TWO

By permission of H. L. Kilner &Co., Publishers, Philadelphia, Pa. GERTRUDE MANNERING

A TALE OF SACRIFICE

BY FRANCES NOBLE CHAPTER X.-CONTINUED

He laughed too as he answered : He laughed too as he answered: "It is rather strange I should not have found it out before, isn't it, that you belong to the family I have often heard spoken of by some friends of mine in B—shire? I visited them last year for a few days, and I several times heard them mention Whitewell Grange. Once we passed it in a drive, but could not see the house from the road, of course." Gerty's eves sparkled now.

Gerty's eyes sparkled now.

Gerty's eyes sparkled now. "Ah, how strange! Then you have actually been so near my home. I wish you could have seen it, Mr. Graham; it is such a dear old place. Not very grand, per-haps, though I think it the grand-est place on earth, and I know papa does too in his heart. Did they-your friends-tell you we were a was." But hough I does not intered to any was." But though Gerty tried to your friends—tell you we were a Catholic family, Mr. Graham ?"

Catholic family, Mr. Graham?". He smiled at her eagerness. "O yes! Miss Mannering; and they told me that your family lost a good deal at the time of the Reformation. But I should have listened with much more intervent the had received Stepler. Catholic family at the because of the second stepler of the second stepler. Reformation. But I should have listened with much more interest could I have known I was going to make your acquaintance, of course." And the grey eyes looked make your acquaintance, of course." And the grey eyes looked down so tenderly that Gerty averted hers for a minute.

"That is what we are so proud of, Mr. Graham," she said warmly, or, Mr. Granam, she said warmiy, "knowing how much our family suffered—for the faith." And she spoke the last words bravely, scorn-ing the word "Reformation," which to her sensitive conscience would have seemed a cowardly one in this case, when she was so determined to make amends for her previous shyness on the subject. "We are quite proud of not being very rich, you know, because it was for *that* we were impoverished." Stanley Graham turned away a

moment, as though the sight of her bright face pained him; but he continued directly: "And your brother, Miss Manner-

ing, is he in England or abroad ?" "Oh! in England, Mr. Graham, there are being and the seminary there. He is very young-not twenty yet-and he has only just finished his novitiate, you know. O Mr. Graham ! if you only knew the Jesuits properly you would never think them so dreadful; you would admire them as much as any

one must who knows them *really*." Her very earnestness seemed to trouble him; but he strove to hide the feeling, as he said gently but somewhat uneasily : You are determined, then, not

"You are determined, then, not to forget my offence? What shall I do to repair it fully?" "Indeed I did not refer to that at all—really I did not, Mr. Graham. Oh, do not think so, please." And the sweet eyes smiled with a gentle pleading. "Of course, if you have been brought up to think of the Jesuits and Catholics altogether as bad, or at least worthless how can bad, or at least worthless, how can you help it, Mr. Graham? I was not blaming you, but I wish it were not so; that you could know how different it is in reality, the same as wish for Lady Hunter and Sir Robert.'

And as she sighed there came such an earnest, yearning look over Gerty's face, as showed her companion what a deep, true nature and sympathetic woman's heart lay hidden beneath the girlish exterior.

delight in her face which she had so fondly pictured would be hers when which will prevent me from ever marrying, as I know there is and always will be; and if they could know, they would only laugh—even Father Walmsley would, perhaps, to think that my heart could have gone as entirely to any one I have this day should come, which but three short weeks ago she had felt so sure she would feel? Was she regretting the pleasures and amusements, the elegant society and admiration, she was about to leave? No, oh, no! If it had been only these, how easily, nay gladly, would she have turned her back on them to go once more to the father who vegened so for her presence! But make him unhappy if he thought I was." But though Gerty tried to to go once more to the father who yearned so for her presence! But there was another life, apart from the outward one of gayety, which would not be cast off or left behind —a new existence of restless joy and hope and care, which had be-come part of herself, changing the bappy careless cirl into a thought

come part of herself, changing the happy, careless girl into a thought-ful woman, which must go with her wherever she went, its very presence making any other life seem cold and dark. And for this it was that the tears were falling— the knowledge that she could not, as she had so merrily promised, take back with her to her father her happy, free, girlish heart; that it was hers no longer, but given up cousin before going up-stairs, and told her of her conversation with him during the evening, "It seemed so natural to be talk-

ing to him like that, Julia; and I wonder how it never all came out before. But he did seem surprised it was hers no longer, but given up wholly to another, given with all the depth and fervor of the nature to hear I was a Catholic, Julia." "I told you he would be, love. He would be the very last one to think that any one in whom he felt which until now even she herself had scarce known was hers, and Catholic—indeed he would pur-posedly avoid talking of religion at all, I know, for fear of clashing the source of return, no assurance yet, but only a trembling though almost certain

with any prejudices; and this will be how the fact has been so long in coming out, dear. For however quiet and unconcerned he may have seemed to you on the subject hope. Every day for the last fortnight Gerty had met Stanley Graham. Riding, driving, at the opera or elsequiet and unconcerned he may have seemed to you on the subject, Gerty, he is very bitter in his heart, and so scornfully and im-to become a Roman Catholic, I am a thousand times more likely than But even these last cheerless long coveted in vain by many an older, prouder beauty.

words could not drive away the new hope that had arisen in her heart. "Julia does not know what prayer can do; she knows nothing of God's grace and the changes it can work if he chooses. She does

not know how powerful our Blessed Lady is in interceding for us with God, when our own prayers are not worthy to be granted." And Gerty slept that night with

a greater peace and calmness in her heart than had dwelt in it since the night before, when she had wept so bitterly as the discovery forced itself upon her of the change that was coming over her so quickly, the discovery that the old girlish life was ebbing away and the woman's life beginning for her; that her idolized father was losing the first place in her heart and thoughts, giving it up to a mere stranger; that the prospect of returning to the dear old home no longer filled

her with unmixed delight. CHAPTER XI.

"Poor papa !" And Gertrude's tempt ? Pernaps his love for her to resist all comers. Here it was tears fell, as she sat alone in her ligion, but I can't help thinking that chance favored Harold. "Poor papa! And there in her tears fell, as she sat alone in her bedroom with a letter from her father in her hand. "Interview of the set of th

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

a thing, wouldn't I die nearly! How could he ever care really for me, a bit of a thing like me, and he so run after, so superior to any one I ever knew?" And the fond, adoring heart sighed wearly. "Well, I can pray for him all the same, as I do for Julia and Sir Robert; he will never know how I could have—loved him. I shall go back to papa, and be an old maid all my life: 'Miss Mannering of Whitewell Grange,' people will call me. I shall have plenty to do, taking Gare of the poor, and helping Rupert's poor too, when he is on the mission, out of what is his own, after all. Nobody need ever know that there is something in my heart which will prevent me from ever

There was no getting away from the fact that Western avenue was shocked.

Western avenue, Cokeford, was the Mecca of the retired. There was a retired colonel, a retired clergyman, a retired solicitor and a

retired architect. Into this Eden came the disturbing element of the Dalys. Now, old Daly was the proprietor of the big emporium at Waterbury, a thriving industrial town some miles

thriving industrial town some miles away. He had bought a house in Western avenue and retired there with his family, to the great disgust of the rest of the neighborhood. I am not going to say that the young Dalys were models of deport-ment. There were seven of them, ranging from Cynthia, who had just turned twenty-one, to Terence. who turned twenty-one, to Terence, who was just seven. They were good-enough children, you understand, but decidedly high-spirited. Then, again, the Dalys were Papists and the whole troop of them went off to Mass every Sunday

morning

The Dalys were regarded with the deepest disapproval. Of course, Mr. Daly's social position rendered him totally unfitted for the society of retired professional men. The odd thing about it was that the Dalys did not seem to mind in the least.

It was Harold Wynne who first made the discovery that Cynthia was decidedly pretty. Harold lived with his mother at Fair View, and was popularly supposed to be read-ing either for the church or the bar. He had been reading for the one or the other since he left school at the age of seventeen, but I am afraid his reading was not particu-

Harold was quite a decent fellow at heart, but a small private income Lady Hunter herself viewed the course of events with a mixed feel-ing of delight and vague uneasi-ness, which latter showed the latter income had reduced him to a terribly slack state. He was, of course, a keen Anglican, with a slight tendency to ritualism.

ing of delight and vague uneasi-ness, which latter she more than once expressed to Sir Robert, who, however, failed to share it. "I hope it will all turn out happily," she said to him. "To us of course there seems no reason why it should not; for I can hardly believe sometimes that our little Gerty has made such a conquest, and so quickly too. But you see, Cwellent mother, who had so carefully guarded him against the Dalys, when he first discovered Dalys, when he first discovered Dalys, when he first discovered Dalys, when he first discovered

and so quickly too. But you see, Robert dear, her father is such a very staunch Romanist, and I know more than you do of the faith and

more than you do of the faith and practice of strict Catholics like they are, especially since Gerty has been with me; and I can't help wonder-ing how it will please him to see her marry one who is not only not of their religion, but of no religion at all. And another thing, Robert; how will Stanley, with his ideas, like a Catholic wife? how will he reconcile himself to see her con-stantly practising all those observ-ances which he holds in such con-tempt? Perhaps his love for her might soften his dislike to her 're-



.

>

"You are very good, Miss Mannering," he said earnestly. "I assure you I appreciate your kindness in thinking of me as a fried lite this and I must thank

But a great load seemed lifted from her heart, which was singing inwardly, as it were, as she sat there alone again, absorbed in her own thoughts. How she had been mistaken in Stanley Graham; how different had been his behavior from the coldness which she had expected; how kind he had been, more so than ever almost in manner

own thoughts. How she had been mistaken in Stanley Graham; how different had been his behavior from the coldness which she had expected; how kind he had been, more so than ever almost, in manner if not in words; until the sacifice she had been prepared to make had completely slipped away, quite uncalled for now! Perhaps there himself might receive the grace of conversion. More unlikely things had come to nease a any encoded at him with rather shad come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be bad come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease i and whe nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i and whe nease (but that can soon be had come to nease i an How will my little girl look when T is to be superior judgment of the cores were dreaming of such as well as for any other is there again. I wonder. A little paler, perhaps (but that can soon be memedied), but not changed at all loved him as any girl must love such as the consent cannot be in the rone of the source of the standey, especially if she was wondering how on earth Harold had discovered her as a weak as any solution of the consent the convent of the convent. Cert, I have had the convent degrate of the source of the source of the convent degrate of the con

Mannering," he said earnestly. "I assure you I appreciate your kindness in thinking of me as a friend like this, and I must thank you for your wish very sincerely, though I—cannot echo it." And before Gerty could speak again a gentleman came up, and, putting his arm in Stanley's, drew him away into the centre of a group some yards off, where Gerty soon lost sight of him. But a great load seemed lifted from her heart, which was singing inwardly, as it were, as she sat there alone again, absorbed in her own thoughts. How she had been mistaken in Stanley for the one settle to receive her, when and there alone again, absorbed in her own thoughts. How she had been mistaken in Stanley for the one settle to receive her, the said. father in her hand. Nearly a fortnight had elapsed since the evening recorded in the last chapter. The month in London the day before the one settled for her return home, and Gerty had just return home, and Gerty had just the housekeeper to fetch her home, as he himself wished to be there alone again, absorbed in her own thoughts. How she had been mistaken in Stanley frame to the stanley is the stanley for the one settled for cerve there before her to see that all was there alone again, absorbed in her own thoughts. How she had been mistaken in Stanley (Frame Tom Mir. Manne-with a fond affection. He smiled kindly and cheerily. He smiled kindly and cheerily.

He was returning from a quiet spin in the country, and when about