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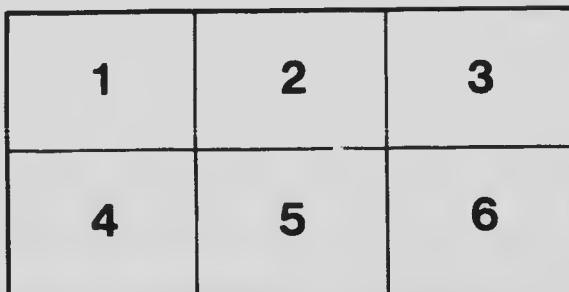
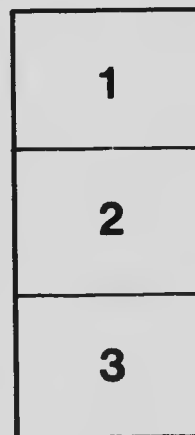
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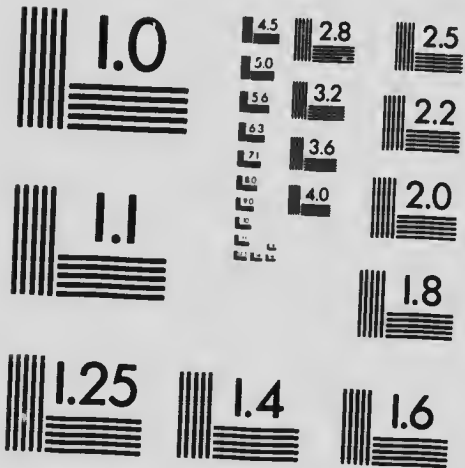
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INTRODUCTORY.

We hear at every turn, war is hell. Can any good come of it? Around this thought I have created a romance of fiction. A story of ruined home surroundings, sacrificed love, and a religion so big that life itself was relinquished in order that a bar of hate between two brothers might be broken down. In this cause Barr Eastling, as I have named my hero, leaves, even in death, a living memory of prayer consisting of a Rosary made of shrapnel and bones taken from his own body. Where could there be a more fitting resting place for this than in the Church of his faith?

EMMA MAY DUNN TURNER.



CHAPTER I.

Mrs. Eastling, owner of a large estate in Winchester, England, is the mother of three sons, Barr, Spencer, and Clyde, aged respectively fourteen, twelve, and ten years. On an adjoining estate live Mr. and Mrs. Froome and their eleven-year-old daughter, Loraine. Spencer and Clyde have all the inclinations of youth and find their brother Barr a sorry companion in their sports. Barr and Loraine are deeply attached to each other and have a sympathetic bond in their mutual friendship for G. John Townsend, Benedictine.

Barr and Loraine are daily companions of the benedictine on his walks and many are the stories, mostly historic and pertaining to their beloved faith, that he tells them. On one particular morning Barr begs the benedictine for a story. The benedictine tells Barr the early history of the Brotherhood and the Nuns and of the origin of the rosary.

Stooping down the benedictine gathers a hand full of pebbles and from a nearby bush he gathers a handful of berries; placing his hand affectionately on Barr's head he says: "In the tenth century, Countess Godova left, by will, a circulet of precious stones, threaded on a cord to the statue of 'Our Lady' in a certain monastery in order that she might tell her prayers accurately. In the twelfth century the poor had to some extent adopted the rosary and theirs were made from pebbles, berries, and sometimes bones." These facts told in the beautiful language of simplicity, the benedictine tells Barr and so impressed is he that later, when Loraine joins them, he insists upon a repetition of the stories for her benefit. Loraine joins Barr in his pleas for stories and the benedictine tells them of the origin of the name rosary and the living rosary.

"Once upon a time a monk seeks the garden at eventide to recite his Hail Marys or evening prayers. The splendor of a perfect day is swiftly falling into the quiet restfulness of night; the scent of many flowers is in the air. The monk's head is sunk upon his breast: the figure of 'Our Lady' steals quietly into the garden and stands in silent benediction. As the beautiful words of prayer fall from the lips of the monk they are transformed into rosebuds, which drift lightly through the air towards 'Our Lady'; she reaches up, gathers the floating buds and weaves them into a garland,

THE SHRAPNEL ROSARY OR THE UNFINISHED ROSARY

which she places on her head. Thus the name Rosarius which means a garland or bouquet of roses. The living rosary began in 1826 and consisted of a number of circles of fifteen members, who each day were obligated to recite a single prayer—thus completing the rosary. Universally the rosary was not in use until the fifteenth century and some very curious extravagances are told of it. In a certain Hindu Temple there hung a rosary, each bead of which was as large as a child's head and so great was the physical strain brought to bear upon the supplicant that the completion of his prayers usually found him in a state of exhaustion."

The stories finished, Barr and Loraine accompany the benedictine on one of his visits to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dale. Mrs. Dale, a motherly woman, is burdened by the illness of her husband. The children are welcome visitors in the home and the benedictine is one of the mainstays of Mr. Dale in his affliction.

The old clock strikes four and as it does so the benedictine asks if they ever heard the story of the first clock. Mr. and Mrs. Dale are quite as eager as the children to hear a story from the benedictine. "In the ninth century a young man named Gerbert was born in Aurill and later goes into the monastery of that town. On a visit to the imperial court, he fashions, among other curious things, a clock, run by water and regulated by the polar star. Failing to appreciate the genius back of such inventions the people look upon him as a sorcerer in criminal intercourse with evil spirits."

Loraine and Barr leave for home with the benedictine and upon arriving at home find Spencer and Clyde much enthused over an aeroplane of Spencer's invention. At the tryout, which occurs the next day, Spencer and Clyde are pinned beneath the aeroplane and are rescued by the gardener, coachman, and Barr, who are attracted to the scene by the commotion. Spencer is carried to the house where his mother and the maid weep over him and attend to the minor injuries he has received. Clyde is not hurt at all.

Barr, on one of his rambles by the brook, is idly casting stones into the water. In his mind's eye they fall into the form of a rosary and a smile plays over Barr's face as he thinks of the poor who had wrought their beads of prayer from pebbles, berries, and bones.

Thus following their own trend of mind the boys come to manhood. Barr never loses the influence worked by the good benedic-

THE SHRAPNEL ROSARY OR THE UNFINISHED ROSARY

tine and as the years go by his love of Loraine grows deeper and deeper and is hidden in its own depth.

The friendship between the Froome's and Mrs. Eastling and her sons grows with the years, and when the boys, now in college, are home for the holidays, Mr. and Mrs. Froome and Loraine are often guests. Barr is deep in his studies and Clyde is making rapid strides in his medical studies while Spencer gives promise of being one day famous in aviation work. At the holiday season Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Hambley, an uncle and aunt of the boys, are guests and they soon detect the little comedy, swiftly falling into tragedy, that is being enacted by the three brothers in their admiration for Loraine. Barr shows his love in little attentions; Clyde and Spencer are open in thier warfare and each think it is the other who keeps him from being favored.

One evening Mr. and Mrs. Froome and Loraine are guests at the Eastling home. Loraine is at the piano and Clyde and Spencer are both seeking to gain her attention. Barr quietly sits in the shadow enjoying the music that drifts softly from Loraine's light touch. Mr. and Mrs. Hambley, much interested in the love-making of the three boys, have much fun pantomiming. As Spencer is called to his mother's side Clyde asks Loraine to see her home that evening. Loraine looks through the music and refuses Clyde's invitation. Clyde looks provoked and leaves the piano. Loraine soon leaves the piano and goes with Spencer to the porch. Spencer attempts to make love to Loraine who looks through the window and sees Barr. Laughingly she pushes Spencer away and runs into the house shaking her head in refusal to his invitation to walk home with her as she goes. Loraine goes home with her parents and as they are leaving, Mr. Hambley nudges Barr, saying, "Faint heart ne'er won fair lady." Loraine trys to play no favorites but usually contrives to attend the picnics, etc., with Barr as a walking or riding companion.

For the last entertainment before the boys return to college a picnic is planned. The three brothers are seen going to the Froome home, each by a separate path and arriving only to find their mother, and aunt and uncle having tea upon the porch. Barr invites Loraine to stroll in the garden and accompany him during the day of the picnic, in which Mrs. Eastling, her sons, Mr. and Mrs. Hambley, Mr. and Mrs. Froome and Loraine, and the Misses Cameron participate. Loraine goes with Barr in his roadster. After

THE SHRAPNEL ROSARY OR THE UNFINISHED ROSARY

the picnic lunch they pair off—all with the ruins of a nearby castle as an objective destination. Mr. and Mrs. Froome are leaning on the walls as Barr and Loraine stroll up the path beneath. Loraine sees her parents; waves a bunch of wild flowers and starts toward them. The wall crumbles, completely burying Mr. and Mrs. Froome and injuring Loraine. The sad ending of the picnic casts a gloom over all and in the ensuing days Loraine is coaxed into going to the Eastling home to live.

Barr, who is now a benedictine, takes advantage of his vacation to spend long hours with the benedictine, now an old man. On one of their walks they visit the Dale home, now deserted, and Barr, seeing the old clock, takes it home with him. Loraine recognizes the clock and when Spencer asks Barr why he brought the clock home she tells him the story of the first clock as the benedictine told it to Mr. and Mrs. Dale, Barr, and herself years ago.

Loraine goes to call upon the Cameron girls and while she is absent Barr receives a hurry call to a nearby parish to serve during the illness of the benedictine. Spencer is off for a tryout of a new roadster and Barr is worried as to how he will reach his destination in due time. Clyde offers to take Barr and with little preparation and much haste they start for the nearby village.

Loraine returns home and finds the house deserted. The heat is excessive and in desperation she seeks comfort and coolness upon the broad veranda. Evening comes on and Spencer returns. He asks for Barr and Clyde, and Loraine says she supposes they have gone on one of Barr's mercy calls. Spencer asks Loraine to go for a spin and she accepts. Spencer takes advantage of his opportunity to press his suit with Loraine. Nicely, but with finality, she tells him that she does not love him. Anger flashes over Spencer's face and is hastily followed by cunning and craftiness. Could he contrive to, by some seeming accident, detain their return until the morning, the girl would be compromised into marriage. Spencer gets down from the machine and tinkers with the engine. Loraine grows restless over the length of time it takes to find the cause of the delay and is met with sullen answers when she inquires about the accident.

Barr and Clyde reach their destination and Barr makes a call upon the benedictine and prepares to fill his place for the early morning mass. Clyde starts upon the return journey. Spencer looks at his watch. The hands point to eleven o'clock. Loraine is pacing rest-

THE SHRAPNEL ROSARY OR THE UNFINISHED ROSARY

lessly back and forth, anxiety written upon her features. As Spencer sees the time he suddenly hears the approach of a machine which he recognises as belonging to Clyde; realising that his attempt to delay the girl is frustrated, he finds the cause of the trouble and in a few minutes he and Loraine are speeding on. They pass Clyde who is returning home. Loraine begs Spencer to turn and return home as it is late, but he puts on more speed and refuses to listen or speak to her. As they pass Clyde, he turns and shouts after them, but his voice fails to reach the speeding car. He is surprised at seeing them out so late and speeding but finally shakes his head and continues on his way home.

Spencer slows down and tells Loraine that he is going to the church of the nearby village and that she will either marry him or stay out all night and as Clyde has seen them that she will not be able to explain her absence from home. Loraine attempts to jump from the car but Spencer puts on speed and holds her in. They arrive at the church in the village where Barr has been called. Loraine jumps from the car and runs into the church; she falls to the railing sobbing and clinging to it from faintness. Barr is in the vestry praying. He hears the sound of Loraine's sobs and goes into the church. Surprise at seeing the weeping girl at the railing flashes across his face and with a few strides he reaches her side and gently raises her from the floor. He is amazed to find it is Loraine. When Loraine recognises Barr she clings to him and hysterically begs him to save her. Spencer strides into the church and to the railing. By the faint light he recognises Barr and a sneer crosses his face as he sees Loraine in his arms.

"What right have you to interfere again in my love affairs?" he demands angrily of Barr.

"I." "I am the Father of my flock and this woman is one of my People."

Barr gently places Loraine behind him and with uplifted arms waves Spencer from the church and locks the doors after him. Meantime Loraine cringes by the altar in her fright. Spencer, angered at the upsetting of his plans journeys to the city. Barr quiets Loraine, gives her the Parish Priest's saddle horse, with a lantern tied to the saddle and starts her towards home. Just as she is starting off Barr takes his cloak from his shoulders and places it around Loraine. She starts to take a mountain bridle path and Barr stands and gazes after her. Loraine, exhausted from

THE SHRAPNEL ROSARY OR THE UNFINISHED ROSARY

her ordeal lets the horse take his path and droops wearily in the saddle. Barr torn with conflicting emotions paces back and forth in the garden.

Clyde arrives at home and becomes anxious as the hours drag on. At last he decides to return over the road and see if Spencer and Loraine have happened with an accident. Every turn of the road he expects to meet them until finally the little church where he had taken Barr is in sight. He drives up to the church, enters and tells Barr that Spencer and Loraine have not returned home. Barr tells Clyde of the affair in the church and of sending Loraine home by the short mountain path. Worried because she has not arrived at home they start on foot up the path.

As Loraine journeys on, the reins hang loose in her fingers; the cloak hangs from her shoulders and is unnoticed. Gradually the ties become unfastened and the cloak falls to the ground under the horse's feet. The horse is startled, stumbles and falls, and in trying to regain his footing throws Loraine from the saddle into the canyon beneath. Free of his burden and his entanglement the horse starts grazing by the path.

Barr and Spencer meet the horse and as they see him grazing calmly by the roadside, both start to run. Clyde calls Loraine; the hills re echo "Loraine." Farther on and still farther on they go, until finally they come upon Barr's clonk lying in a heap in the centre of the path. Barr leans over the cliff and shouts "Loraine." His face lightens up as faintly from below he hears her answer. Barr and Clyde now face the problem of rescuing Loraine from the canyon. After much puzzling, Barr steps into the shrubs and soon returns with his robes in his hands while the cloak of disaster is tied at his throat. He tears the robes in strips and ties them together, testing each knot carefully as he goes. Clyde continues to shout encouragement to Loraine. The first grey streaks of dawn appear on the skyline. A flock of vultures swoop low and over the canyon. Barr completes his task; his face is drawn and haggard; for one brief instant he stands with face uplifted as in prayer and then strides to the brink and lets the rope of faith fall into the canyon. Clyde and Barr both struggle manfully, all the while shouting encouragement to Loraine, and slowly draw her to safety. The rocky crevices and shrubbery offer Loraine opportunity to aid in her rescue and as she is finally brought to safety she faints. Barr gathers her in his arms. Loraine is brought to consciousness and

THE SHRAPNEL ROSARY OR THE UNFINISHED ROSARY

Barr carries her back to the church where she is placed in Clyde's car and returns home with him. Barr remains and from the pulpit that morning preaches his big sermon with "By Faith Shall Ye Be Saved" as his text.

The Easter holidays arrive and Spencer and Clyde each intent upon his own love-making, do not give a thought to Barr in regard to Loraine. Each resents the other's love for Loraine and both propose and are refused. Spencer persists in his attention and one day Clyde comes into the garden and sees Spencer trying to force Loraine to kiss him. The brothers come to blows and Barr comes upon the scene and combines efforts with Loraine to bring about a reconciliation. They can have no influence upon the brothers who part in anger and in the days and months that follow carry a bar of hate and silence between them.

A cloud hangs over the home. The boys return to college.

War is declared. Clyde enlists as a staff surgeon and Spencer as an aviator. Each bids farewell to his mother and Loraine and cautions Barr to look after them and the estate.

Mrs. Eastling, worried over the gulf between her sons, goes into a decline and as Barr sees his mother daily drooping, he decides to go to the trenches and try to bring about between the brothers a reconciliation in order to save his mother's life. He tells Loraine his intentions. The eve of parting comes. Barr is walking restlessly back and forth in the garden. Loraine sees him and joins him. Loraine stands leaning against a tree while Barr, still walking back and forth, talks of the morrow and what it will bring. He stops suddenly and says: "War is all that has ever been claimed for it. May I not take to the one of my brothers whom you love some message? I will consider the trust sacred." Loraine looks distressed and then as if deciding suddenly says, "I do not love either Spencer or Clyde in that way, Barr, there was a time when I might have loved you,—then I saw it was too late."

Barr stands as if turned to stone; his eyes burn into Loraine's, then into his robes; realization of what he has done comes over him; love and desire illuminate his face; vows and robes are forgotten in the rush of years of suppressed love; he steps toward Loraine who reaches to his side and holds his cross between them. For one single moment he stands again before the altar; he denounces life and all its vanities; he takes unto himself the vows that make of

THE SHRAPNEL ROSARY OR THE UNFINISHED ROSARY

him a benedictine;—slowly, reverently he bends his head to kiss the cross, then turns and walks swiftly from the scene.

Barr enlists as chaplain in the Third Lancaster regiment and goes to the front where he meets his brothers, who ask him about home, Loraine, etc.

The German submarine warfare on Swedish Merchant Marine has aroused the ire of the people. Prince Gustav, who is popular with the masses, has promised to appeal to his father, the King, on their behalf to suppress Germany. Upon being refused by the King, he declares his intention of joining the forces of France and Britain.

Soon after Barr's enlistment, Loraine enlists with the British Red Cross and requests that she be sent to the front where she hopes to help unite the brothers. Loraine and Prince Gustav both take the same steamer from England bound for France. Prince Gustav is incog. and goes under the name of Dyson De Phelan. Shortly after going aboard, De Phelan is seated on deck next a man named Drake, who is a card-shark. Loraine is walking on the deck; a gust of wind detaches her veil from her hat, and, carried by the wind, it falls on Drake's head. He grasps it laughingly and goes over to Loraine. He throws it around her neck and tries to draw her towards him, holding the ends of the veil and peering leeringly into her face saying, "I have caught you in your own mesh." She tries to release herself, resenting his impudence. De Phelan has watched the little by-play and hastens to assist Loraine out of the disagreeable situation. He lifts the veil from around her neck, offers her his arm, and they go down the deck together. Drake, much discomfitted, still holding the veil from which De Phelan has so cleverly extricated Loraine, tosses it overboard, and De Phelan and Loraine, leaning on the railing, watch it float away on the waves. Drake turns angrily and goes up the deck.

De Phelan, immediately upon his arrival at Paris, enlists in the French service, and is sent to the front as captain of a regiment. In the trenches he meets both Spencer and Clyde and they become fast friends. Barr finds that De Phelan is a close friend of Spencer and Clyde.

CHAPTER II.

WITH THE FRENCH-BRITISH FORCES, "SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE."

The day is dying. The sky is heavy with smoke and occasionally a bursting shell can be seen in the distance. A sharp engagement is in progress.

A large home, once handsome, shows the ravages of war. The roof is crumbling in places and windows and doors are shattered. Barr creeps around a heavy hedge; takes a hasty inventory and beckons to those behind him. Clyde and De Phelan assisting a wounded general make their appearance and are closely followed by a half-dozen soldiers, all showing the effects of battle. They run under cover of the foliage and the deepening shadows to the entrance of the house and enter. By the flicker of matches the party enters the drawing room. For a brief moment Barr is seen as he draws the heavy hangings at the windows closely shut. Another match flickers and Barr is seen at the mantle of the huge fireplace as he lights a few of the candles which are placed in heavy candelabre and used as ornaments. The room and its contents become discernible. Bricks and mortar cover the floor. A bed and many bandages scattered about are evidence that the room has been used as an emergency hospital. The handsomely embroidered cover of the table is half off and the bric-a-brac is lying shattered on the floor.

The general is placed tenderly upon the bed and Clyde prepares to give first aid to the injured. Barr places soldiers on guard and instructs one to investigate a passage that can be seen through an open panel in the wall; he starts upon an investigating tour that takes him through the many rooms of the mansion. In an upstairs room Barr comes across a crucifix—two candles in silver sticks are placed one upon each side. These Barr takes with him. As he re-enters the drawing room Barr holds up the crucifix and says: "Sunday evening—we shall say mass." Clyde assisted by De Phelan, is dressing the general's wounds and as Barr enters the soldier comes from the passage way and says: "There is an underground passage that opens about a mile distant—well out of sight of the enemy's lines."

THE SHRAPNEL ROSARY OR THE UNFINISHED ROSARY

A handsome carved chest is in the recess of the room and here it is that Barr places the crucifix and starts to erect an altar. He takes the table cover for an altar cloth and one of the candelabre from the mantle. In his search about the room he pulls two red cross flags from beneath a pile of debris, these he casts aside near the altar. When the altar is complete Barr looks at the soldier's uniform and registers a longing for his robes. His eyes alight upon the red cross flags and a smile illumines his face. Picking up the flags he rips them from their staff and ties them together; he slips them over his head and they fall in the effect of a surplice with a huge cross ornamenting his back and breast.

Barr designates that all is ready and the men prepare to say mass; a guard enters hurriedly and announces that a party of the enemy is approaching. All is confusion. Barr takes command and assists Clyde and De Phelan to move the general and at the same time gives orders for all the party to enter the panel. As the last man enters Barr slides the panel shut and kneels before the altar.

The doors are thrown open and the enemy enters the room. All that is to be seen is Barr kneeling in front of the improvised altar. The captain enters with drawn sword; Barr takes the crucifix from its resting place, turns, and crossing himself reverently, stands with upheld crucifix before the captain, his breast open for the fatal thrust. The captain stands in awe of such bravery; the men retreat step by step until they stand almost in a huddled heap in the doorway. Verily, "The Cross is Mightier than the Sword."

The captain is unequal to the situation; Barr in his improvised robes with the emblem of his faith, is master of the situation, for suddenly the captain sheathes his sword, wheels and says, "Attention! Right about face, forward march."

The captain and his men are seen coming from the house and making their way over the hills and out of sight. Once sure of the enemy's departure Barr opens the panel and calls his own party back into the room where silently and reverently they completed the saying of Mass.

All through the night, Barr, De Phelan, and Clyde keep watch and as the first streak of dawn appears in the sky they make their way into the passage and out of the entrance beyond the hill, and are seen hurrying across a wooded field which adjoins a small farmhouse and outbuildings. They are assisting a wounded man. On

THE SHRAPNEL ROSARY OR THE UNFINISHED ROSARY

the horizon in the distance can be seen the smoke and bursting shells of a terrific battle.

In the trees above a cunning, cruel face, smoke and blood begrimed, peers through the foliage. It draws back as the trio comes in sight. Then again it appears, this time followed by a hand in which a revolver is tightly clenched, and then an arm clothed in the uniform of the enemy. There is a spurt of smoke and Clyde drops the general, clutching his arm and reeling from weakness. Again a spurt from the trees and this time the general sinks to the ground injured beyond all hope of assisting himself. Clyde takes aim and fires, the body of the spy falls heavily to the ground.

In the aeroplane camp word has gone out that one of the generals is missing from the field. Spencer Eastling, of the aeroplane squadron, is sent out to get information as to whether the general has been taken prisoner of war. Spencer is overtaken by a pursuing machine of the enemy. A terrific fight is waged in the air. Spencer sees Barr, Clyde, De Phelan, and the general just as the enemy catches sight of them. Then comes the tug-of-war. Spencer tries to block every move of the enemy in order to prevent his arriving on the scene. Spencer succeeds in disabling the machine of the enemy, which falls to the ground and kills the aviator. Spencer lands and runs to the aid of Barr, Clyde, and De Phelan. They lift the general into the car and Clyde is also assisted in. Barr seeing that one must stay behind tells them to leave him. He will hear nothing else and slowly the aeroplane rises from the ground with De Phelan hanging to the side of the car, while Barr stands alone in the centre of the field. "Greater love hath no man than this, that he give up his life for his friends."

The air fight has been seen by the observator of the enemy, who radios to headquarters, "Send another flyer," which takes the air in pursuit.

Heavily loaded, Spencer has difficulty in managing his machine and it is not hard for the enemy to overtake him. The enemy casts a bomb of shrapnel at Spencer's machine; it misses and falls to the ground and bursts near where Barr is standing. Barr is seriously wounded and De Phelan is knocked from the aeroplane by the shock of the bursting bomb. He falls near the maimed form of Barr.

French headquarters observator reports Spencer's plight. Several

THE SHRAPNEL ROSARY OR THE UNFINISHED ROSARY

French planes take the air, which cause the enemy's plane to retreat.

Later both are carried to the farm house by a man and woman where they are given first aid. The farm house is occupied by an old farmer and his wife, two of the few remaining occupants of the vicinity. It is these good people who rescue Barr and De Phelan and care for them until they can be removed to the nunnery.

One day the nurse, assisted by De Phelan, is busy picking pieces of shrapnel and shattered bone from Barr's wounds. Writhing in pain from the operation Barr loosens the bandage of his arm; it slips down. Instantly Barr's face clears; he has a mental picture of the poor picking berries, pebbles, and bones, and patiently stringing them to use as rosaries. Taking his rosary from beneath his pillow he holds it up to the nurse; points to the dish of shrapnel and tells her to string them in the form of a rosary for him. She says there is not enough. Barr points to the dish of shattered bone and says, "Use the bones from my body." The nurse strings the shrapnel and bones as Barr requests and having it finished tells Barr that there is not enough for the cross. Barr says, "I have the cross." Barr's wounds are fatal. Realising this, he requests the presence of his brothers and Loraine, who is a Red Cross nurse. In view of his bravery, his request is granted.

Clyde and Spencer arrive and join De Phelan at Barr's bedside.

Loraine arrives and De Phelan tells them that life is fast slipping from Barr. Loraine realising that he is dying throws herself across the bed and implores him not to leave her, telling him that she loves him. "I have always loved you; your vows have kept you from me." Barr raises himself with great effort and places his hands on her head and face, raises his eyes to heaven and his lips move as if in prayer; a smile of supreme joy appears on his countenance. He clasps the hands of his brothers across the bed. He takes the shrapnel rosary from beneath his pillow and folds it in the palm of his hand; tears the bandage from his arm and holds it towards the onlookers. The Rosary of shrapnel and bones falls on the arm where a ragged cross of shrapnel is disclosed. Reverently the brothers, Loraine, and De Phelan cross themselves. All bend forward while Barr, speaking with an effort, tells the story of his Rosary and the inspiration that caused its making.

De Phelan discloses the fact that he is the Prince Incog. and says he will ask his father, the King, to have the rosary placed in the

THE SHRAPNEL ROSARY OR THE UNFINISHED ROSARY

church. Barr sinks back into his pillow, a smile of welcome for the Angel of Death, is on his face.

Two years later, Prince De Phelan, as he is now known, and Loraine are married. The ceremony is one of great pomp. As the ceremony reaches the stage where the ring is brought forth, the tiny ring bearers, in robes of court, hold forth the pillow of satin, and the guests see the Shrapnel Rosary encircling the ring that is to join the life of the woman Barr loved to that of his good friend. De Phelan places the ring upon Loraine's finger. The church is hushed in prayer.

A circle of Nun's heads—as in prayer—fades in directly over the figure of Christ on the Cross, which will form a complete rosary.

