrines which may be put aside as superfluous. Nor is it conceivable that a revelation addressed to the mind and conscience of man, in which his supernatural end, should be unaccompanied by some unfulfilling measure of ascertaining what his contents and obligations really are. Hence, it seems to me reasonable to expect, at the very least, on the part of those following "the Bible alone" theory that when distinguishing essential from non-essential, the necessity would be recognized of looking outside of themselves for positive proofs of their contentions, and so be able to point out independent and express authority for the distinction asserted. Certainly it can hardly be imagined that the thinking but sceptical portion of mankind in Christian lands are likely to be greatly influenced in favor of Christianity by the hollow expedient of what Andover theologians have defined as "a least common multiple;" for, though a compromise between Churches must necessarily mean a compromise for their adherents, it should not be forgotten that the question first in order for the Churches to consider is not what minimum of belief will suffice for mutual, taken singly or jointly, and judged according to the varying circumstances, conditions and opportunities of each one in life. No: this is but a secondary question, so far as Churches are concerned. The prior question is, What minimum of belief will cover the whole Revelation of God, written and unwritten, objectively considered, as the message, which, in addition to the written, is demanded to be taught, the authorized teacher is expected and supposed to deliver, as the occasion demands? The distinction is not only great, but of primary importance.

Returning, however, to the previous point, I remark that while much has been written and said in numerous quarters in regard to a basis for the desired union, I suppose it must have struck the majority of readers that ministers of the most prominent of the Protestant Churches have, for the most part, held aloof from discussion of the subject; or, if favoring at all any policy of concession, their forward movement has been with a written and said in numerous quarters in regard to a basis for the desired union, I suppose it must have struck the majority of readers that ministers of the most prominent of the Protestant Churches have, for the most part, held aloof from discussion of the subject; or, if favoring at all any policy of concession, their forward movement has been with a written and said in numerous quarters in regard to a basis for the desired union, I suppose it must have struck the majority of readers that ministers of the most prominent of the Protestant Churches have, for the most part, held aloof from discussion of the subject; 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