

When I returned late at night and told old Shawms that he was about to be quit to me, I saw first a light of relief in the rascal's face. Then it was followed quickly by a deeper shadow.

"I would better Your Honor's shadow," said he, "for we may get a worse in your place."

I had no thought of sleep that night. The fire went low in the library; I replenished it. The candles burnt to the socket. I had the full moon and the firelight. So I sat in the deep chair within the screen of Spanish leather by the fire, and with my chin on my breast thought my bitter and jealous thoughts.

It was about 2 of the clock and bitter cold when I heard the lap, lap of the lady's silks gliding down the stairs, and the hurried tapping of her little heels. She came hurriedly, to admit her lover, I did not doubt, a business which admitted of no delay.

Suddenly there was a little shriek, so soft and quiet, that I hardly knew it I had really heard it. But I went to the door and looked out. There was the lady sitting on the lower step, pale to the lips. The branch of candles beside her fluttered in the wind. As she saw me her lips opened as though to speak, and closed. Her eyes looked at me as though they prayed for mercy. It was the girl of the picture with a shadow of fear over all her joy.

"Madam," said I, going nearer, "what is the matter?"

"I have twisted my foot," said she. "My heel turned beneath me. I cannot stir. What am I to do?"

Knocking down my hat, I felt about the ankle. I am the seventh son of the seventh son, and know something of medicine.

"This is a strain," said I. "You had better let me lift you to a couch. You will not be able to stand upon it."

Only then I noticed that she wore a large, feathered hat, and a cloak of velvet that hid her flattery.

"What am I to do?" she cried, wringing her hands. "It is not my self, sir, but some one needs help. Will you find old Shawms and send him for a doctor? There is a horse in the abbey ready to be ridden."

"If the case is urgent," I said, "you had better trust me. I know something of medicine. It is seven miles to the nearest town."

"Sir," she replied, "the old man Shawms has learnt to love you. We have not dared to trust his report of you. But now I cannot help it. So I will trust you in the name of God. Upstairs a gentleman lies bleeding, for all we know, to death. We cannot staunch the wound."

"Show me the way," I said, and then added: "I ask you a pardon; there is nothing else to be done."

And with that I took her in my arms and ascended the stairs with her. She said nothing at all, but guided me with a pointing finger this way and that through a maze of corridors. At last we entered a room—a library, well walled with books. No one had thought the shelves to be anything, but what they seemed, but at one point a door opened in them, from which we passed into a warm corridor, with rugs below our feet.

"The lady has had a hurt," I said, laying her down tenderly upon a sofa. "She has trusted me. Let me see the wound."

An elderly lady, with a very stately powdered head, sat on a couch by the fireplace. Along the couch the body of a young man, partly undressed, was laid. His head was in her lap. Her face was the face of the Mater Dolorosa of the Italian painters. I dressed the wound and then bled her.

"The bleeding is stanch," I said, "and with my lotion the wound will heal."

"O sir," she said, "a mother's prayers and thanks are yours."

"And a sister's," said a low voice near me.

I turned then, and saw the lady of the picture smiling at me, though her face was pale. The thing flashed on me that she like lightning from a cloud.

"I thought you first to be a ghost," I said; "the ghost of the lady in the picture gallery. Afterward I thought you to be—"

"The picture is my grandmother, from whom I am called," she replied. "I am Bridie Aylmer."

And now, sir, at last, accept our hospitality at hands most willing to give it," said the elderly lady.

"Nay," said I, "because I am a King's officer, I can stanch a sick man's wound, but presently I should be asking questions. Let me go; in happier times I will return."

IMMODEST TALKERS.

The editor of the Catholic Columbian Record gives this wholesome counsel: "Most Catholics have too many devotions and too little devotion to the Holy Eucharist. If they would cut off half their prayers and reduce to one the number of societies to which they belong, but multiply their acts of virtue and go worthily to communion four times as often as they do they would have far more chance to be canonized than they have now. It is by eating the Body of Christ and drinking His blood that they will live in Him."

If you meet a man who always speaks of woods, game and chase, you come to the conclusion that he is a hunter. If you meet another who talks only of business, commerce and goods, you say he must be a merchant. But if you meet one who utters nothing but obscenities, vulgarities and impure jests, what is your judgment of him? You justly think: he is an immoral man. And verily you are right in thinking thus, and are not guilty of rash judgment, for, says the proverb, as being the voice of all mankind: "Whereof the heart is filled, the mouth runs over."

Immodest talkers, therefore, have you heard what every honest person thinks of you? If you wish no longer to be a Christian, a child of God, are you not, at least, ashamed to place yourself before all the world in the pillory and with your own hand to fasten on yourself a tablet of disgrace, bearing the inscription: "I am a licentious, beastly creature?"

And, yet, what shall I say of the great sin, which such a frivolous talker commits. Is not, according to the solemn teaching of faith, every violation of purity, every crime against chastity, a grievous sin in the sight of God? And this levity talker, by his foul tongue, ventures to display publicly his impure, vicious heart, those lips, whereupon the Most Holy Body of Jesus so often rested in holy communion, are defiled by words that are an abomination before the All-Holy, and before all good Christians. Is it possible, to insult God more ignominiously and to desecrate one's tongue more criminally? And yet this is not all. Where shall I find words, to depict the scandal and seduction which so lascivious a talker prepares for all those who must be his hearers? Can human malice go beyond making oneself the assistant of Satan, to rob God of souls, for whom our Lord shed His Precious Blood, to lead them to be slain by Satan, to plunge them into misery and woe for all eternity. And yet this is what you do, O unchaste talker. So infernal a crime you perpetrate, as far as you are concerned, on all your hearers, for you destroy their innocence and contaminate their hearts. Almost by force you entice them to a sin, which is so horrible in the sight of God that no account of it fire rained over Sodom and Gomorrah, and, according to the command of St. Paul, its very name should not even be mentioned among Christians.

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small nuns, about a score of them. They came with bright, eager, happy faces, their brisk movements setting their veils waving behind them; as my friend expressed it, "They fluttered in like butterflies, and settled round the Papal throne." Who were these? They were Franciscan nuns on the eve of their departure for China. They came to get the Holy Father's blessing before starting on their journey to their arduous and perilous post.

They looked as if they were pleased to be party gathering for a picnic. They were to have their share in the conversion of the heathen, not so much by preaching as by doing. Their lives of self-sacrifice and devotion were to be the daily, hourly object lesson in which the infidels might learn the truth. Each one approached the feet of His Holiness in turn to kiss his ring; he gave them the one common blessing, whereupon they fluttered out again as they had fluttered in.

As they receded through the doorway the Holy Father, following them with his eyes, and thinking no doubt of the land they were bound for, where so many missionaries and nuns had with such horrible and cruel deaths, said in impressive tones as he raised himself erect in his chair: "The dear Sisters! They sacrifice everything for the love of God. They go now to martyrdom! to martyrdom!—almartiro, almartiro!"

There is nothing in nature to equal the devoted love of a good Christian mother. Many a poor mother in a humble home, with no money or position, has struggled hard to feed and clothe her little ones, to train them to be an honor to their country and a blessing to the world. Most of our useful, prominent men, from such homes, Calvary Cemetery is full of such sleeping mothers, whose hands are folded over their breasts. No worldly eye ever saw the records of their lives.

—American Herald.

The Catholic Mother.

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—American Herald.

BRINGING BACK THE T. A. S. BANNER.

Rev. Dr. O'Brien's Enthusiastic Welcome.

Peterborough Examiner, August 15.

The circumstances attending the enthusiastic welcome last night tendered Rev. Dr. O'Brien, by the T. A. S. members, and the banner so splendidly won at the Quebec Convention, emphasizing the moral effect of those who were present, and the society over which he has spiritual supervision. In noting the long procession which escorted him to the church, one could not help being deeply impressed with the moral effect of the promotion of temperance and sobriety. In a procession of this kind, men, it was rightly probable that those who were present, and the society over which he has spiritual supervision. In noting the long procession which escorted him to the church, one could not help being deeply impressed with the moral effect of the promotion of temperance and sobriety. In a procession of this kind, men, it was rightly probable that those who were present, and the society over which he has spiritual supervision. 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