THE CATHOLIC RECORD.

A CURIOUS CUSTOM.

Church in Naples.

than ever on the altar, all their hands

are clasped tightly together, then

At last h

Th

slowly along the row. At la stops. His choice is made.

come forward.

souls.

olics.

stops. His choice is made. His stretches out his hand with a little

smile. The girl rises, puts her hand

ice being thus broken, other suitor

How often do we not hear, for

associated with recollections of his own youth. A line of Tom Moore's "Come ve disconsolate," once a special favorite when sorrow seemed far from him, was borne to his ears: Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot head

He lay down and slept.

At dusk the next evening, as he was heating a piece of iron in the blacksmith shop, a man stopped at the wide, open door. "Will you give me a night's lodg

ing? I have walked far to-day, and I'm a stranger in this part of the country." 'Zeki'l wheeled, the light from the

forge shining across his face. the stranger's face and brought out form in bold relief also. "Why, it's Zeke Morgan," he cried,

walking into the shop. "Yes; I thought I recognized your

voice, Miller," said 'Zeki'l, slowly, and without much pleasure at the recogni tion.

They had been in prison together, and 'Zeki'l had left Miller there. He had never felt any liking for the man, and less now than ever, as he looked a his ragged clothing and dissipated face He had evidently been steadily sink ing in vice, and its repulsiveness was impressed upon his outward being But a certain pity stirred 'Zeki'l' heart. He remembered his own friend lessness when he entered that settle ment. Could he show less mercy than had been shown to him?

'Sit down, won't you?" he said kindly, blowing up the coals in the forge to a glowing heat.

"That I will. I'm footsore, and hungry as a bear. I'm in luck to meet with you, comrade," chuckling. 'Zeki'l winced. The man's familiar-

ity grated upon him. Where are you goin'?" he in

quired. "Oh, nowhere in particular. I'm

just out. "Why, I thought your time would

be up in two years after I left.' Miller shrugged his shoulders. "Yes; but I made so many attempts to

escape that they kept adding extra time to my term He sat down while 'Zeki'l finished his

work. You seem to be getting on pretty well," he continued, his restless eyes

scanning the surroundings. "Only tolerable." Two or three of the neighbors

dropped in, one to leave a broken plow, another to tell a bit of gossip. They stared curiously at 'Zeki'l's disreputable companion, who jocosely informed them that Morgan had once been his

chum. 'Zeki'l felt annoyed, and, closing up the shop, invited his guest into the house. They had supper, then sat down and smoked. Miller talked a good deal, and asked many questions about the neighborhood and the store ; but at last he fell asleep, huddled up on the bed, and 'Zeki'l lay down on bench, recollections of his prison life keeping him awake far into the night When he awoke the next morning his guest was gone. He was glad of it. The man's presence oppressed him, brought a sense of degradation. Bu what were his feelings when he heard that Mr. Davy Tanner's store had been robbed, the mail-box rifled, letters torn open, and various articles of wearing

apparel taken ! He grew so pale, seemed so agitated and confused, that the man who had come up to tell the news stared wonderingly, half-suspiciously at him. He had brought the plow to the shop the evening before, and he now looked around for the stranger.

"Where is your friend?" he in quired. "He is no friend of mine."

most enjoyable day to them. It af- hum with the champing of bits and the forded excitement, and gave an oppor-tunity to air opinions, to bring forth old prejudices. There was almost universal condemnation of 'Zeki'l. He had entertained the thief, had given him all the information necessary, and the more bitter ones wagged their eads and said that no doubt he had shared in the spoils. Even Mr. Davy Tanner looked sad and doubtful,

man "We've no right ever to accuse a person without evidence o' guilt. We don't know even that this other man had anything to do with it-though circumstances do all p'int that way - let alone 'Zeki'l Morgan. It's best to hold

our peace till we find out the truth.' "But it looks mighty suspicious ag'in' 'Zeki'l."

"Because he's been in the penitentiary, an' we think he's got a bad name

"Well, ain't that enough to set honest men ag'in' him?

"Yes; but it ain't best to always judge a man by his misdeeds in the past, but rather by his good deeds in the present, an' what they promise for

the future. "Why not, when it's accordin' to scriptur'?

So the talk went on, while 'Zeki'l sat by his fireless hearth or walked aimessly up and down the yard. At dusk his brother called, looking almost as haggard as he did.

"It's a bad thing, 'Zeki'l." "Yes," said 'Zeki'l, listlessly.

"They are fools to think you had anything to do with it, plumb fools.' "It's natural they should, 'Lijy.

"I can't stand it, 'Zeki'l. Lord ! can't stand it."

He fell into a chair and covered his face with his hands.

"Chut, man ! what does it matter ?" said 'Zeki'l, bracing himself up and forcing a smile. "Don't let 'Lizabeth

believe it, that's all I ask.' "She'll never believe it." "It's all right then ; I'll not care

what the rest o' the world thinks. "But I do," cried 'Lijy, starting up, an' I'll put an end to it by-"

"You'll not do anything rash. ' said 'Zeki'l, firmly, quietly, and 'Lijy, laid his hand on the other's shoulder

Recollect your family.' He looked slight and insignificent by the side of his brother, but his face had a strength and calmness which seemed to give it a power the other lacked. Lijy groaned, and turned tremblingly

away A week passed, but Zion Hill settlement could not go back to its everyday vocations until somebody had been arrested for the robbery. The man Miller seemed to be wary prey, eluding his pursuers with the crafty skill of an

old offender. It was a solitary week to 'Zeki'l. He had been completely ostracized by his neighbors. They openly shunned him, and no more ork came to his forge. He stood in the empty shop one day wondering what he should do next, where

slowly, quietly in. He flushed painfully. "You see I'm idle," he said, point-

ing to the dead coals in the forge. 'They don't think I'm worthy o' doin' their work any longer." "I wouldn't mind," she said, ten-

lerly, laying her hand on his arm. "They'll see they are mistaken after a while, and be glad enough to come back to you. "I don't know," with a heavy sigh, "It's the injustice that hurts me, an' the lack o' faith in my honesty. The years I've lived here count for nothin'

stamping of iron-shod hoofs in the thickets, where the mules and the horses were tied.

horses were tied. It was a quiet but alert congrega-tion. A kind of expectancy, of sus-pense, filled the air. No telling what might happen before the day was over. At the far end of Naples lies the church of Santa Maria Annuntiata, which once a year, on the Day of Our Lady, wakes up into a brief life and might happen before the day was over. The preacher made the robbery the theme of his discourse, and there were nods and approving looks when he re-ferred to the punishment laid up for those who persisted in doing evil. It was a fitting finale that just before the benediction was pronounced a small cavaleade rode up to the church door—who have reached the age of eighteen though he defended the unfortunate

cavalcade rode up to the church door— the sheriff, two deputies, and Miller. A thrill ran through the church, a rustle, a whisper, and the preacher cried aloud to to the sheriff: and whose character is good At ried aloud to to the sheriff: "What do you want, Brother Man-um?" "Zel-il Morgan"

gum? 'Zeki'l Morgan."

"Zeki'l Morgan." "Here he is, here he is, "cried more than one voice, and men rose to their feet and laid eager hands on the unre-feet and laid eager hands on the unresisting 'Zeki'l. "What do you want him for ?" cried Lijy Morgan, rising from his seat in the deacons' corner. "What's he

"Helped to rob the store."

"We've said so, we've said so, ever faces turn a shade paler, their heart since it happened," a chorus of stern but triumphant voices exclaimed. "Bring up the witness ag'in' him, the man that says he did it," said 'Lijy, advancing to the open space before the pulpit.

No man has said out an' out that helped to do it but Miller." he helped to do it, but Miller-"It's a lie," cried 'Lijy, loud enough to be heard beyond the church door.

'Zeki'l's eyes were fixed anxiously, warningly, on his brother, and once he tried to throw off the hands holding him "Prove it then," a taunting voice

cried out. "I will," said 'Lijy, though he grew pale, and trembled strangely. "A more honest man than 'Zeki'l Morgan never lived.'

"What do you know of him ?" Again 'Zeki'l strove to free himself,

but failed. "Lijy," he called imploringly, "Lijy, Lijy, mind what you say !" instance, Catholics speak of certain Pro 'Lijy looked across at him. testant friends or acquaintances as "I will mind the truth, 'Zeki'l." He

being very good Christians, and as being in the way of salvation, and turned to the congregation. "I came here with good recommenhence, that nothing need be done dations, brethren ; I am a deacon o towards their conversion. the church ; you have faith in my in-This loose manner of speech creates tegrity, my honor." An approving murmur went up. "If a dozen a double wrong. In the first place, it tends to inculcate among Catholics thieves were to stop at my house even, the pernicious doctrine that no there'd be no suspicion against me. matter what a person believes he will He paused, passed his hand over his be saved, and it is calculated to lull face, then looked up again. "Years ago there were two brothers in this our separated brethren into a sense o perfect security in their "mutilated State who grew up together happy and Christianity." It is the duty of Catholics to proclaim contented. The elder one was always a little wild, and would get drunk The elder one was always

clearly and unequivocally the truth that our Lord founded but one Church sometimes, even after he'd married and had a family to look after, but the and that is the one resting upon th younger was the steadiest, best boy in the settlement. One night the elder rock, and that all men must hear th Church, or be like the heathen and the brother, in a fit of drunken reckless publican. ness, stole a horse from the camp of a We should not minimize the faith

should go, when 'Lizabeth walked Kentucky drover, an' nobody found it out but his brother, who undertook to return the horse, an' was arrested. He took the guilt, he stood the trial, an' went to the penitentiary. He lost his good name, the girl he loved, his ome, everything in the world an honest man values. He served his time, an' instead o' comin' home to be

a reproach to his cowardly brother when free, he went away into a strange settlement to live. An' by an' by his brother moved there too, an' his conscience hurt him more an' more as he saw what a sad, lonesome life the convict lived. He was prosperous, he

The Whispering Madonna. Choosing Orphan Girls for Wives in a

There is another picture by Raphael, ow to be found in Munich, called The Whispering Madonna." The nother is standing as gracefully as a

rose bending backward on its stalk, to support her child, pressing His face close to her own. There is a swe smile on her lips, and the Child? Have you never seen a mother holding her lips to her child's ear and whisper ing-whispering, oh, how softly and sweetly? And have you not seen the infant's face change, smile, look grave smile again, all as if it understood every word said in its ears? realize, as perhaps never before unless in reading some page from Father Faber, the blissful familiarity in which Our Lady lived with her Divine Babe. There was a venera tion, on, how tender, for the least fold of linen touching His sacred body there was an adoration, oh, how abs lute, for His Divine Person; at the same time Mary handled, caressed soothed the charming Humanity of th little Incarnate One with all a mother' fondness, all a mother's caresses.

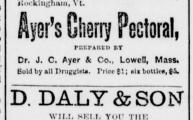
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most popular of all cough cures. "Of the many preparations before the public for the cure of colds, coughs, bronchitis, and kindred diseases, thergo-is none, within the range of my experi-once, so reliable as Ayer's Cherry Pec-toral. For years I was subject to colds, followed by terrible coughs. About four years ago, when so afflicted, I was ad-vised to try Ayer's Cherry Pectoral and to lay all other remedies aside I did so, and within a week was well of my cold and cough. Since then I havo always kept this preparation in the house, and feel comparatively secure." Do not Minimize What You Believe In their effort to appear free from bigotry and intolerance, many Catho lics actually retard, by their language and conduct, the labor of conversion o Such persons are well-meaning. and act from the best of intentions but through a defective knowlege of our holy religion, and what it commands they entertain erroneous notions con - Mrs. L. L. Brown, Denmark, Miss. cerning their relations with non-Cath

- Mrs. L. L. Brown, Denmark, Miss. "A few years ago I took a severe cold which affected my lungs, I had a ter-rible cough, and passed night after night without sleep. The doctors gavo me up. I tried Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, which relieved my lungs, induced sleep, and afforded the rest necessary for the recovery of my strength. By the con-tinual use of the Pectoral, a permanent cure was effected."-Horace Fairbrother, Nockingham, Vt.



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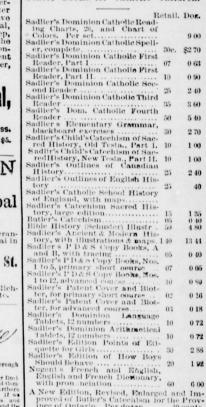
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"But he lowed that he knew you.

"Where ?"

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"In prison," said 'Zeki'l, quietly, though he flushed with shame. "Aha! I 'lowed so, I just 'lowed so,

last night."

'Zeki'l tingled all over. He had never felt the degradation of being a convict more heavily than at that moment. He suspected Miller of the with you.' theft, this man's tone implied that he suspected them both. It showed how He trembled before the future her words conjured up. "Could you, would you, be willin" slight a hold he had upon the trust o his neighbors if they could so readily to bear my disgrace, share it, be believe that he would rob the bes shunned like a plague, have no comfriend he had in the settlement. H pany, no friend, but me ?" went into the house and sat down by love, or company ? I'd give up all the world, 'Zeki'l, willin'ly, willin'ly, for the hearth, his head leaned between hi

hands. News of the robbery spread, and men you. left their work to go over to the store stirred up, pleasantly excited. It wa eyes, realized the full truth of her not often that Zion Hill settlement could boast of having anything so im portant as this robbery take plac an' I'm wrong to let you make it ; but --the Lord forgive me !--I can't hold within its limits, and it must be made the most of. out alone any longer. My will an' my courage are all broke down. I need

'Zeki'l held aloof from the store where he knew a large crowd had col lected, but, later in the day, a small delegation came up to interview him. He read suspicion in every face, in-dignation in every eye. His quiet, dignation in every eye. His quiet honest life among them had been for gotten ; they remembered only that he had been a convict.

"Once a thief, always a thief, I

say," one man cried loudly. 'Zeki'l clenched his hands, but what our marryin' me, " said 'Zeki'l. "Then she can make the best of it." He could he say in self-defence? The next day was Saturday, and regular "meetin" day at Zion Hill made a clear, straightforward state ment of all he knew about Miller, church. Everybody in the settlement earnestly denying all knowledge of the who could attended services that day robbery, but he felt the slight impres-The Morgans were all there, even 'Lizabeth, and 'Zeki'l sat in his accussion it made on their doubting minds. They did not openly accuse him, but tomed place, apparently unmindful of they asked many questions, they exof the cold, hostile glances and whischanged knowing glances, and when they went away he felt that he had pers around him. Through open doors and windows shone golden sunlight, The been tried and condemned. floated spicy odors from the woods sur sheriff had gone in pursuit of Miller, f men sat or stood rounding all but the front of the and all day groups of about the store whittling sticks, chew- church, which faced the public road ; ing tobacco, and talking. It was a and vagrant bees mingled their lazy

"I have faith in you, 'Zeki'l." He laid his hand over hers. "If I had you, 'Lizabeth, if I only had you to help me bear it."

What are friends to the one we

He looked into her deep, earnest

"It's a great sacrifice, 'Lizabeth,

their plans for the future. The shop,

black with charcoal and iron dust, was

a queer place for such a conversation

but they paid little heed to their sur

roundings. "Marthy Ann will never get over

vords, and drew her closer to him.

elp, I need you."

"That's what I've come for, 'Zeki'l. I'm crippled. It may be that I'll turn ut to be more of a burden than a comfort to you, but I can't sit down there

his conscience. There never lived a truer hero than 'Zeki'l Morgan. Nolonger knowin' you are here slighted and sufferin' all alone. 'Zeki'l body should know it better than I. for am the brother whose crime he sufhave pity on me, if you've none on yourself, and let me bear this trouble fered for.

Then he walked across the floor to 'Zeki'l's side in the midst of the deepest silence which had ever fallen apon a congregation in Zion Hill church.

men, while the other was shunned, and

regarded with distrust." Emotion

hen he turned and pointed to 'Zeki'l.

Brethren, look at that man ; look

without prejudice or suspicion, an'

you'll not see guilt in his face nor on

checked his utterance for a moment

It was Ben Johnson, we believe, who, when asked Mallock's question, "Is life worth living?" replied, "That depends on the *liver*." And Ben Johnon doubtless saw the double point to the pun. The liver active-quicklife rosy, everything bright, mountain of trouble melt like mountains of snow. The liver sluggish-life dull, every-thing blue, molehills of worry risinto mountains of anxiety, and as a result-sick headache, dizziness, con-stipation. Two way are open. Cure

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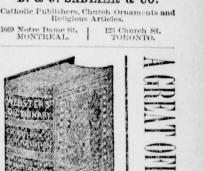
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