

under the double mound, where the grass was already growing green, the box of books was safely recovered. Then, after a rest and a prayer over the graves, they retraced their footsteps, but dark night had fallen when they reached the little home in Carrigadurris again.

Then began Peggy's self-imposed task as monitress to a willing pupil. The precious books remained in her keeping, and every night Christie came down from the farm to seek them. Three times in the week he went to the schoolmaster's house for his lessons, the small fee required for them coming out of the boy's own wages, Peggy's share being to keep down his other expenses, mending and making, and keeping his scant wardrobe in such repair that, with the exception of boots, he never seemed to have to buy anything at all.

The boy, with his bright face and eager ways, grew very dear to the little lonely woman. She was quite content to sit silently by the fire evening after evening, as long as her eyes could rest on the dark head bent over the oil lamp that lit the room. And whilst her fingers were busy knitting for her young student her thoughts strayed away to his future, and ever and again her lips moved in prayer that God would make him worthy of the high calling to which he aspired.

The six months of his hiring lengthened to a year, to which another and yet a third succeeded. He had learnt all that the school-master could teach him, and yet beyond his added learning he was no nearer the desired goal.

The parish was poor, and there were already more candidates than burses at the diocesan seminary. Perhaps, too, the parish priest was dubious of Christie's vocation, and even Peggy could extract no more from him than a promise that if Christie was of the same mind in two years' time, when another student from the parish would have finished his course of studies, that his name would be laid before the Bishop, and if his vocation was thought to be a real call from God it might be possible to provide for his maintenance at college; but in any case he would have to supply something, say five pounds a year, for the seven years of his theological course.