

of salt, to extinguish the lamp when she only intended to make it give a brighter light, for which awkwardness she was severely censured by her spouse whose nerves were almost as unstrung as her own.

The next morning, at day-break, when according to tradition the Easter sun was dancing in very gladness, a woman glided stealthily out of the "Flats" and hastened at giant strides towards the Church, which she reached breathless and deeply excited ; without stopping to recover her composure she went and knelt before that awful, mysterious thing called a confessional and burying her face in her hands tried very earnestly to collect her thoughts.

"What am I going to say ? How shall I ever be able to make my confession properly..." and listening to the tempter she grew discouraged and rose to go away, three different times, but each time grace conquered and the poor woman knelt again. At last, fully convinced that in spite of her longing to make a good confession, it was an impossibility for her to do so she was about to depart when, glancing furtively at the confessional, she saw on the right hand side of the awful contrivance, gaping, tempting, importuning, fearfully and mysteriously appealing a vacant place. She rushed into it with bowed head as into a precipice. Before she had time to recover her self-possession, the slide was drawn and a gentle voice said :

"God bless you, my child. I can see by your distress that you have not been to confession for forty years."
"Not so bad as that, Father, only thirty..."

Shortly afterwards, absolved and radiant she advanced to the holy table where communion was being distributed. Still, even in this solemn moment, her happiness was not complete for she could not help feeling anxious and worried because she knew that on this glorious Easter festival her husband had made up his mind to assist at the six o'clock mass, the very mass at which she was to communicate, and how could she perform the holy action right under his very eyes ? Human respect with its subtle reasoning insinuated that the good God, undoubtedly, did not require so much for the first time. So she tried to screen herself behind some women in case the surprise