

and that she would make her profession on the feast of our Holy Mother. So childlike was her faith, that, though Father Stafford, in the town, shook his head, and said he thought 'twas very improbable the permissions from our Most Reverend Father Provincial and our Lord Bishop would arrive in time, she prayed me to let her begin her retreat on the day after the Portiuncula; and I consented. And now, Reverend Father," said she, looking at Father Egan and the gentleman hitherto called 'Master Douglas,' "which of you bears the desired permission? To say sooth, Father Galwey,\* in our recreations we had divined that the papers should come unto us in some of your merchandize."

Father Galwey gave a merry smile.

"I think my Lord has them," and he looked at Father Egan.

"My Lord!" cried Mother Abbess and the Vicarress. "Oh! Father, is it true?"

"Yes, Mother Abbess," said Sir Luke, coming forward; "let me present unto you my Lord Bishop of Ross."†

The nuns fell on their knees, and the Bishop, having drawn his episcopal ring from a safe place of concealment, placed it on his finger, and gave it them to kiss.

"I would not," said the Bishop, "that any hands but my own should bless the spousal ring of my well beloved child in Christ, and I craved permission of your Bishop and Provincial to give me the

office of receiving her to holy profession; and, as Father Galwey was about to set sail for the Orkneys, and is so well known in Drogheda as 'Master Douglas' 'twas a good opportunity to come hither as his servant, albeit I have proved but a sorry one to his reverence, I fear. To keep up the disguise, he had to chide me sharply in a hostelry on our way for my little skill in grooming the horses."

A merry laugh went round the party at this anecdote.

"And now," said Sir Luke, "I suppose, Mother Abbess, Gerald and I must not break on the bride's retreat to-day. We will lodge to-night with the O'Sullivan's, and leave you to confer on those weighty spiritual affairs of yours, which poor soldiers know nothing of, with my Lord Bishop and the Reverend Father."

"I believe Bride O'Sullivan is even now in the Convent," said Mother Abbess, an announcement which made Gerald start from his seat. "She is busy indeed with preparations for the ceremony to-morrow, for she hath been certain all the permissions would arrive. She saith our sweet sister Clare of Jesus doth never pray in vain, and so she decks our chapel and prepares a wondrous banquet for our poor convent. Shall Mother Vicarress lead you to the chapel, where you can confer with her?"

The offer was accepted, and the party separated till the morrow.

\* \* \* \* \*

It was barely light on the following morning, when in the soft gray dawn, ere yet Nature had aroused from her slumber, one little group after another might be seen wending its way towards the convent. The sentry at the gate was in the secret, and let them pass, and thus by four o'clock a somewhat numerous party filled the little chapel with its mud walls and thatched roof; where Evelyn was to consummate her sacrifice.

The loving skill of the nuns had long been exercised to make their humble chapel as worthy a dwelling place for their Divine Guest as they could; trunks of trees, which had been enclosed when the walls were built, had been made to represent pillars, while every pains that their narrow means would allow had been lavished on the altar.

To-day it looked specially gay and

\* Father David Galwey, of the Society of Jesus: Father Holiwood, Superior of the order in Ireland, wrote thus:—"He is especially adapted for this Mission, because he is well acquainted with the Irish, as well as the English language. The life of a merchant which he followed before, makes him in the transaction of business, more cautious and expeditious." Father Galwey multiplied himself in the cause of the Missions. Ireland did not present a field sufficiently extensive for his zeal and charity. For thrice, in the disguise of a merchant, he visited Scotland, the Hebrides, and the Orkney Islands, and gained many souls to God. Severe to himself, and dead to the world, he laboured and lived but to promote the greater honour and glory of his Maker.—*Oliver's Collections*, illustrating the Biography of the Society of Jesus.

† Father Boetius Egan, a holy Franciscan friar, appointed to the See of Ross by the Pope, in 1647, on the recommendation of the Nuncio.