

When Esther recovered consciousness her first thought was for little Mary, whom she found to be unhurt, and still sleeping peacefully, although the small blanket in which it was wrapped was scorched and discolored.

Even Reuben was somewhat impressed, although he did not altogether share his wife's enthusiasm about the evident grace attached to the child's name.

III.

"Mother," said Mary Grant one day as she ran in from school, "is it a sin to pray to the Virgin Mary?"

"Why, Mary?"

"Our teacher said to-day that the Catholics were idolaters because they pray to the Virgin Mary. Katie Rourke told me that she prayed to the 'Blessed Virgin,' as she calls her, every day. Do you pray to her, mother?"

Mrs. Grant rose and went to a little chest in a corner of the room and drew forth a baby's blanket, faded and discolored. Then she told Mary the origin of her name and the fate from which she had been saved. "I prayed to her that time, dear," she said, "and I never felt like an idolater." Mary sat thinking.

"Mother," she said at last, "don't you think when the Blessed Virgin did that for you and me that we ought to belong to the Church that honors her?"

This was a new thought, but that evening Esther took her daughter to Mrs. Rourke's to find out just what they thought about the Mother of Christ, as Esther always called her. Mrs. Rourke's explanation satisfied her so well that she undertook to get further explanations from the priest, good Father O'Donovan, and a few months later, when the May chimes were ringing out in honor of Our Lady, two Marys, mother and daughter, were placed forever under the protection of that dearest of Mothers, by the Sacrament of Baptism.

Reuben offered no objections, and later on he, too, became a member of the Church that honors the Mother of God.

S. M. C.