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id. How are you,
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when her son came
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s, Robin and Raven,
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book! I say, ma'am
I should be no remem-
brance of the wise no more than of the
fool forever."
The next day Luke paid a formal
visit to his pastor. He had an old
dread of that parochial house—a shrink-

thought that fellow was spun out long
since. Why, in my time, thirty years
ago, ma'am—time flies—that book was
declared out of print; and here the
fellow turns up as spruce as ever. A
regular resurrectionist! Well, it's all
the same. Nobody ever read him, or
ever will. O'Kane on the Rubrica! A
good book. Poor Jimmy! The best
soul that ever lived. Hurrah! Murray
of the Church! Poor—old—Paddy!
The tub of theology! I Crollay de
Contractibus."
Here a dreadful shudder shot through
his stalwart frame.
"Now, look here, Luke, you've had
enough of these fellows. Come up to-
morrow and dine with us. No one but
Father Tim and one or two of the neigh-
bors. What?"
"I've not called on the Canon yet,"
said Luke, timidly.
"Never mind! I won't ask him. You
can call to-morrow. But not too early,
mind! Between 4 and 6. You may be
in time for what he calls '5 o'clock
tea.' Let me see! I'll say 4:30
so that you can have an excuse
for getting away. Don't say you're
dining with me, though. He'd never
forgive you. Anything but that."
He fell into a fit of musing. There
were some troublesome memories called
up.
"By the way, what about your first
Mass?" he was asking.
"I shall feel much obliged if you will
kindly assist me, Father Pat," said
Luke.
"Of course, of course, my boy,"
said the curate, "though, indeed, very
little assistance you'll require, I'm
thinking."
"If I could say my first Mass here
under my father's roof," said the young
priest, timidly.
"Of course, of course," said the
curate. "Let me see, though. It's
against the statutes of course, without
the Bishop's permission; and I don't
know—but we'll dispense with statutes
on this occasion. Will you take long?"
"About half an hour, I think," said
Luke.
"Ay, it will be many a day, your
reverence, before Luke will be able to
say Mass like you," said Mrs. Delmege,
"Sure, 'tis you who don't keep us long
waiting."
"No, indeed; why should I? Do I
want ye to have camels' knees, like
the poor old saints over there in
Egypt?"
Mike said there was no use trying
to keep up with your reverence.
Though you had the Latin, and I be-
lieve there are very hard words in the
Latin, and we had the English, you bate
us intirely."
"Look at that for you now," said
Father Pat, looking around admiringly.
"Thin, the last time he went to
Cork with the butter, he bought the
weehest little prayer book you ever
saw."
"Was about half a finger long,
and the print was mighty big. 'I have
him now,' sez he; 'tis a queer story
if I don't love him behind.' Troth,
and yer reverence, ye were at the De
Profundis before he got to the Pather
Noster."
"Well, you see, ma'am, that's what
comes from long practice. But I make
it up in the preaching, you know," he
said with a smile.
"Troth, an' ye do," said Mrs. Del-
mege, "but what ye says
comes from the heart."
"There now, Luke, there's a critic
for you. Look sharp, old man; but I
forgot. You are going abroad. Happy
fellow! 'Tis only in Ireland you come
in for sharp hits. Well, don't forget
to-morrow. Half-past four; not a
moment later. I'm a model of punctu-
ality. Good day, ma'am; oh! by Jove!
I was forgetting. Give us your bless-
ing, my poor man. Let there some
kind of Indulgence attached?"
He bent his head reverently as he
kneels and received the benediction.
"There, that will do me some good,
whatever, and I want it."
"The best poor priest within the
says of Ireland," said Mrs. Delmege,
wiping her eyes, as the curate strode
down the little footpath, and leaped
lightly over the stile.
But though Luke echoed his mother's
kind words, deep down in his heart
there was a jarring note somewhere.
What was it? That expression, "put
on the Melchisedech?" Well, after
all, it was a pretty usual colloquialism
and meant no irreverence. Then, say-
ing Mass in a private house without
episcopal sanction? How did that
statute bind? Was it sub gratia? Luke
shuddered at the thought of celebra-
ting under such circumstances. He
would write that evening to the curate,
and put off his Mass till Sunday.
There was something called Epiketeia,
of course, but—he was perplexed. Then,
that awful rapidity in celebrating!
The people noticed it and were
shocked. But, after all, they liked it,
and was there not something in the rub-
ric about the propriety of not keeping
the people waiting? Who was
he that he should judge his superior—
a man of thirty years' standing on the
mission? Then it dawned on his per-
plexed and puzzled mind that Father
Casey had not even once alluded to the
high places that had fallen to the lot of
the happy student in his college. He
had spoken to him as to an ordinary
student, affectionately, but without a
note of admiration. Had he not heard
it? Of course, he had. And yet,
never an allusion to the First of First,
even in the mother's presence! What
was it? Forgetfulness? No. He had
seen the prizes and made little of them.
Could it be that, after all, he had been
living in a fool's paradise, and that the
great world thought nothing of these
academic triumphs that were pursued
and won at such tremendous cost?
The thought was too dreadful. The
Canon will think differently. He is a
highly polished and cultured man. He
will appreciate distinction and academi-
cal success. And poor Luke felt
bristled, annoyed, distressed, per-
plexed. It was all so very unlike
what he had anticipated. He had not
read. "For there shall be no remem-
brance of the wise no more than of the
fool forever."
The next day Luke paid a formal
visit to his pastor. He had an old
dread of that parochial house—a shrink-

ing and tingling of the nerves when he
opened the gate and crossed the well-
trampled lawn, and knocked nervously
with that polished knob, which sounded
altogether too loud for his tastes. It
was an old feeling, implanted in child-
hood, and which intensified as the years
went by. Custom had not modified it
nor habit soothed it; and as Luke
crossed the lawn at 4 o'clock this
July day, he wished heartily that this
visit was over. He had often striven
in his leisure moments in college to
analyze the feeling, but without suc-
cess. He had often, as he advanced in
his collegiate course, and had begun to
feel a certain self-reliance, tried to
gather his nerves together, and face
with coolness this annual ordeal. It
was no use; and when the servant ap-
peared in answer to his knock, and an-
nounced that the Canon was in his
library, his heart sank down, and he
paced the nervous drawing-room in a
nervous and unhappy condition. Now
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universe outside, that he was perpetu-
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