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the day broke, and the sight of the helped him to sleep and

As he reached the awning and pressed close to the steps a carriage dashed up to the curb; the door of the se was flung open for some parting guests, and for a few minutes a dazzling vision was revealed-fairies, shepherdesses, arquebusiers, pages, halberdiers, kings, court ladies and queens in gorgeous colors and flashing jewels. But the Italian saw none of these; his staring eyes fastened on a stately figure that seemed to float down towards him between the rows of orange and palm trees that lined the staircase. On it came, tall in flowing raiment, a cloud of golden hair rippling over its shoulders from under a crown of light; in one hand a pair of scales, in the other a gleam ing sword, whose point seemed to mark him from the throng.

"Speculum Justitiael" he shricked; "yes, I did it-I did it! I murdered him! Take me--

And he fell grovelling at the feet of the policemen, who had forgotten their official stolidity to stare, open-mouthed, at the lovely Angela von Henkeldyne, who, in her costume of "Justice," had wrought such innocent vengeance.

On principle they seized the Italian for a rowdy, but his repeated cry, "I did it-I murdered hind" soon attracted their attention, and as he struggled in a fit they called up the patrol wagon and took him to headquarters. Three the police surgeon took him in hand, until finally, at daybreak, he recovered consciousness. On being teld that he could not live through the next night, he asked for a priest, and who but Father Tom was brought to the poor wretch, who told the following story:

He had played, he said, in the wine shop that night until midnight with a stranger, who lost heavily to him and drank deeply as he played. But his losses did not seem to depress him and the wines did not confuse, and Manuel said :

"You are a gallant man, signor. You lose with grace and courage." And he had answered with a laugh. "I can afford to. I have \$50,000 here." And he touched his breast.

Manuel raised his cycbrows. "Don't you believe?" asked his companion, with some heat.

Manuel bowed derivively. "Hang it," said the man, "I'm telling you the simple truth. Look here." And he drew out and opened a small doeskin bag slung around his neck, showing a diamond the like of which

Manuel had never beheld. "It sent madness to my head, father, and I felt I must have it. But he tucked it away again and rose. 'I must go,' he said; 'I have already stayed too long.' I pressed him to wait, but he got restless and looked at me suspiciously. I asked where we might meet the next day and drink our glass and play our little game of mora. But he answered he didn't know-he was here to-day and there to-morrow and far away the day after. I laid my hand on his arm. 'Come, crack another bottle,' I urged. But he shook me off roughly and

pushed out of the wine shop, saying:

'Enough's as good as a feast.' "I knew the house. There was a cellar that gave on the street he must pass. I said: 'I must have a bottle of lachryma, the vintage of '73.' I went below-the landlord knows meand I opened the cellar door and stole niter him. In the dark I tracked him and struck as I sprang on him. I wrenched the bag from his neck and nearly shricked as something soft and cold, like a dead finger, touched my check. It was a snow!lake, and I ran in hot haste back to the shop, so no tracks could be left. The whole affair did not take twenty minutes, and I came back into the room and drank and played. But the diamond in my breast burned like a coal, and I thought its rays of splendid fire must be seen, and in at the windows the dead man's face seemed to look, but that was only the snow flying past. and I felt drawn back to the soot, as if he had his hand at the sleeve of my jacket. But this I fought against, until I suddenly remembered with terror I had left my knife sticking in the wound, and I knew I must have it at any risk. As I crept along I saw a sailor coming up the street. He stopped; he touched the body. Here was my chance. I sprang on him, dragging him here and there—and he fought well, that boy: like a wild-

cat—and I shouted, 'Murder! murder!'
"It all turned out as I hoped. The watch-poor fools!-never thought to see whether the man was stiff, and when the Coroner arrived he was too stiff for question. Then came the

trial, and there the first stone struck His face was distorted with emo-

"That boy I pitied-yes! But it was he or I and I preferred to go free. The lies I swore to did not trouble me at all, for lies and I were trouble me at all, for lies and I were bosom friends; but when that old woman raised her hands and cried out, 'Mirror of Justice, defend us!' I lelt a fear, for my medal hung at my neck and the only prayer I had

said for years was, sometimes, an 'Ave.' Habit, I suppose, but it was so-I said it. And like the thunder on the mountain came the meaning of that prayer - Speculum Justitiae.1 And from that day I was a haunted man. Waking, that face followed me—the face I had struck into stone by a kulle blow, and if I slept I saw al ways the same thing-myself trembling before a great balance and a sword hanging over my head; but two hands- a woman's hands-held down the scale-pan and held back the sword, and through a mist a face sweet and sorrowful looked down at me, like the 'Dolorosa' in the home chapel where I made my first Communion. And my terror lest the hands should slip or move would wake me with a start, and there would be the dead man and-and my memory waiting for me."

His voice sank to a whisper and his

eyes stared gloomily into space. "What a life it has been," he went on, wearily. "I dreaded to be robbed, and yet I dared not sell for fear of detection; I could not drink for fear I might betray myself, and for

of detection; I could not drink for fear I might betray myself, and for months the diamond hung like lead on my breast. Then I went to South America, and from there to Paris, where I sold it, well, with a good story of how I found it at the mines and smuggled it away.

"Bad luck followed me. The money went at play—I lost, iost, lost at everything; rouge-et-noir, vingt-et-un, roulette, mora—all were alike against me. Everything I touched failed. My crew got the fever. My Maria was lost off the Bahamas. My savings went in a bank failure.

"Then I began to drink hard, and I kept jolly fellows about in—loud fellows, boisterous fellows—and I would hear no word of prayer or hereafter; for the devil ruled my soul and I knew I was outcast from heaven.

"To-night the end has come, for I saw with these (he touched his eyes), "not sleeping, not drea, sing—awake—the Mirror of Justice. But she no longer stayed the sword, she no longer touched the scales. She held both in her own hands—"

He stopped, shuddering violently.
"My son," said Father Tom, "what you saw to-night was not Our Lady, although she might well have come from heaven to cry justice on your two-fold clime." He told him what had reality taken place, closing with:
"Now, be a man and a true son of the Church. Come back to the manhood and faith you have betrayed. That you repent truly of these sins I firmly believe, but prove it by confessing before the proper officers of the law; set free the innocent man who drags cut his days under an unjust sentence in the penitentiary, and rest assured when you are weighed in the great scales of eternal justice our Lord's cross will outweigh your sins."

Manuel nodded his head, and with a great effort raised his eyes to Pather Tom's. They were still far

Manuel nodded his head, and with a great effort raised his eyes to l'ather Tom's. They were still far too near together for honest dealing as the spirit understands it, but there was a new light in them.

"Father, I will; but I fear I could not do this if I did not know I was going to die. I would not have the courage. I, who call myself a gallant man—I am a coward."

And two tears rolled down his checks.

cheeks.

Father Tom felt a knot in his own throat at this confession, courageous in its weakness, pathetic in its falterings, and although the words of St Augustine seemed to stand out before him in letters of fire, he thought of that hill on which once hung three crosses, and he heard a thief cry, "Lord, be mereiful to me a sinner!"

Jord, be mereiful to me a sinner!"

Jord, be mereiful to me a sinner!" "Lord, be merciful to me a sinner!" and the voice that answered through the gathering darkness across the shuddering earth, "This day shalt thou be with Me in Paradise." And while he sent for the nearest. Magistrate, he said such words of hope as the Church alone can breathe to the peniterat, teaching as he did in the meaning of it true repentance and filling the sinner's heart with humble hope.

And after all was over Manuel beg-

ged to see David.

"I dread it, but I cannot go until he forgives me," he said.

And somehow, in spite of technicalities, Father Tom managed it so the two men met on the third day; for Manuel spoke the truth when he said he could not go without forgiveness.

Manuel spoke the truth when he said he could not go without forgiveness, and he lived on until then, to the amazement of the prison physician.

At first David refused outright to see him, for his heart was bitter with the load of anguish borne through these three frightful years. But Father Tom "talked to him," and his mother gave the final stroke that determined him.

"Ye must go, Davic," she said, as she hung on his neck.

And oh! the thoughts of the two men as they faced each other!

and on the thoughts of the two men as they faced each other!

I where is Davie now? Well, his story got about and there was quite a furore of sympathy. Some good soul started a purse, and big hearts and good incomes ran the money up to enough to buy him a half share in a schooner, of which he ultimately became owner and captain. His old skipper wanted him back, but he did not need to be any man's man now, except his own—and Our Lady's.

The old mother lived to dandle his children on her knee and to take them on sunny Sundays sometimes to a quiet graveyard by the shore of the hay, where they would kneel by a small slab of gray granite and pray for him who slept below. And then as they rested before starting home, small hands pulled the weeds from the grave and picked the lichens from the letters of the inscription, sometimes spelling them out as they did so. And the spelling read: "Pray for the soul of Manuel Ignatius Pirarro."—Catholic Fireside.



A BOY HERO.

It might have been a mistaken idea of boyish honor that prompted him to do it, but who could not but admire the spirit of the little fellow who while he lay dying in a New York hospital the other day, refused to tell the name of a companion who had pushed him from a freight car and brought him to his death. "Don't cry, mamma," he said, after his crushed legs had been amputated. "It wouldn't be fair to tell. He didn't mean to hurt me." And with his hand clutching his mother's tightly the boy who was true to his chum even to death passed away.-American Boy.

LITTLE FOLKS' LITTLE JOKES. "Oh, mammal" cried little Bob one day, "when you stroke pussy's fur this way you can feel the electricity, and when you put your ear down you can hear her trolley !"

A mother asked a little boy on his return from his first day at school how he liked the teacher. He said: "Mamma, she is the funniest teacher I ever saw. She didn't ask me a thing 'cept what I didn't know."

"marian, you have a hole as big as a quarter in the heel of your stocksaid an Indianapolis mother to her little 5 year-old daughter one evening recently.

"Mamma, you exaggirate so," re-piled the little one. "The hole isn't bigger than 15 cents."

A THOROUGH GOER.

Laura and Bessie Mason were spending a week at Grandma Strong's. Grandma was a sprightly old lady, and although so aged, she did her own work, and almost the last thing Mamma Mason said when her daughters left her was: "Now, girls, I hope you won't be a care to your grandma; I'm sure if you try you can help her in many ways."

The morning after their arrival, when they had finished a hearty breakfast of broiled chicken and golden corn-cakes with delicious syrup from grandma's own maple grove, Bessie said: "Do let us help you do up the work, grandma."

Grandma smiled. "I like to wash my china myself," she said, "but I'll tell you, my dears, if you really want to help me, I'd like to have you sweep up the kitchen and dining-room every morning. You can take turns at doing it."

"Well, let me do it this morning, then," said Laura. "Bessie is so poky particular about everything that it takes her forever and a day! And I'm in a hurry to run out and play!" Laura went vigorously to worktoo vigorously, perhaps, for she toss ed the broom so high that the dust rose in great clouds and set grandma sneezing and made the yellow cat seek refuge under the stove. He wasn't troubled there, for I must confess that Laura didn't sweep under the stove at all. She slighted other places too. She let the big rocking-chair stay where it was and merely swept around it; she never looked behind the door for bits of lint collected there; not a corner was swept, nor did she stir grandma's footstool.

Grandma Strong said not a word however, She went on washing her pretty pink and white china and hummed her favorite hymn, "A Charge to Keep I Have

The next morning it was Bessie's turn. First of all she dusted the chairs and set them in a row out in the entry. Then she took a newspaper and covered the stands of plants. Mamma says plants breathe through their leaves, and it isn't good for them to get dust;," she remarked.

She put a newspaper over the little table on which lay grandma's workbasket and "Saints' Rest." She removed from the room the garments hanging there. Then she began to sweep, taking short, quick strokes. Not a spot was left untouched. All the corners, behind the lounge, under the stove. Lust of all she lifted up grandma's footstool.

"Why-ee !" she exclaimed in surprise, stooping and picking up a tinyround yellow—something. "Here's money! a real gold dollar!" "Yes," said Grandma Strong, com-

posedly, though her black eyes twinkled as she looked at Laura. "Yes, Bessie, I put it there yesterday morning for some little girl who, in sweeping clean, should find it!"-The Companion.

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