

The Pattern on the Island.

The Little Lass, the Lover Who Won Her Heart, and the Nether Whose Prayer Was Answered.

It was a long way from Glendora to the town, first over the mountain and then along roads little less rough than the mere pony track.

Last, or rather the first to fall, was Mary Ellen, the Jewman's daughter. It was her first visit to the town, and the sight of the elated houses in the distance filled her with awe.

"Well," he said, "there's not much harm done after all, eh?" He was disappointed to find that the face captured by his own was not a pretty one, but there was something appealing all the same in the big, dark eyes, and, smiling still, he bent his head, and kissed her on the lips.

Quick as lightning, with a sudden movement, she wrenched herself from his arms, and he, half ashamed by her terror and amazement, bent sheepishly to pick up the butter that lay at his feet, while his companion, breathless and laughing, returned from a successful chase after two pairs of chickens.

So her belongings were all packed as before, excepting only the poor eggs. But Mary Ellen herself refused to be lifted to her former seat, and with frightened, unmanly thanks she went on her way this time in safety at the donkey's side. It was the first time in all her life that she had been entrusted with the work of marketing, and she had to meet many curious glances during the first part of her journey.

The wide stretch of grazing and the small tilted plots away in the heart of the mountains was a fine inheritance for a girl of her age, but her father had made her work so hard in his lifetime that it seemed to have taken all youth or power of enjoyment from Mary Ellen. Her intercourse with the world had so far consisted in a few months' schooling long ago that the priest had insisted on, and after it she had seen no one but her parents and old John, the farm-boy. Except on Sundays, when she had crept down to the chapel, and had seen other girls and boys, whom she was too frightened to address, and whom on their part never spoke to her because of her father's unpopularity.

Then, just lately, elderly men had taken to coming up the Glen on Sunday afternoons to look at the land and the stock, and eventually to ask would they bring up a son or a nephew another week to make a match between them and the owner of so desirable a holding.

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lost upon her completely. She scarcely saw the difference between its paved streets and the rough road of Kildarragh village, which consisted of half a dozen cottages with the chapel at the end. She did her business mechanically, and then, with beating heart, set out upon her homeward way. But the barrack gate was deserted, and she had not even a second glimpse of Private John Wilson to dream of all the week.

She had thought and thought how best to thank him, and in the end she had plaited a basket of green rushes in which to carry a dozen of the freshest eggs, and had printed out what to her seemed the sweetest but, and had wrapped it in a kerchief bought on purpose from a pedlar woman who had happened to climb the steep track to the Glen.

"Yes, with the cattle, it will bring every penny of two hundred pounds, and there's three hundred in the bank as well. Won't I have the snug little pub far enough away from this dead and alive part of the world with all that?"

"But what'll the wife say to selling She only guessed at this, for the second week was not so clear.

"Pshaw! the answer came with a jeering laugh. 'What'll that matter once I have the money?' They passed on out of hearing, but for long, long moments the old woman never stirred. Then with a stricken moan she fell upon her knees. This was the man who held Mary Ellen's happiness, her very life.

"Oh God, spare her!" If heart-felt prayers go straight to heaven this one could not fail. "God of mercy, God of pity, spare her, spare her!"

She had no other words, only these and over and over again they came from her heart to her lips. Even with the evening, when the pilgrims should have been returning, and nothing came up to the Glen but the wind risen now to an angry roar, the mother's prayer never changed. She did not say, "O God, spare her, spare her, spare her!" "Bring my child home safe, but always, 'Spare her, spare her, Lord God of pity.'"

And during the long, lonely night hours, while the wind moaned and sobbed through the Glen, there was still the shadow of a greater dread upon her than mere anxiety for the girls' return. Very early in the morning when the light was still dim and gray the old woman loosened the spangles from the donkeys' legs and started down for the shore beside the village.

There had been many pilgrims making the pattern yesterday, and all the curraghs had weathered the storm saving only the one that the Jewman had never wasted money on repairing. No one had seen it founder, but when the news spread that Mary Ellen and old John were missing, people gathered along the rocks and on the strand, and with the turning of the tide the battered, broken old frame came in.

Later they found the girl herself. She had been cast up on the soft sand of a little cove, and her black hair, loosened by the waves, made a pillow underneath her head. She almost looked as though she were asleep, so peacefully, was she resting, and on the little brown face there lingered something of yesterday's radiance. The beads on which she had prayed when doing the station on the Island were twisted round one wrist and the dead fingers were clenched tightly on the wooden cross. The other hand was thrust into the folds of the kerchief on her bosom and in it lay a sodden pulp that once had been a letter.

The women gathered round, kneeling on the sloping strand, and one began to kneel. Soon the others took it up till only the mother was silent, but she, kneeling, was praying her own prayer to God—and it was a prayer of thanks.—Alice Deas, in Beniger's Magazine.

SCOTT'S EMULSION is taken by people in tropical countries all the year round. It stops wasting and keeps up the strength and vitality in summer as well as winter.

ALL DRUGGISTS

Science.

(F. Tondare S. J. in America.)

Gold, when subjected to a temperature of 2,400 degrees centigrade, boils freely. About 150 grams of the metal vaporizes in three minutes, and this vapor, when allowed to condense upon a cold body, forms filamentous masses and crystals of a cubical shape. At the above temperature gold dissolves a trace of carbon which, on recondensation, is deposited in the form of graphite.

The great international project of unifying zoological nomenclature, which has been crippled for the last fifteen years by inadequate funds for clerical work, has been notably advanced by the fund granted last winter by the Smithsonian Institution. Under this impulse the committee of fifteen scientists appointed to formulate laws for the choice of a name out of the many which designate a genus or species in technical works, has been laboring faithfully with different subcommittees throughout the world. The result is that the Smithsonian Institution is already able to distribute their printed opinions to 110 libraries and a limited list of specialists in this science.

Dr. Clayton H. Sharp of the Illuminating Engineering Society has contrived a new system of street lighting which will utilize the vertically and diagonally upward rays of street lights. Though upward rays are a decided advantage in the lighting of houses reflected downward as they are by the ceiling, and spread over a greater space, in street lighting on the contrary, they have hitherto been lost in air without any gain in brightness to the street. To meet this defect therefore, Dr. Sharp has devised a reflector consisting of two parabolic mirrors opening in opposite directions and so arranged as to reflect all upward rays in parallel lines along the street. Thus in place of having a street lighted merely in the immediate vicinity of the light as is now the case, a more continuous illumination will be secured.

At the recent international astronomical conference at Pasadena, Prof. Newell, of the University Observatory Cambridge, England, stated that in his opinion further experiments in solar research would establish that the occurrence of sun spots had much to do with terrestrial atmospheric conditions. He also added that the discovery of Dr. George B. Hale of the Mt. Wilson Solar Observatory, that the sun spots were vertices of electricity and that the cyclones which whirl from right to left were negative in character and those revolving in the opposite direction were positive, had completely revolutionized the study of solar spots.

Glass, when coated with a thin layer of a liquid charged with platinum, and then raised to a white heat, serves as an odd mirror. The glass, though perfectly transparent, when placed opposite a wall reflects images. Windows so constructed permit a person standing close behind the pane to observe clearly everything going on outside, while passers-by looking at the windows behold only an ordinary mirror reflecting their own image, the person inside remaining invisible, though the room be illuminated. This glass is very useful in illusions on the stage and elsewhere.

At the International Congress on Radiology and Electricity, which was held in Brussels on September 13-15, one of the most important questions discussed was that of radium standards and nomenclature. To facilitate the work, three committees were appointed. The first committee considered the question of terminology and methods of measurement in radioactivity, as well as the question of ionization. The second committee devoted its attention to the fundamental theories of electricity, the study of radistatistics, radioactivity, atmospheric electricity, and the radioactivity of the atmosphere. The third committee dealt with the physical effects of radiation, considering the biological effects on living organisms, as well as the use of various radiations for medical purposes. A long list of papers were read and a special exhibit of apparatus used by the committees was held in connection with the Congress.

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From the velocities of 45 stars situated near Newcomb's latest position of the solar apex (alpha-277 50 deg., 8-plus 35 deg.) Stromboli derives 1875 kilometers (11.7 miles) per second as the velocity of translation of the solar system in space, and from 15 stars near the anti-apex, 21 55 kilometers (13.5 miles) per second. The special type of stars employed for reference, it is found, affect the calculated velocities.

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