

THE WONDERFUL FLOWER OF WOXINDON.

An Historical Romance of the Times of Queen Elizabeth.

BY REV. JOSEPH SPILLMAN, S. J.

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(CHAPTER XII.—Continued.)

Gilbert Gifford belonged to one of the best families in Staffordshire. For the sake of the Catholic faith his father had been reduced from opulence to penury, and had spent long years in prison. In order to secure a Catholic education for his son, a lad of remarkable talent, he sent him across the Channel, at the risk of incurring a severe penalty, to the seminary founded at Douay by Dr. Allen.

Thus by the beginning of March Gifford was able to give me the particulars of two plots to effect the release of the Queen of Scots, which was already being carried out to some extent. Of these one was the work of a certain Mr. Babington, who had gathered around him a few young Catholic noblemen with whose co-operation he hoped to set the Queen free by some "coup de main."

CHAPTER XIII.

On my arrival in London, Walsingham bestowed on me great praise for the wisdom I had shown in this most important business. He told me that the services I had rendered to Her Majesty's Government and to the Protestant religion in England were more considerable than I was aware of, and that if I assisted him in bringing the intrigue he had then in hand to a successful conclusion with equal prudence and sagacity, he would prevail upon Her Majesty to confer upon me the honor of knighthood and make me a member of the Privy Council.

The time

to fight consumption, with Scott's Emulsion of cod-liver oil, is long in advance. If it threatens, you can resist; and you may overcome it. Don't be afraid; be brave. But don't waste time.

himself beside me, and sipping from time to time the generous liquor with evident appreciation of its fine flavor, spoke thus to me: "Your health, my dear Francis. It has long been my habit when I have any specially important business to consider, to drink a glass of this old port—only one glass, and that slowly. And you would do well to do the same. It quickens ones pulses, and you cannot think how many fortunate inspirations I owe to it. Well, we have an important matter to consider now. You will not be surprised when I tell you, that from the standpoint of a loyal Englishman and a zealous partisan of the Reformation, I consider Mary Stuart as our most dangerous enemy."

With this I concurred, for since her right as the granddaughter of Henry VII. to the throne of England was indisputable, and considering Elizabeth's age it could hardly any longer be hoped that she would marry, still less have any legitimate issue, the probability was that Mary would succeed her, and thereby the maintenance of the reformed religion be imperilled. I said as much to my uncle, who listened patiently and then replied: "I do not think there is much cause for anxiety on that score. Burghley's fair name should be tarnished with a plot of which—whether she is innocent or not—the English Parliament can make use for the purpose of setting aside her right, that you consider indisputable. Our Parliament has brought more difficult things to pass than that during the last half century. No, the only chance Mary Stuart has of ascending the throne would be by a successful rising of the Catholics within the country, or through the invasion of a foreign power, in support of her claims. The first contingency is no longer to be dreaded. The case was very different eighteen years ago, when the Pope deposed Elizabeth, and the most influential lords in the North took up arms. The fate of the new Queen and the new religion then hung upon a thread. Burghley completely lost his head, and the hour of peril showed him to be nothing of a statesman, however clever he may be as intriguer. If Alba had appeared off the coast of Yorkshire at that juncture with half a dozen galleons, and landed a regiment of his redoubtable Spaniards, Mary Stuart would now be Queen, and the Smithfield fires would blaze afresh. That danger was happily averted, contrary to all expectations, and the deluded insurrectionists, by order of the Queen, who on this occasion proved herself to be a true daughter of Henry VIII., executed their folly with their lives. Whole villages were depopulated. Since that time every year renders it less probable that such a rising would end in aught but failure. The number of Catholics has melted away; only in Lancashire and some of the northern counties, are they a small majority, and the nobles who still cling to the old creed, are gradually being ruined by enormous liens. Very soon all the wealthy Papists will be reduced to beggary. Far more cause have we for alarm concerning the other danger that threatens us. As long as Mary Stuart is alive, our Popish fellow-countrymen will exert themselves to bring about a Spanish invasion. You remember the conspiracy of Ridolfi. Two years ago a scheme was afoot of a similar nature; now for the third time we are menaced by the same danger, and in a worse shape than heretofore. Once more I repeat: we shall never enjoy tranquility as long as Mary Stuart is a prisoner in England. Hence her death becomes a political necessity."

Walsingham uttered the last words in a low tone, but with deliberation and emphasis. He then raised his glass to his lips again, and silence prevailed until I remarked: "Uncle, you said, 'as long as she is a prisoner in England.' Supposing she were set at liberty?" "She would have been set at liberty long ago," he rejoined, "if she would have agreed to two conditions, the surrender of her claim to the throne, and the adoption of the reformed religion. During eighteen years of captivity the foolish woman has obstinately refused to do either the one or the other; the first through love for her son, who certainly repays her maternal affection in the most exemplary manner; the second on account of that inconceivable fanaticism which few but Papists display. You will live to see Henry of Navarre turn his back on Calvin and go piously to Mass, though he now denounces it as an abominable idolatry. If Mary Stuart had adopted the tenets of Knox, the Lords of the Covenant would have held her to be a virtuous Queen, even were she in reality guilty of her husband's murder, which those worthy nobles laid to her charge. And if she had abjured Popery when in England, she might perchance have been raised to the throne. In a word, she has rejected the conditions on which her liberty was offered her, and she cannot be dispensed with. If she were released and sent to Scotland, we should be placing her son, who is a Protestant and our ally, in a most difficult position. Fourteen years ago, when Morton was regent, the Lords of the Covenant demanded her surrender; they would have taken her into custody on the frontier, tried and executed her forthwith.

(To be continued.)



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A REFUTATION.

BY ARTHUR BARRY.

How fully have the centuries undone False theories of heretics perverse Who shamed not Mary's honor to asperse; Declared her clients underrate her Son And rob of glory meet that Saving One; Called fond reliance on her aid a curse; Denounced sweet prayers to her as vain, or worse; Proclaimed, in fine, her cult a snare to shun!

Refuted by the probing test of time, These falsities no longer credence claim; One only Church preserves Christ's faith sublime: 'Tis she who aye hath honored Mary's name. Their heirs to-day proclaim the Son mere man. —Ave Maria.

Good Health is Impossible

Without regular action of the bowels. Laxa-Liver Pills regulate the bowels, cure constipation, dyspepsia, biliousness, sick headache, and all affections of the organs of digestion. Price 25 cents. All druggists.

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There is no form of kidney trouble, from a backache down to Bright's disease, that Doan's Kidney Pills will not relieve or cure.

If you are troubled with any kind of kidney complaint, use Doan's Kidney Pills.

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To make money it is necessary to have a clear, bright brain, a cool head free from pain, and strong, vigorous nerves. Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills invigorate and brighten the brain, strengthen the nerves, and remove all heart, nerve and brain troubles.

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British Troop Oil Liniment is without exception the most effective remedy for Ours, Wounds, Ulcers, Open Sores, Rheumatism, Bites, and Stings of all Insects, etc. A large bottle 25 cents. Get one at your Druggist's.

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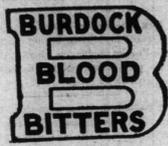
A woman never gets too pious and peaceful to strike a bargain every time she gets a chance.

Burdock Blood Bitters is a purely vegetable combination, that in a safe and natural manner acts directly upon the Bowels, Liver, Kidneys and Blood, cleansing the entire system of all impurities, foul humors and obstructions that poison the blood and create disease.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

A man who says he would not tell a lie to save his own life would make a good auctioneer.

A married woman can always have her audience at home without going to the lecture platform.

LIFE.

The poet's exclamation: "O Life I feel thee bounding in my veins," is a joyous one. Persons that can rarely or never make it, in honesty to themselves, are among the most unfortunate. They do not live, but exist; to live implies more than to be. To live is to be well and strong-to rise feeling equal to the ordinary duties of the day, and to retire not overcome by them-to feel life bounding in the veins. A medicine that has made thousands of people, men and women, well and strong, has accomplished a great work, bestowing the richest blessings, and that medicine is Hood's Sarsaparilla. The weak, run-down, or debilitated, from any cause, should not fail to take it. It builds up the whole system, changes existence into life, and makes life more abundant. We are glad to say these words in its favor to the readers of our columns.

There are men in this country too stingy to give anything but advice and a very stale quality at that.

Minard's Liniment cures Burns, etc.

The same hand that makes people love music and flowers makes them sociable and kind.

Messrs. C. C. Richards & Co.

Dear Sirs,—While in the country last summer I was badly bitten by mosquitoes—so badly that I thought I would be disfigured for a couple of weeks. I was advised to try your Liniment to allay the irritation, and did so. The effect was more than I expected—a few applications completely curing the irritation, preventing the bites from becoming sore. MINARD'S LINIMENT is also a good article to keepoff the mosquitoes. Yours truly, W. A. OKE Harbor Grace, Nfld., Jan. 8, 1898.

There are lots of kids running loose around this town that are like men's promissory notes. They need setting.

For Cholera Morbus, Cholera Infantum, Cramps, Colic, Diarrhoea, Dysentery, and Summer Complaint, Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry is a prompt, safe and sure cure that has been a popular favorite for nearly 60 years.

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Minard's Liniment Cures Garget in Cows.

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