

Where Magdalen Failed.

(By Clara Mulholland, in the Ave Maria.)

She let the convent fall of good intentions: Mother Veronica's words of advice would never be forgotten. She would lead a useful, edifying life, be an example to her sisters and friends. She would never bring discredit on the dear convent. She would be in the world, not of it; for, although she would be obliged to accompany her stepmother to dinners and dances, she would not allow herself to be carried away by pleasure and vanity and would never give up the good practices she had learned as a schoolgirl. She would be faithful and exact in the performance of her religious exercises. Her eyes shined, her cheeks glowed. Magdalen made this declaration as she bade Mother Veronica a tearful farewell.

Your good will I don't doubt, dear child, the nun said kindly. But it will not be plain sailing. Don't trust yourself too implicitly. You will encounter many temptations and difficulties. To overcome these, you will require God's grace and Our Lady's help. So pray constantly and fervently. And, above all, by idleness. Occupation must always be the basis of a good life. In your home you will find much to do. Be kindly, helpful to others as much as possible.

Yes, Mother, replied Magdalen, her eyes brightening again. I'll be a model, I promise you.

And meaning every word she said, the girl looked up lovingly into the nun's sweet face, framed like a picture in the ivy-grown convent doorway. Then, stifling a sob, she stepped into her father's carriage and drove rapidly away.

A very few days saw Magdalen in a vortex of pleasure and dissipation. Her father was a wealthy man; his wife, a society beauty; whose one idea was amusement. There was no home life in the splendid mansion where the Milllands dwelt; no quiet hours when the different members of the family met together in a happy and intimate way. The children lived in a separate wing of the house. They were well provided with governesses and nurses; but their mother did not trouble herself about their education, either spiritual or intellectual, and took no pains to make them know or love her.

I'm too busy to look after them now," she said, when Magdalen expressed surprise at the isolation of the children. "When they are grown up I will take them about as I do you. First they must go to St. Margaret's for a while; then, when you are married and they are going into society, you will relieve me of some of the trouble of taking them round."

But now? I'd like to have them with me sometimes. They won't know or even care for you if they are always kept away.

Don't worry. I see them every day, and they're quite content. We haven't time to look after children as some other people do. We are going out to opera this evening. Sit on your white chignon. I want you to look well.

For some time Magdalen struggled to keep the good resolutions she had made before leaving the convent. But alas! before very long she gave them up one after the other. She began to prey carelessly and heedlessly. Her devotion to the Sacred Heart and her love for our Blessed Lady grew less and less. Late hours and dissipation made it hard for her to rise early, and she soon abandoned to the advice and example of her stepmother and took her breakfast in bed. Although at first Magdalen felt remorseful, and reproached herself for her carelessness and neglect she gradually grew callous and ceased to trouble herself about anything but amusement. She still believed she loved Mother Veronica and would do anything she asked her to do; but she did not go to see her, and avoided all references to the convent and her life there.

Two years passed, and to her stepmother's annoyance and disappointment, Magdalen did not marry. She was admired and made much of wherever she went, received proposals of marriage from wealthy and in every way eligible men; but the girl was hard to please, and would accept none of them. People asked themselves what she wanted; and looking at the handsome face with its haughty air, they would shrug their shoulders and say that the world-behaved had really had a very good escape.

She has charged disparagingly since she left the convent," one of her admirers remarked sadly. "She was sweet and attractive then. Now she's worldly and fashionable. She has lost her brightness and charm. Prosperity is not good for her. She has not a heart to stand it. God help her, poor child! I feel sorry when I look at her."

You wouldn't wish to see her poor, Anne, I'm sure, her sister said. "And she's really a fine girl. A fine girl she is! I should not wish to see her poor, and yet—Anne sighed. "So it is the case of adversity." In other circumstances,

Get the Most Out of Your Food

You don't eat it if your stomach is weak. A weak stomach does not digest all that is ordinarily taken into it. It gets tired easily, and what it fails to digest is wasted.

Among the signs of a weak stomach are uneasiness after eating, fits of nervous headache, and disagreeable belching. "I have been troubled with dyspepsia for years, and tried every remedy I heard of, but never got anything that gave me relief until I took Hood's Sarsaparilla. I cannot praise this medicine too highly for the good it has done me. I always take it in the spring and fall and would not be without it." W. A. Noyes, Belleville, Ont.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Strengthens and tones the stomach and the whole digestive system.

Magdalen might have been different. You'll have to convert our beautiful niece some other way, Anne, laughed her sister. "John is perfectly solvent, and likely to remain so till the end of the chapter."

Dear John! I hope so. And after all as you say, Magdalen is a fine girl.

A year later, the fallacy of her remarks and the uncertainty of life and the things of this world was proved to John Maitland's family in an awful and sudden manner.

One night as Magdalen and her stepmother stood waiting for the carriage on the steps of a theatre, a narrow ray ran up the street shouting at the top of its voice:

Failure of Barne & Maitland! Sudden death of Maitland!

Horror gripped Magdalen's heart and anguish swept over her soul: Her father! Oh God! Was it a horrible dream?

Miss Maitland cried! some one said in her ear; and she remembered nothing more till she found herself trembling and sobbing upon the bed in her beautiful room.

After this followed days and nights of unspeakable misery. Her father was dead, his fortune gone, and for the first time in her life Magdalen knew what sorrow was. She felt utterly hopeless and full of woe. The disaster was tragic. To realize or face it with even the smallest particle of courage seemed impossible; and the girl made no effort to do either. Her spirit was crushed, and she wept and moaned. To rouse herself and bear her troubles bravely, appeared to be quite beyond her; and, continually bewailing the cruelty of her fate, she folded her hands and refused to be comforted.

How it was accomplished Magdalen never knew, but soon after her father's failure and death, she, her stepmother and the two little girls found themselves in a tiny house, in a back street, some distance away from the fine mansion that had been their home for so many years. An old servant cooked and worked for them. The governesses and nurse were gone; and the children, sad and neglected, ran wild round the place, or sat, two forlorn little figures, on the stair outside their mother's door. Mrs. Maitland was too ill to bear their noise, and Magdalen selfish in her fate, shut herself up to her room; and it they came near, told them angrily to begone; and, weeping and terrified, the children fled away.

News of the sad misfortune that had overtaken this girl, for whom she still had a real affection, reached Mother Veronica in her convent, and her kindly heart was deeply moved.

Have they really lost everything? she asked her nephew, a tall, clever-looking young man, already making good way at the Bar. "Are they so poor as people say?"

I'm afraid they are all but destitute," he answered sadly. "Tis a great grief to me, dear aunt."

I am sure it is, she said gently. "For I know—in fact, dear, laying her hand upon his arm, I used to think that you admired Magdalen, and that—"

I more than admired her, (he flushed to his eyes.) "But I could never marry a worldly woman, above all a careless Catholic. Had Magdalen—but she is irretrievably now. O aunt, if you could only see her and comfort and encourage her!"

Magdalen gave me up. She has not been to see me or stay one in the convent for years. I wrote on hearing of her troubles, offering my heartfelt sympathy and condolence; she has not responded.

No matter, aunt he replied eagerly. "Write again. Ask her to come to you."

I will, dear boy! But who knows? She may refuse to come. I think not. Something tells me at this very moment she is longing for your sympathy. Mrs. Maitland is not her mother, remember; and—"

He did not finish his sentence, thinking the words upon his lips better left unsaid. Unhappily forbade him giving full vent to his feelings where Magdalen's stepmother was concerned, and he turned to go.

How can the baby grow strong if the nursing mother is pale and delicate? Scott's Emulsion makes the mother strong and well; increases and enriches the baby's food.

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BRONCHITIS

Was So Choked Up She Could Hardly Breathe.

Bronchitis is an acute inflammation of the mucous membrane lining the air tubes of the lungs, and should never be neglected, for if it is very often the disease becomes chronic, and then it is only a short step to consumption.

On the first sign of bronchitis Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup should be taken, and thus prevent it becoming chronic.

Mr. John D. MacDonald, College Grant, N.S., writes: "My little girl, seven years old, caught a bad cold which developed into bronchitis. She was so choked up she could hardly breathe. Reading about your wonderful medicine, Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup, I decided to try a bottle, and with such good results that I got another which completely cured her. I cannot say too much in its praise, and would not be without it in the house."

Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup is put up in a yellow wrapper; three pine trees the trade mark; price, 25 cents.

Manufactured only by The T. Millburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

What is woman? asked a speaker at a public meeting. "Woman," replied a man in the audience, "married man—is an animate being with the power of speech abnormally developed, and entirely surrounded by a dress that buttons up the back!"

Tramp: "Mister, would you give me a nickel for a meal?" Pedestrian: "For a glass of beer more likely." Tramp: "Whatever you say, boss; you're pay 'a' for it!"

MILBURN'S LINIMENT CO. LIMITED. GENTLEMEN—My daughter, 13 years old, was thrown from a sleigh and injured her elbow so badly it remained stiff and very painful for three years. Four bottles of MILBURN'S LINIMENT completely cured her and she has not been troubled for two years.

Yours truly, J. B. LIVESQUE, St. Joseph P. O., 18th Aug., 1900.

Don't let worms gnaw at the vitals of your children. Give them Dr. Low's Pleasant Worm Syrup, and they'll soon be rid of these parasites. Price 25c.

Your son is a specialist in diseases of the liver, isn't he? Is that a good branch of the profession? Why it must be everybody has a liver, you know!

A Sensible Merchant. Milburn's Sterling Headache Powder gives women prompt relief from monthly pains, and leave no bad after effects whatever. Be sure you get Milburn's. Price 25 and 50 cts.

Minard's Liniment cures Dandruff. "Fine old inn, sir," commented the host "Every thing in this house has its story. I don't doubt it, remarked the touchy tourist. "And is there any bary legend connected with this piece of beefsteak?"

W. H. Wilkinson, Stratford, Ont., says:—"It affords me much pleasure to say that I experienced great relief from Muscular Rheumatism by using two boxes of Milburn's Rheumatic Pills. Price a box 50c."

Professor (to young man): "How would you punctuate the following: 'The beautiful girl for whom she was, was passing down the street?' 'Student: "I think, I would make a dash after the beautiful girl!"

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