THE CATHOLIC RECORD.

ARMINE. AS IN YOUTH CHRISTIAN REID Aver's Hair Vigor CHAPTER XXIX.

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Vigor, all the front part of my head o

half of it-was bald. The use

CORDIALLY INDORSED. Egerton did not return that evenbut the next morning, at the earliest hour possible for a visit, he RESTORES presented himself, asked first for Mile. d'Antignac, and on learning that she Natural Growth was out gave his card, requesting that it might be taken to Mlle. Duchesne. OF THE "But Mile. Duchesne is not here, HAIR monsieur," said Cesco. "Not here?" said the young man. "I understood from M. d'Antignac -WHEN .

yesterday that she would be here in ALL OTHER the evening." Dressings The servant could only repeat the FAIL

fact already stated ; she was not here. An apartment had been prepared for her, but she had not yet come to take possession of it. Should he inquire if M. d'Antignac could see M. Egerton

The latter hesitated a moment, then said no, he would not intrude on M d'Antignac at that early hour ; and, re-entering his *flacre*, drove to the Rue Neuve des Petits Champs. That his sensations were not envi-

able as he proceeded thither it may well be conceived. Hitherto his busi ness in life had been to seek amuse ment; now he suddenly saw himself confronted by a stern and most dis agreeable duty-a duty he had, grat uitously as it were, brought upon him

self, inasmuch as he had put himself in the position which caused it to be demanded of him. Playing with fire is proverbially a dangerous amusement; and of this trite truth, as apposite to his association with Dasne, he had been reminded often enough and earnestly enough for the warning to have produced some effect if it had ever occurred to him to give a thought to such warning. The danger of entanglement on one side or llusion on the other was over for him if it had ever existed : but he felt that the brief association with Duchesne, s idly formed and so tragically ended, was not a mere episode in his life, but an epoch, for it had left results that

might in more than one way affect the whole of his future. Even before Duchesne's death the thought had severa times occurred to him, with a surprise not untinctured by awe, that if he ever attained to Christian belief he

would have to date the dawn of such belief from his acquaintance with this enemy of Christianity ; since but for his acquaintance with Duchesne him self he would not have known Armine and but for the strong impression made upon him by words that had fallen now and again from her lips, suggesting trains of thought and ogical sequences never before preented to his mind, the Catholi Church would have remained to him terra incognita with which he was not likely to come into sufficiently unprejudiced contact for his intelligence to regard it impartially. It would be too much to say that the virtual act of faith made by him when Duchesne

was dying merited that illumination f soul necessary to the full reception of Catholic truth. The act was but an instinctive impulse of the spiritual nature-the involuntary recognition of his Creator by the creature in a noment of strong emotion. During the period of intense bodily pain and nervous prostration which followed the

very recollection of that lightningflash of faith was forgotten ; but only for the time. Light had irradiated the dark places of his soul once, and now he was not unwilling to say, "Lord,

believe : help Thou mine unbelief. On arriving at his place of destin-ation he alighted once more, and, in very much what may be supposed to e the frame of mind of a man about

my nerves are very shaky yet. And I he continued with a faint you.

confess," he continued with a fasmile, "that I dread the interview fore me. You have just left Mlle. Duchesne, I suppose ?" "Yes," she replied, her face taking an expression of gravity as she spoke.

"And will she receive me, do you know? You were kind enough, perhaps, to prepare her for my visit?

"I came so early this morning specially for that purpose," she an-swered : "for I am ashamed to acknowledge that I forgot to speak of it yester-day. Yes, she will receive you. But day. "she hesitated ; then, as he evidently waited for her to proceed, said : " was going to beg you to make your communication as brief and as little painful as possible ; but I am sure such caution is needless."

"It would be needless if I had any option in the matter," he replied. "But that, of course, I have not."

"Well, I must not detain you longer," she said kindly. "For your own sake, as well as hers, it is best that the meeting should be over as soon as may be. Good morning."

"Good morning," he responded ; and they went their separate ways, he envying her in that she was not called upon to perform the task before him she pitying him, and wishing him Gcdspeed in the same.

He was shown into the salon, and the first object that his eye rested on as he entered was the figure of Armine. Dressed now in deep black, she was standing motionless in the middle of the floor in an attitude as aimless as that of a lay figure. There was some thing, indeed, so unnaturally still and impassive in this attitude that Egerton unconsciously paused just within the threshold of the room and stood gazing at her in apprehensive wonder. And when, roused by the closing of the door after his entrance, she turned slowly toward him, he could scarcely repress an exclamation, so startled was he by the sight of her face. Helene had been struck with surprise at the inde finable change in the girl; his predominant emotion was that of dismay Perceiving him, she advanced quietly and extended her hand, which he tool without uttering a word ; for he could think of no words that seemed fittingnay, that would not sound to him oppressively commonplace. It was she who first broke the silence.

"I am sorry to see that you are suffering," she said. Turning, she drew forward an easy

chair, motioned him toward it, then seated herself near and fixed her eyes on his expectantly. All this was so different from any

thing that he had anticipated that his embarrassment became almost over-powering. He regarded her for an instant; then, making a desperate effort to recover the self possession that was about to desert him entirely, answered :

"Yes, I am suffering. This is my excuse for not having waited on you before to day, mademoiselle." "Why should you have been in

naste ?" she said apathetically. "I was in haste to fulfil a promise]

had made," he answered, "and to exe cute a trust which had been laid on

effects of the shock, I hope?" she said, looking at him with kind sympathy. "Somewhat," he answered. "But matter; and all that I ask of you is to hold inviolate the secret entrusted to

> "But, mademoiselle," he cried earnestly, and with mingled surprise and disapproval, "you cannot mean that you do not intend to claim your in-

heritance ! "That is what I mean," she answered.

"Impossible !" he exclaimed. "All other considerations apart, you will not, I am sure, disregard the imperative intention of your father to secure you against an evil of which you are no doubt ignorant as yet-one of the worst evils, if not the very worst, that beset any life, but especially that of a woman-the curse of poverty." "I am in no danger of suffering

from poverty," she replied. "My mother's fortune-which was not large but is quite sufficient for my wantswas secured to me."

"But, mademoiselle," Egerton again eagerly began, when she interrupted him. "I am the representative of my

father," she said in a tone half inter rogative, half-asserting. "Assuredly," he answered.

"The sole representative." "Yes."

" It rests with me, then, to act or not in this affair ; and I shall not act. Again Egerton strove to speak, and again was stopped.

"It is altogether useless to discus the subject," she said decidedly. "I mean what I have said. I shall no move in the matter."

"Not claim even your name ?" "Of course not, since to do that

would be to proclaim the whole. Egerton was silent a moment before he asked in a somewhat constrained

"Do you mean, mademoiselle, that not even the Vicomte de Marigny is to be informed of this discovery ?"

"Yes, monsieur, I mean that," she replied. What was Egerton to do? He was

not inclined for the controversy in which he so unexpectedly found him self engaged, but a sense of loyalty to the trust of the dead man made him feel bound to use every argument in his power ; and, though he had not intended in this interview to press the claims of humanity on Armine's filial

conscience, he now felt driven to this "Permit me, mademoiselle," he said firmly but deferentially, "to remind you that the wishes of your fathermay, indeed, say his commandought to have weight with you, and will, I am sure, when you have de liberately considered the subject, compel you to change your decision. have still a direct message to deliver to you-

He paused as Armine rose from her eat. Extending her hand with the motion of putting the whole question aside, she said :

"I will hear no more. Monsieur.] thank you for-for all." Coming to his side-he, too, had risen-she put out her own hand and grasped his, hold ing it as she went on : "Do not think me ungrateful. You have been a true and noble friend to my father. You have faithfully discharged the trust he placed in you. Is it not enough that you have done this? It is all that you can do.

When Egerton found himself again rattling along the streets of Paris he looked vaguely at the brilliance and glitter and rushing tide of life around Which was actual - the blue im. sky and sunshine, the gay splendor of broad street and its hurrying the crowds, or that quiet room with what seemed to him the almost spirit-like spoke this morning. Two different individuals could not be more unlike." a moment before parted? He felt a strange sense of bewilderment, as if D'Antignac looked grave, almost anxious. "Helene tells me the same anxious. "Helene tells me the same thing," he said. "Poor child ! she he had seen one who was and yet was not Armine, together with a great consciousness of physical discomfort. must have suffered indescribably.' "To return to my own part of the Perhaps the last predominated ; for a business," said Egerton, "I think that first he thought less of the interview I shall go to Dinan to morrow, look into just over than of his nerves and his tomach, both of which were making the matter-that is, obtain the necessary documents to establish the validthemselves sensibly and very prom inently disagreeable. And, like all ity of the marriage. ' persevering claimants, their impor-"If they are to be obtained," interunity presently gained attention to posed D'Antignac, with a smile. "That of course," said Egerton ; "and if they are not to be obtained I their wants by reminding him that he had taken no food that morning. He had, it is true, gone through the form shall be quite reconciled to the fact, before coming out, but had eaten since Mile. Duchesne takes the affair At this recollection he nothing as she does. On my return - saying stopped at a cafe and ordered breakfast; that I am successful in my search — I and while waiting for it to be served shall once more present the subject to his thoughts naturally returned to her consideration ; and I hope for your Armine and the incidents of the morninfluence to induce her to listen more

It was not until he was leaving the cafe half an hour later that a thought came to him like an inspiration. He would go to D'Antignac, ask his advice, and enlist his influence with

Armine. Fortunately for him it was one of D'Antignac's best days, and he was admitted at once.

"I have come to you for advice," he said, after answering very briefly D'Antignac's inquiries about his health. "I find myself in a most perplexing position about this business of ooorDuchesne's. Will you let me tell you he story, which is a strange one, and then give me your opinion as to what

you think I ought to do?" "Tell me, by all means," said the other cordially. My opinion and ad-vice shall be heartily at your service : and, moreover, 1 will not quarrel with

you if you do not take either after they are given," he added with a smile. "Thank you," said Egerton; and

he proceeded in the first place to repeat the relation which Duchesne when dying had made to him.

D'Antignac listened in silence, his expressive countenance indicating the strongest interest. Egerton saw, by a sudden quickening in the dark eyes as he began his narrative, that the fact of Duchesne's connection with the De Marigny name was not unknown to him ; and there was a something between incredulity and anxiety in D'Antignac's face as the story went on. After repeating as literally as he renembered them the words of Duchesne,

he was beginning to describe his in terview with Armine when D'Antignac interposed. "A moment," he said. "Pardon

me, but have you made inquiries, obtained the proofs Duchesne spoke of ?" "Not yet," was the reply. "I have "Not yet," was the reply. not had time, and have been, as you are aware, in no condition to make any exertion. But I purpose-or did pur pose to go to Dinan to-morrow and him, he explained apologetically : secure this proof." "He's a deal of 'em a'ready. Folks

" Don't you think," said D'Antignac. ' that it would have been wise to have attended to these necessary preliminaries before saying anything to

Armine on the subject? Egerton looked a little startled. "I see," he said, "that I have acted prematurely in speaking to her. Yes you are right. I ought to have investigated the matter before saying a word to her about it. Duchesne may have been deceived, though I think not.

He was too sagacious a man to permit himself to be misled either by his own opes or the plausible representations of another. He was evidently so confident of the correctness of his inform ation that I shall be surprised if the affair does not turn out exactly as he described.

"And Armine-how did she receive your communication ?"

"In the most extraordinary way, it eems to me," answered Egerton ; and he described at length the scene with

"Whether such unaccountable her. conduct is attributable to her present state of mind I do not know. She is certainly very unlike in manner what she has heretofore seemed. I was amazed at the change I found in her ; was even shocked !

"My sister tells me that she is greatly changed, "said D'Antignac. "Which is not surprising," he added, "considering all that she must have

suffered lately. 'But the alteration is greater than even the shock and horror of her fath-er's death might be supposed to cause. In fact, I was appalled at the marvel ous dissimilarity to her former self which she exhibited. It has left a singular impression on my mind ; I cannot connect her as she was when I I was allus crowded out, that's how I saw her last with her as she looked and

"I am afraid that it is more my impatience to rid myself of the responsibility I feel than any special necessity for haste which urges me to action," replied Egerton. "However, there is,

MARCH 2, 1895.

as you say, no reason why I should hurry myself beyond my strength ; and so I may wait a few days before undertaking the expedition to Dinan, and to

Marigny to look up the witness Du-chesne spoke of. Meanwhile, I must not fatigue you longer " - he rose at the last word - "but I may come and tell you the result of my quest, may I not ?

"I was going to beg that you would," said D'Antignac, extending his hand in parting salutation. "To me, as you are no doubt aware, there is a double interest involved.

TO BE CONTINUED.

ONE MORE

Jeff Was Small and Believed There Would be Room for Him in Heaven.

"You're sure ! quite sure 'at there's oom for one more "Quite sure, dear lad."

The light was fading, but a truant

ray had quivered into the ward and ingered tenderly on the divine head and the childish, upturned faces in a picture representing the Redeemer surrounded by little children.

The boy in the cot by the door studied them wistfully. In the days he had lain there these heavenly children had become very dear to him, but the Christ with His halo of light and ineffably beautiful countenance awed him, filling his childish soul with vague hope and fear. Though his starved heart cried out for love, his brief experience of life had made him distrustful of even divine charity. Turning his wistful eyes from uneasy scruting of the picture to the living face beside

as had less couldn't make room for me

"But heaven is so big, dear boy whispered the girl. "Such a little lad as you will have lots of room."

"There was Granny Dempsey," be gan the boy, slowly marshaling his facts ; "she'd a took me in, you know, when mother-

Young as he was, he shrank from the memory of the time when a frozen lifeless thing, once a woman, had been picked up in the street and buried out of sight in a pauper's grave, - "but them fine floors made scrubbin' scarce, an' she had Terry, and Timmie. an' Pat, an' so there wa'nt no room fer me.

" Poor Jeff, poor little lad."

"Then they tried ter git me inter the orfin's home, but the boss sez as big life, 'we can't posserbly take another boy, there ain't standin' room fer one more.'

There was no reproach in the waif's voice. His pitiful statement of facts was made with the childish desire to excuse his doubt.

"Why, even at the newsboys' blow out when the hall got so crammed 'at it wouldn't hold one more, I was the feller 'at got left.'

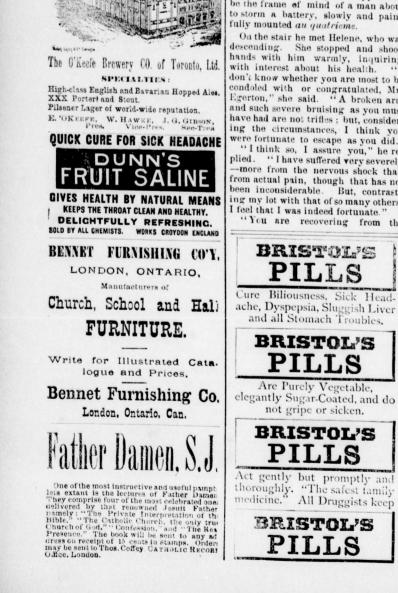
"Because you gave your ticket to somebody else ?"

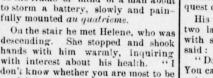
The pale face flushed with color. "Pshaw, teacher, give over guessin", you don't wriggle nothin' out'u me." "I shan't try, dear boy; you're going to tell me all of your free will." "Now you're coaxin', " he declared, with an indulgent smile for such feminine tactics, "but there ain't much more ter tell. It was allus the same story, there was never no room for me come ter git off the platform an' under

"A trust ?" she repeated ; and now there was some quickening of atten

tion in her eyes, though her manner was still without emotion. "A trust," he repeated in turn. should never have thought of intruding upon you at present, nor conceived the idea of mentioning to you a sub

ject so exquisitely painful as the one of which I have to speak, were I not constrained to do so by the express re-





condoled with or congratulated, Mr. Egerton," she said. "A broken arm and such severe bruising as you must have had are not trifles ; but, considering the circumstances, I think you were fortunate to escape as you did." "I think so, I assure you," he re

plied. "I have suffered very severely

-more from the nervous shock than from actual pain, though that has not been inconsiderable. But, contrasting my lot with that of so many others, I feel that I was indeed fortunate. "You are recovering from the

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PILLS

uest of-vour father. His voice sank as he pronounced the

two last words, which were uttered with so much reluctance that Armine

"Do not hesitate to speak freely. You cannot pain me. Pain no longer exists for me, I think. You wish to tell me something about my father?" "Yes. " said Egerton. "When dying M. Duchesne made to me a com munication of great importance, adjuring me to deliver it to you without delay

Then, in the fewest possible words, he repeated Duchesne's relation con cerning the marriage of his grandfather.

It was a strange story, as he suddenly thought, for him, a young man, to be detailing to her, a young girlembarrassing in every way ; and he did

not look toward her as he spoke until. at a slight exclamation when he first mentioned the name of De Marigny, he could not resist the temptation to observe her face. .

"Ah !" she murmured to herself in a low tone, "I understand now. This explains many things.

It was as she said this that Egerton for looked up. Was there, he wondered. any special interest to her in this dis Her face, when he permitted covery himself to glance at it, did not answer the question. It wore the expression of one who has suddenly grasped the solution of what had been a problem, but a problem of no great interest, seemingly. Egerton noted this and But when he proceeded to went on. speak of the proofs of the marriage, and remarked that he would charge himself with the duty of obtaining these proofs and taking all the legal steps required for establishing the fact of its validity, Armine stopped him. "You have fulfilled the trust given

you, monsieur, in telling me this family secret. But you will not be called upon to incur farther trouble. I shall he had never considered what his own course of action must be in such a cennot use the discovery. If my father tingency. And now this contingency "therefore I cannot see why you should had lived it would have been right for was upon him, and he felt utterly in disquiet yourself so much about a few

ing. If he had considered his position one

ow.

she still persists in her present resoluof difficulty and embarrassment before tion, her obstinacy will lay an exceed speaking to her, he found it doubly so ingly disagreeable duty upon me. Chance-if chance it was-had promised Duchesne solemnly that I brought him into a singular connecwould do my utmost to secure his tion with this girl. From the first daughter's rights to her, and that time he saw her there had been promise I intend to keep. If the proofs are forthcoming — and I shall him an indescribable at-

traction about her -a sort of attraction which he had never met spare no pains to secure them - I will lay the matter before the Vicomte de with in any other woman. And Marigny. Don't you agree with me thoughDuchesne's dying trust had been that this is what I ought to do?" cause of much an xiety to him, he had yet "Yes, that certainly is your proper found a certain charm in the sense course," answered D'Antignac.

that he was thus tacitly constituted the you spoke of going to Dinan to-morrow. guardian, if not of Armine herself, of Surely you are not in a condition to travel! Take my advice-you asked Armine's interests. He speculated on Take my advice-you asked what her sentiments regarding the it, you know-and wait until matter might be, anticipating that she at least move without pain, which I see would feel pain if the assertion of her you cannot do now." Egerton smiled. "I should have to rights should seriously injure the for-

tune of the Vicomte de Marigny, and wait a month or so in that case, if the sure that, in any event, she would deal surgeon's opinion is to be relied on," generously by her kinsman. But it he said ; "and this would not suit me never occurred to him to doubt her at all. I want to get the affair off my obedience to her father's behest, and so mind.

"Duchesne himself was in no haste to press the claim," said D'Antignac ; "therefore I cannot see why you should weeks more or less.

he wheels, an' then they brought me here. Don't," roughly, as a tear splashed on his hand, "don't do that agin ; it burns worse'n the pain.'

"Oh, Jeff ! you dear little lad, you brave little hero !

"Stow that ! do you want ter make a feller cry fer hisself?" Then, more gently, "I ain't forgot'at you was good er me; you took me in. 'You're filled up, sez the prinsuppal ; guess you can't 'commodate this little man. Oh, but I must have him,' sez you. lookin' me straight in the eyes. 'He's wuth a dozen quiet ones. Sich a frisky rollickin' lookin' lad. I must make room for him, if I have ter keep him in a cage in the winder.""

Both laughed at the memory, but while the boy's eyes shone with fun, the teacher's were bright with tears.

Wearied with talking and pain, the child rested quietly for a few moreasonably than she did this time. If ments, but presently spoke again, a little ripple of amusement blending oddly with a faltering penitent expres-

sion. "You know Coveney's old knife'at he was raisin' Cain about ?" The girl nodded assent. "It's under the platform. I hid it there ter rattle Timmie. It was allus sich fun ter see him fly off the handle."

The teacher was young in her profession, with a novice's exaggerated sense of duty. She was troubled with an uneasy suspicion that Jeff was ex-ulting still in Timmie's discomfiture, but at such a time reproof came very eluctantly.

" But

"That was very naughty, Jeff. Of you can

ourse you are sorry now !" "I can't say'at I am," he admitted, candidly. "But don't worry, teacher; he knows'at I only did it fer fun.'

The light fell lower on the wall till the Divine mandate, "Suffer little children to come unto Me," stood out on a background of gold, and, seeing it, the mentor was silenced ; a higher

power was guiding the boy. "He-don't-look-as-if- He'd be-down-on - a - little -lad-atnever-belonged-ter-nobody," continued Jeff, growing weaker every

him to claim his inheritance ; and if I doubt what to do.