

wald. Not quite. Our Abbot—thank God that it is my privilege to call him so!—having, as I told you, seen and spoken to Prior Oswald, was certain that, sooner or later, the good Prior would be seen and spoken to again. “And,” he added—so my uncle told me later, “I should not be surprised if your nephew, ‘Father’ Robinson, of St. Jude’s, Lansdown, were the favored individual.” Why he should have thought so I hardly know, unless it were that he had read my sermon on “Devotion to the Mother of God,” and could foresee what—thank God and our Lady—has proved the inevitable consequence of such devotion—though I say it who am not worthy of the favors shown me.

But, as it proved, our Abbot was right. I have seen Prior Oswald, and, if I have not actually spoken to him, I have heard him. Let me tell you how, as briefly as may be.

Saint Aldhelm’s Church, at Bradford-on-Avon, not being a parish church, but a proprietary chapel, belonging to the lord of the manor, the Bishop could not “interfere” with the “Catholic doctrine and ritual” for which that ancient and venerable building became famous, about five years ago. It happened that Sir William Mackey, the squire, was an Oxford chum of mine, as was his chaplain, “Father” William Johnson.

Now, on the Feast of St. Aldhelm, two years ago, “Father” Johnson, with the squire’s consent and approval, resolved on a “function” worthy of the occasion. A returned Colonial Bishop, undeterred by “Establishment”—or by canonical usage—had promised to “pontificate”; “Father” Smith, S.S.J.E., from Cowley, was to preach, at “Mass,” and, incidentally, to act as “assistant priest” to his lordship. “Father” Johnson was to be deacon; I, sub-deacon. That was the “official programme,” which had *not* received the sanction of our “Right Reverend Father in God,” the Bishop of Middlehampton.

But: “Man proposes, and God disposes.” As to myself, I dare not speak; as to others, bishop, clergy and lay-folk, I *know* they were in absolute good faith. They were, each and all, associates of that saintly “Community of Reparation” at Garrison, New York State; each and all devout clients of our Dear Lady Mary, users of Her Rosary.