

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

A FATAL RESEMBLANCE.

BY CHRISTIAN REID.

XII.—CONTINUED.

The valedictory was announced, and as the sweet, distinct, but at first slightly tremulous tones floated on, Dyke and Meg squeezed hands under Meg's shawl, and as the speaker gained confidence, and won a closer and more enraptured attention by her perfect elocution and natural manner, Meg cried outright for joy, and her nephew's eyes for an instant shone with a suspicious moisture. When at length all was over, and the pupils were permitted to receive their friends, Miss Edgar flew to her father's embrace; but, even in that moment of honest emotion on his part, when she felt his tear upon her cheek, vanity and triumph that he was so handsome and distinguished-looking, so superior to everybody else, rather than were the feelings opprobrium in her breast.

Ned, forgetful of everything but that she was with Meg and Dyke, was embracing each, and crying and laughing in turn.

Mr. Edgar was introducing his companion to his daughter, and the elderly lady, bearing that impressive something about her which marks the grand dame of the old school, acknowledged the introduction with a manner that made her sixty years as charming as she was.

She had a sweet face, and so clear a complexion that one, in looking at her, forgot the wrinkles that marked her features.

"And now," continued Mr. Edgar, to his daughter, "bring us to your friends, looking in the direction of the group of which Ned was the centre."

"Is not that young man Dykeard Dutton? He is very much older and manlier grown, and I suppose that is Meg Standish with him? What an old woman she has become!"

The young lady obeyed, and she was obliged to affect a cordiality in her greeting of the mountain friends whom she had ignored so long, when she saw how truly warm were her father's salutations.

And the elderly lady, introduced as Mrs. Standish, shook hands with Meg in delicate white jeweled hand in the great brown hand of Dyke with as sunny a smile and as much graciousness of manner as if both were her equals in the social scale. To Ned she gave a look which seemed to express her secret confidence that they would be intimate friends some day.

Dyke was interested in watching Mr. Edgar. The decade of years seemed to have made such changes in that gentleman's appearance, that he could not look at him without a certain amount of surprise. He was taller and thicker, and his hair was streaked with gray, and his handsome forehead was indented with lines that told of harassing care or thought.

But the young man's observations were terminated by the object of them insisting on the whole party accompanying himself and his daughter to Barrytown, and there making at least a brief stay before going to their mountain home. Meg was quite willing to do so, for it would recall the old happy times when Mr. Edgar was her master, but Dyke, who had married perhaps he feared that the grandeur of the place would make Ned discontented with her own humble abode, and perhaps also he was selfish enough to fear that Mr. Edgar's generosity would go to the extent of inviting Ned to make a permanent stay with his daughter.

Under the influence of ancient feelings he could not give his consent immediately; but he gave it at length, though his heart was filled with a strange gloomy foreboding.

plain and lowly as ours is. Had you eleven years ago resigned all claim upon and all interest in her, we would have reared her according to our means, and she might not then be so unfitted to be one of us. Now she is a lady, and far, far above us. Also, Mr. Edgar, she is your flesh and blood, and entitled from that fact to much consideration on your part; but the generosity which has impelled you to educate her provide for her now."

How the heart of the speaker rose up and well-nigh choked him as he uttered the last words! But Dyke's was a brave nature, and rather than turn aside from a purpose once surely chosen, he could have borne to pluck out his own heart.

Mr. Edgar was somewhat annoyed; it was the second time in the course of a week that the fact of Ned's being his own flesh and blood was thrust into his face, and much though he might recognize that fact secretly, he disliked any open allusion to it. Besides, he had not now the slightest doubt that the beautiful girl whom he called his daughter was really such, and in proportion as his heart went rapturously out to her, so did his indifference to his brother's child increase.

Every time that his eyes rested upon her he fancied that he detected new and marked resemblances to his brother, his hatred of whom neither time nor distance seemed to soften. Having educated Ned, and having offered to remunerate any future care of her, he felt that he had done all that could be required, and no thought of her now disturbed him, until Dyke brought her so unpleasantly before him.

He made a turn of the room before he answered; then, with his hands behind him, and his head thrown slightly forward, he said:

"Marry her, Dyke; I shall dower her well, and then both her future and your own will be assured."

Scorn flashed from the young man's eyes, and his voice was tremulous with sudden anger. "Your niece"—with a fine emphasis on the latter word—"Mr. Edgar, is not a chattel to be disposed of in such a manner. She has a heart to be consulted, and were I her equal by birth and education, as I am greatly her inferior, still would such a marriage be impossible, because she regards me only as a brother."

Mr. Edgar was silent, but his head was erect, and his eyes looking through Dyke's face. Secretly, he was admiring this blunt, fearless fellow, for he half suspected that the young man loved, and loved dearly, the fair subject of their discussion. "What would you have me do?" he said at length.

Dyke answered slowly—every word was a knell to his own affection. "Since you have given her equal advantages of education with your own daughter, give her the same advantages of a home. They can be like sisters and, after all, they will be the most proper companions for each other."

The gentleman made another turn of the room; he could think best when walking, and he was mentally discussing this proposition with all its advantages and disadvantages.

Did he give his brother's child a home, her companionship might render unnecessary for a longer time the company which, for his daughter's sake, he intended to invite to the house—might secure to him for a year or two that country solitude which, now being enjoyed by his daughter, would be doubly delightful—and might indeed procure for him a longer term of his child's society; for when company, and especially of the opposite sex, came to the house, it was natural to suppose that Miss Edgar's marriage might speedily follow.

Thus it seemed well to agree to Dyke's proposition, and Mr. Edgar did so briefly, and then seemed to consider the interview ended, and the young man went out—not to walk in a dark silent grove, as he needed solitude to compose himself, and something in the darkness seemed to help him also, as if it brought nearer that great, invisible Presence which strengthens for sacrifice, and supports in trial. Then he sought Meg, and broke the news of the change in Ned's prospects to her. At first, delight that her darling would be indeed a lady, having all the grandeur to which she was truly entitled, overpowered every other emotion; then came a feeling of wild grief, as she realized how Ned's good fortune must sever the old relations between them; and lastly her anxieties all turned to Dyke.

"What'll you do?" she said through her tears. "It was for her you wanted everything, and now she'll no come with us any more."

"Never mind me, Aunt Meg; I'm a man, with a man's strength, and I'll work the same as if it were for her. Indeed, I shall be comforted by the thought that she is well provided for. Some day she will marry one of her own kind, and I shall be proud and happy to see her happiness." His voice quivered in spite of himself, and his aunt detected it.

Neither spoke until they had reached a very secluded part; then Dyke, motioning his companion to a seat on the mossy eminence, threw himself down beside her.

It was a harder task than he had thought, this breaking to Ned of the change in her fortune, and she sat so quietly waiting for him to begin. She asked no question, but her great, lustrous, gleamless eyes looked at him very earnestly. He could have looked at her forever, she formed so sweet a picture with her wealth of raven hair coiled simply at the back of her head, and her rich, dark complexion. But he had to begin.

"Would you like to live here always, Ned?"

"No; is that what you had to say to me?" Her lips parted into a faint smile.

He resumed: "Mr. Edgar proposes that you make your home here with his daughter; you will be treated as if you were his sister."

The smile faded from her lips. "But I prefer my home with Meg and you."

"Mr. Edgar is very kind," but I prefer my home with Meg and you. Dyke said again: "But Meg and I think it best for you, Ned, to accept Mr. Edgar's offer."

"What! not to live with Meg and you any more—not to consider that dear old place way up among the mountains my home for the future?"

She could say no more for the great lump which came suddenly into her throat, and in another moment she had burst into tears and was crying with all the abandon of her childish days.

How Dyke's own heart beat, and how something in his own throat rose up; but he set his teeth firmly together, and fastened his hands into the earth beside him, that he might not, in spite of himself, clasp this beloved one to his heart and whisper that she might make his home always here if she would.

His nature, strong and ardent as it was, was too noble for such a course. He was not her equal, and if he were, he would refrain from asking her heart's affection until he had given her time and opportunity to test it. So he answered, when he had recovered his wonted calm:

"Remember, Ned, that you are a woman now, and must submit to the dictates of your judgment rather than those of your heart. A residence here will be better for you in many ways. Mr. Edgar, who has looked through her eyes, is in vacation for some months past, has everything in readiness for us to travel together about it now, and Meg being long anxious to see some cousins of hers in Albany, I shall leave her with them while I am away; so, you see, the little mountain home is no place for you. What in the world"—brightening a little—"would do there? No piano, no society, no books such as you have been accustomed to?"

"Why did you give me such an education, then, through her tears, the little mountain home is no place for you. What in the world"—brightening a little—"would do there? No piano, no society, no books such as you have been accustomed to?"

"Did I ever tell you that I had paid for your education?" asked Dyke.

"I suppose I did," through her tears, you had, am I not right in supposing so?"

He was silent, not knowing what to reply. How he regretted not having obtained Mr. Edgar's permission to reveal to her the truth about the matter. His silence, however, was giving to her the revelation he felt would have made.

"I see it all now," she said, springing to her feet. Mr. Edgar has paid for my education."

Dyke also arose. He did not want you to know that, Ned, and I should tell him how it came about, for I do not expect to have an opportunity of speaking to him privately again."

"But why should he do so much for me?" she persisted.

"Because he is wealthy, and he knew you were in England."

She continued: "It is singular how every one belonging to me died, and that there was only Meg and you to take care of me."

"We gave you such care as we could," said Dyke, anxious to get her thoughts away from the family, lest she should divine other things about herself, as well as she had divined who had paid for her education; "and I don't think in the matter of the affection you gave us it made much difference whether we were your father or not."

"Indeed, no," was the earnest reply. "You were my brother always, and always shall be my brother."

With a sharp pang he felt the truth of her words; as a brother, and as a brother, she would be ever his.

"I shall be as brave as you," she said now, Ned, that, owing so much to Mr. Edgar, you can hardly refuse him when he wishes you to live here for companionship for his daughter."

"Perhaps he educated me for that," speaking so sarcastically, and drawing herself up.

"No, no; you are mistaken. I am sure he did not entertain such a thought."

"Well, let Mr. Edgar alone for a few minutes, and tell me about yourself. Are you poor, Dyke?"

He looked at her in surprise, and before answering, demanded to know why she asked.

"Only because, as your sister, I have a right to know all your circumstances, and to know also whether Mr. Edgar, in his great generosity to me, has done anything for you?"

Dyke smiled. "My circumstances at present do not need any aid from Mr. Edgar; and if this invention succeeds, I shall be a rich man. For the whirling moment a great glory filled his heart: if he became a rich and noted man, and Ned should remain unmarried, perhaps her hand might one day be his. It was a hope so sweet and bright that it gave a more cheerful tone to his voice as he continued: 'All my aunt's savings and my own have sunk in this invention, and if it should turn out a failure we would be pretty poor; but there is no fear of that, everything is so promising now.'"

THE CHILD BEFORE THE THRONE.

BY N. RYLMAN.

When the Lady Mary became Queen I was appointed one of her Maids of Honor, and I was with her when she rode in state through London, past convents and monasteries founded by her mother, Queen Katharine, dissolved by her father, bluff Henry; past prisons in which had been imprisoned the friends of her childhood, past places sanctified by their martyrdom. I was with her, too, when she opened their prison house doors, and led into God's sunlight the faithful few who had come out of great tribulation, and of the fierce fury of a mighty and relentless persecution. I was one of the bridesmaids at her marriage in Winchester Cathedral, when the ancient Faith was restored and exalted, when hearts were lifted as the Host was lifted. D. D. the lady who rode through London's crowded streets remember how the parents of these very gazers had gazed at the daughter of Isabella the Catholic, and at the two Cardinals as they rode to the scene of judgment? I trow she did, for I once saw her bend her head and whisper: "Sweet Jesus grant me patience, more patience. Did the bride of the Prince of Spain think of her mother—her vexed, disconsolate mother—passing away at Kimbolton as she walked down the beautiful cathedral in robes of State and scarlet shoes? I trow she did, for I saw her pale as she glanced at dead Queen Katharine's missal."

Thorny, ever thorny, was the path Mary Tudor trod; hard, always hard, was the pillow on which she laid her head. I who loved her, whom she called "my little rosebud," knew it. But I am not going to recount her trials here. Are they not written in that great sealed book, whose keeper is an angel? I am simply going to relate a beautiful episode in her life—hitherto known only to myself.

My father's Castle of Wayverne, on the Rayler, stood at some little distance from the Thatched House, the seat of Earl Brabazon, sometime a Commissioner of King Henry. We, being Catholics, kept aloof from my lord, who was a steady partisan of the new faith, and, therefore, high in favor both with Henry and the boy, King Edward. The Earl had wedded late in life a beautiful girl of the fallen house of Cleve, who though she had once owned the priceless gift of faith, had cast it aside in the hour of temptation and of poverty, and when she wended outwardly she conformed. My lord was a loose liver, gress, addicted to wine, free in his speech, as his Master Harry had been; so Sister Meg and myself held ourselves aloof. But for all that I pitied the Countess Reine, whose fair face was like unto that of a pictured saint, for her beautiful eyes wore the look of a seeker after the lost, and Meg averred that she would have felt small surprise had she seen her lips uncloset, and have heard them cry, "Lost, lost!" I held that sometimes the poor soul wanted the forsaken faith. It was during the last years of King Edward's reign. Her husband was much at Court—her left in solitary state at the Thatched House, and then we spoke with her when we chanced to meet her in the open country. Meg once gave her a Spring-time Cross, all made of fair primroses, with J. M. J. (Jesus, Mary, Joseph) made with violets upon it, and Sis told me that she knelt down in the Chase and kissed the letters, with dim blue eyes, but when Meg drew near to her and whispered "Countess, wilt see our confessor?" she shook her golden head, and said:

"Not now, dear Lady Margaret. My lord would be angered. By-and-by, please God."

Whilst the Earl was away one of the Court lords (the Marquis of Rosney), a wild and dissolute young noble, used to come down and stay at his place, Red Rock, close by, and the gossiping lady had been over fond—was enamored of Brabazon's wife. We desired to think no ill of her, but 'twas all too true. One May day, towards eventide I went with Meg to look at a fen's nest in the hollow of an old oak, but when we peered through the branches the nest was empty. We heard no tweeting, saw no gaping of yellow bills; her fledglings had gone to try their wings. So Sis was exceedingly sad, and when we met Dame Parnell, the bower woman of Countess Reine, weeping on Wayverne Heath, Meg told her about the empty nest, and asked her why she cried?

"Because I too have an empty nest, my Lady Meg," she said. "The Countess Reine hath fled, and left her husband and her Lady Winifred, her three years' child."

"Poor thing, poor thing! Hath she gone to a convent abroad, from whence she can send for the child? Most like she has," said innocent Meg. "Nay, nay, not so. She hath gone with the Marquis. My lord was rough with her as he oft is, for she came to me at night yesterday, and she said: 'Parnell I want my mother sorely, and I have no mother.' And then she kissed Lady Winifred and wished the saints had taken her; and then that very night she must have fled to Red Rock. The Earl went down to the great hall door and barred and bolted it, and as he did so he swore a mighty oath, and said that if the Countess stood outside it he would slam it in her face."

"Poor lady! Poor Countess Reine!" said Sis softly, as we went upon our way. "The nest she fled from was lined with hedgeroth, not with hap. She will never come back to it, Gracie. But I being older knew that she might repent, and come back for Winifred's sake."

II.

The bells rang merrily in the high church steeples as though the streets of Sherborne rode Queen Mary. Brown friars and black, grey friars and white came out to meet her. Nuns stood at their convent gateways holding flowers, gleasers sang, trumpets played fanfares; the scent of the incense was mixed with the scent of the roses. This was the day of the Fisherman—Egland was reconciled, was Catholic.

When the Queen's litter stopped in front of the Guild hall a woman in poor, sad raiment threw herself before it, and cried: "Gracious Lady, an' there be a leech with you, let him come to my child, who is sick unto death."

Her Majesty looked out, and touched with compassion, told a page to fetch Squilla, the leech who was in her train and then she asked the woman her name and degree.

"I am Reine Cleve, Gracious Lady, and I live in the little brown house under the belfry tower," was the response.

When I heard these words I looked narrowly at the suppliant, and though the golden hair was streaked with white, and the lovely face was careworn, I knew her for Earl Brabazon's wife the ill-fated Countess Reine. I stooped down and whispered her sad story into the ear of the Queen, who said:

"Go you and comfort her, and take a priest with you, dear Grace."

Obedient her command, I asked the good Father Placid, who was of the company, to come with us, and, leaving the procession, we made a detour, and were soon inside the brown cot. On a bed in an inner room lay a beautiful child, with hair the hue of ripened wheat, who was plainly high unto death. It was Winifred, Earl Brabazon's daughter, and as I looked at the little gown of faded blue silk stuff which she wore, I thought of the pomp and splendor of her father's house, and remembered that even the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.

"She hath not long to stay here," said Master Squilla. "I can do naught but give her a soothing potion. She is but a frail flower, and the winds have nipped her sorely."

"Hath she been baptized?" asked the priest, gently.

The sorrowing mother answered "Nay," and Father Placid administered the Sacrament, giving the name of Winifred, after Christ's sweet spouse who works miracles.

Before the little taper burnt away there was a flicker; the child seemed to revive, and drawing down my head she asked me who had sent such kind friends to her mother.

I told her the Queen, who loved little children.

"I should like to see her," said the child; "and I will wait for her coming."

They were singing the "O Salutaris" in the great church near, when Winifred went to the Father who would not turn her away. For there alone with me, beside the fair dead body of her child, the Countess Reine told how her natural father, the cruel Earl, had cast her off.

"I cast away the Holy Faith," she said. "Sold it for jewels, a great house, and a great name, as Judas sold his Good Master for thirty pieces of silver. And this was my punishment—my lord cast me off. I repented of my sin, and one bitter winter's night, when the snow was falling, I stood at the door of the Thatched House, and pleaded for admission to see, to kiss my child. His servants brought my husband behind him down the great hall, and I saw a woman in a wine colored velvet secured with seed pearls; dark, haughty, bold. She pointed a mocking finger at me."

"So my lord," she cried, "did call that poor strumpet, that frail wanton wife?"

"Yes, once sweetheart," said Brabazon, "but we of the New Faith were out letters lightly. The two Archbishops gave me freedom. Wouldst have her turned away?"

"That would I," laughed the woman. "And she took her child?"

"That she shall do. Go thou and fetch her to me."

"The woman bent her head, laughed and went for Winifred. Then I spoke. 'Let me in to kiss my child,' I said, 'and I will trouble you no more. Forgive me for the sake of Christ's Mother and let me at least live in the house to see to Winnie, who is but a weekly plant, and send away that cruel woman.' He laughed, and then he obeyed."

"I am of the Reformed," he cried, 'and the New Faith regardeth Mary as the woman who bore Jesus, just as I regard you as the woman who bore Winnie, and I trow that Mary hath as much power up above as you have down below.'"

"Hush, hush," said I. "Brabazon, speak not thus of the Mother in whose arms we long to die."

"Not I," he said. "The New Faith is like the new coat King Harry wore. It is loose and easy—a man can twist about in it. It lets a man take his wine and kis a winsome wench without a penance. It makes living easy, and when a man is tired of a woman, as I was of you, he can cast her from him like a worn-out glove."

"If please you, Father," and talk and patter about Sacraments. That lady is my Countess, and you are Reine Cleve. Out of this, Reine Cleve, and take your whining brat with ye."

"He pushed the trembling Winnie (whom the merry mocking woman had dragged down the stair) out of the great warm hall, wherein the hounds lay sleeping by the fire, and then he slammed it in my face and barred it; and I drew my little one to me and put my mantle round her, and hushed her sobs, and as I did so I seemed to see the purple of women standing by a cross, next one who had been a sinner. And I cried as the sun fell on me: 'Mary, Mother, receive me back. England hath forsaken thee, yet would I die for thee.' Then I made my way to Sherborne, and here have I dwelt in poverty with a true but humble friend of the House of Cleve."

There was silence in the Palace—women wept, men hushed their footsteps, the Holy Sacrifice was offered, white lips repeated Aves, for Mary Tudor had not long to live. Exhausted by long watching, yet loath to sleep, I knelt before the Adorable Presence in the Chapel Royal and prayed—prayed that J usus of His goodness would let her passing be easy, inasmuch as He knew how she had suffered; that Mary of her sweetness would put her arms around her, that the saints whom she had honored would intercede for her. And as I prayed it seemed to me that the roof of the chapel was uplifted, open, or swept away, I saw no waxen tapers burning, no incense, no greenery or flowers. Netherdid I see the blue above. My eyes peered through it. I saw Paradise—a fair place, full of fair meads, on which nodded blossoms fairer than our daffodowdillies and Fair Maids of February. And in the midst of the meads was a golden light, and I knew that in the center of the glory was the Beatific Vision, and near it, bathed in it, was a woman, exceedingly compassionate, exceedingly fair. And I knew that she was Mary, most pitiful. And at her feet was a little spirit, a little child, with an innocent face and rippling yellow hair. And I knew the child. It was Winifred, she to whom the dying Queen had sent priest and leech; she whose mother had been comforted by her, had been sent to a convent in Italy, there to forget her wrong. And the Virgin spoke to the innocent and gave her a branch of palm. And the child fitted over the meadows and stood waiting by the beautiful gate. And I knew that she waited for Queen Mary.—The Monitor, Madras, India.

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The Catholic Record

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Articles must be paid in full before the paper can be stopped.

When subscribers change their residence it is important that the old as well as the new address be sent us.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION. UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA, Ottawa, Canada, March 7th, 1900.

The Editor of THE CATHOLIC RECORD, London, Ont.

Dear Sir: For some time past I have read your estimable paper, THE CATHOLIC RECORD, and congratulate you upon the manner in which it is published.

Its matter and form are both good; and a truly Catholic spirit pervades the whole.

Therefore, with pleasure, I can recommend it to the faithful.

Blessing you, and wishing you success, Believe me, to remain, Yours faithfully in Jesus Christ, D. FALCOSO, Arch. of Larissa, Apost. Deleg.

London, Saturday, Nov. 17, 1900.

A. REV. P. P. A. POLITICIAN.

A special despatch to the Toronto Globe from Winnipeg states that the Rev. J. C. Madill, who is well known in this Province as having been the president of the now defunct P. P. A., busied himself greatly with the recent election, having taken the stump, to the great disgust of many members of his congregation who are opposed to his politics.

Our readers will remember that Mr. Madill took a prominent part in the election of the only two avowed members of that association who secured seats in the Provincial Legislature, being the members for the two ridings of Lambton.

AN ACT OF JUSTICE.

The distinguished convert, the late Marquis of Bute whose death occurred recently, was extremely charitable to the poor; and the last act of his life was to purchase one of the old monasteries which had been confiscated in the reign of Henry VIII., and after putting it into a complete state of repair and restoring it to its former beauty, to present it to the Church to be put to its original use.

These old monasteries had fallen into the hands of English noblemen, and no fitter reparation for the injustices done to religion in the sixteenth century could be done than for a nobleman of the present day to give back a property which had once been consecrated to God and His service.

A GREAT EVENT.

In another part of this week's CATHOLIC RECORD we reproduce from a contemporary an interesting sketch of the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the Order of the Sacred Heart, which will be fittingly commemorated by the Religious and their pupils in the four hundred convents scattered throughout the civilized world, on the 21st of the present month.

To the festivities at the Sacred Heart Academy which was founded in this city nearly half a century ago, are invited the numerous students who during that time were privileged to receive their education within its precincts. The important event will be commemorated in a most appropriate manner, and we believe it is the intention of the old pupils to present a substantial gift to the convent as a testimony of gratitude to their beloved teachers, whose highest endeavor it was to build well and strong the foundations of noble characters, and to whose blessed influence in childhood and in youth they were able to enter the battle of life well equipped with the armor of true womanly goodness and nobility.

It can in truth be said that during the half century which has elapsed since the Order was established in this city it has accomplished an incalculable amount of good, for besides the admirable training of its numerous pupils, enabling them to adorn the highest positions of society and to be models in the home, not to speak of the many privileged ones who have themselves chosen the better part, it has likewise been the fruitful source of charities without number. Truly, then, it is not to be wondered at that God's blessing has descended upon the convent and its inmates! And the reputation on the coming Feast of Our

Lady's Presentation will, we feel assured, be a bright and joyous one for both religious and pupils, marking as it does a wonderful epoch in the history of the Order of the Sacred Heart.

The former students will again visit the old familiar scenes of their childhood—and once more will be renewed the delightful intercourse of the long ago—and pleasant reminiscences fraught with innocent pleasures will be recalled to enhance the joy of the happy present.

And many a fervent prayer will be said for the departed teachers and companions who have gone to their reward. Thus, in the renewal of by-gone memories, and in the participation of the delightful religious, musical and literary celebration which is to commemorate the centenary, we have no doubt the 21st November will be for the ladies of the Sacred Heart a day of unalloyed happiness.

That the Order may be as prosperous in the future as it has been in the past is the earnest wish of the publisher of the CATHOLIC RECORD.

A PAPAL ENCYCLICAL.

Despatches from Rome state that the Holy Father has issued an encyclical letter to the Bishops of the Catholic world, the date of which is Nov. 1, and the subject "the Redeemer."

The Pope makes reference in this encyclical to the great assemblage of Catholics in Rome during the Holy Year from all parts of the world. This demonstrates, he says, that the nations of the earth are marching towards Christ, our Redeemer, and he exhorts them to seek Christ, who is the "way, the truth, and the life."

The despatch quotes the following as part of the encyclical:

"As Christ's coming to the world reformed society, so the latter in turning to Christ will become better and will be saved by following His doctrines and the divine law, by discontinuing revolt against the constituted powers, and avoiding conflicts."

If nations acted on these principles, the Holy Father declares, they would all love one another as brothers, and obey peacefully their superiors. "Neglect of God," the encyclical continues, "has led to so many disorders, that people are continually oppressed with fear and anguish." It urges the Bishops of the world to make known effectually to all mankind that our Redeemer and Saviour can bring salvation and peace to the earth.

It has been known for some time that an encyclical was being prepared by the Holy Father, the subject of which was announced to be "Peace," and it was said that it would contain a touching appeal to nations to cultivate peace in the settlement of disputes, instead of appealing to the arbitrament of war so frequently, as has been the custom in the past.

It was stated that the encyclical would represent that the losses incurred even by the nations which are victorious in war are great, and are surpassed only by the disasters which fall to the lot of the vanquished.

From the short summary given by telegraph of the Encyclical which has been issued, it would seem that it is the same one which was expected to treat of peace. As a matter of course, the Holy Father, as the representative of the Prince of Peace, burns with love for the people of all nationalities, but it is to be feared that worldliness has so powerful an influence over the nations that his advice will not be so fruitful in results as is to be desired. Nevertheless it is right that the truth should be told in order that the Christian nations may know their duty. This knowledge will of itself fructify to some extent, even though its effects fall short of what they would be if it fell upon attentive ears. It is, however, a consolation that the Holy Father sees hope for the future in the fact that so many hundreds of thousands have visited Rome during the year of Jubilee, and have thus proved that the faith of the nations in the power of godliness, and the efficacy of Redemption is, growing stronger with the lapse of time.

Rome is always attractive to travelers who are there brought face to face with the history of over twenty-six and a half centuries, but the celebration of the Holy Year of Jubilee has brought from all parts of the world, not mere sight-seers, but a concourse of devout pilgrims who have manifested the liveliness of their faith in thus visiting the Eternal City for the purpose of gaining the spiritual blessings which are offered to pilgrims who perform piously the devotional works necessary for gaining the Plenary Indulgence attached to the Holy Year.

Not a week passes without thousands of pilgrims arriving from different countries. During the hot summer months the number of visitors decreased

considerably, but during October it rose again, and it is expected that the great influx will continue to the closing of the Holy Door, which will take place on Christmas Eve with great solemnity.

The first visit of the pilgrims is made in almost every case to St. Peter's Basilica, and when there the pious visitors, after making the sign of the cross on themselves with the holy water which is in the font near the door of the church, kiss devoutly, according to custom, the toe of the bronze statue of the Prince of the Apostles which is near the door of the church, and then proceed at once to the chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament to return thanks to our divine Saviour for their safe arrival in the Holy City. After this they make their visits to the other basilicas to fulfil the conditions of the Jubilee, praying for the intention of the Holy Father. These visits are made by some on foot, and by others by the trolley cars which now run to all parts of the city, and out to St. Paul's church, which is two miles from the nearest gate of the city, which also bears St. Paul's name.

Thoughtful people cannot entertain any doubt that this visit of so many thousands and hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to the city which is the centre of Catholic unity, will have the effect of strengthening the tie which binds them to the Catholic Church, and that the Holy Father is correct in his statement that it is an evidence that the people of the world are coming to Christ.

THE GUNPOWDER PLOT.

Whenever the 5th of November comes round, we are sure to be treated to parades of Orangemen who go to some church or other where a frantic sermon is delivered by one of their chaplains on the bloodthirstiness of Catholics, who are accused by the preacher of having endeavored on the 5th of November, 1605, without provocation, to blow up the British Parliament House while the King, Lords and Commons were assembled to make wise laws for the government of the country, and the permanency of the glorious Protestant religion.

Until recently, the Church of England too encouraged these misrepresentations of history, having had a special service of thanksgiving for the delivery of the country from the wiles of the bloodthirsty Papists. It is one of the things for which Queen Victoria deserves high credit that she abolished this absurdity. Nevertheless we deem it desirable to say a few words in explanation of what really occurred on the celebrated 5th of November, 1605.

First let us assume that the history of the matter is just what is usually published in our books of history; and what are the facts?

On the day mentioned culminated the Gunpowder Plot, when Guy or Guido Fawkes was arrested in a vault under the House of Lords at Westminster where thirty six barrels of gunpowder had been stored, which were to have been exploded at the moment when King James I. was opening the houses of Parliament.

Fawkes, a tall and powerful man, and of determined character, undoubtedly had the intention to put the design into execution, and at the moment of his arrest he had on his person a watch, a tinder box, and some touchwood: everything necessary to carry out the plan which had been decided on.

The explosion was undoubtedly prevented by Fawkes' timely arrest; but the question arises, what justification have the Orangemen of to-day to keep up the memory of this plot, and to represent it as a plan of the Catholics of England to seize upon the government of the country after having succeeded in destroying the King, Lords and Commons of the realm?

From all that can be learned of Guy Fawkes, he was of resolute, but not of bloodthirsty character. We are told even that when he belonged to the army of Flanders, where he assisted in the taking of Calais by the Archduke Albert in 1598, he was greatly in the confidence of the Archduke, and his society was sought by those who were most distinguished for nobility and virtue.

How is it, then, that we find this same Fawkes engaged in the desperate Gunpowder Plot of 1605?

We have not a word to say in defence of that undertaking. It was a monstrous attempt at wholesale slaughter, but it is fair to add that it was planned by a few men who were goaded to desperation by the most cruel penal laws which diabolical malice ever conceived.

To understand the situation, it must

be remembered that when James I. came to the throne of England, the laws against Catholics, and especially against priests, were most severe and relentless. Under Queen Elizabeth one hundred and fifty priests and fifty laymen were put to death for their religion, a much greater number had been imprisoned, and thousands were plundered of all their property by heavy fines of £20 per month for not attending Protestant worship. In fact a royal proclamation was issued just before Queen Elizabeth's death commanding under pain of death that all Catholic ecclesiastics should leave the country within three months.

When James came to the throne, the Catholics entertained some hope that these laws would be moderated, and in fact James promised to moderate them, but instead of doing so all the laws of Elizabeth's reign were put rigorously into force, and though the majority of the English Catholics bore persecution meekly, there were some restless spirits who felt the deepest resentment against the king and his advisers and the Parliament which enacted these laws.

Catholics, however, were not the only sufferers under the penal laws. Non-Conformists in general, and especially the Puritans, were also subjected to severe penalties, but the laws against Catholics were the most oppressive, as the avowed object was the extermination of the Catholic religion. Then a new Act of Parliament was passed to provide for "the due execution of the statutes against Jesuits, seminarians, priests, and recusants."

Catholic colleges were already not allowed in England, and it was now decreed that every person who should thereafter study in any foreign college or seminary, that is to say, in any Catholic college, should be incapable of inheriting, purchasing, or possessing lands or property of any kind in England.

During the year 1605 there were indicted in the County and City of York alone, about 1000 "Popish recusants," in Lancashire 500, and in like proportion throughout England, making a total of 6,126. Is it wonderful that some of those thus hunted should have recourse to desperate measures for self-protection or revenge?

Robert Catesby was one of those who felt resentment. He had suffered for his religion, and had even abandoned it, by conforming to the Established Church of England to escape persecution, but taking courage again he determined to cling to the ancient faith, and to devote himself to the relief of his fellow Catholics after his own fashion.

Catesby had been fined £3,000 during the reign of Elizabeth for engaging in some intrigues with the hope of relieving the Catholic body, and when he found that James proposed to continue Elizabeth's persecuting policy, his resentment was unbowed, and the Gunpowder Plot was the plan he decided on to obtain the desired relief.

At first Catesby secured a following of four other men, of whom Guy Fawkes was one. Afterwards five others were induced to join in the conspiracy, and these ten desperate men were all who entertained for a while the thought of carrying out the horrible design; but neither the Catholicism in general nor any Catholic priest participated in it in any way, though any honest-minded man will admit that there was very great provocation. The idea of the conspirators was, we may presume, that in the confusion which would follow the accomplishment of their design, a change of government would follow under which the persecuted Catholics might experience some relief, as it seemed impossible they could be in worse condition than they were in already.

We have said above that we do not and cannot approve of Catesby's plot, and the Catholic Church has never approved of deeds of such a character; but we maintain that it is a gross injustice to attribute Catesby's design to the Catholics of England in general, and a much greater injustice to hold the Catholics of the present day responsible for it, as the Orangemen are so fond of doing. The responsibility rests rather on the King and Parliament who by unjust and cruel laws goaded these hot heads to desperation, and on the men, Orangemen and so-called ministers of religion of to-day, who upheld such oppression.

It was undeniable that Cecil, the Prime Minister of King James, had a knowledge of the plot ten days before the date fixed for its accomplishment, as he was informed of it by one of the conspirators who betrayed his accomplices, and to suit his own purposes, and to create public alarm, he deferred the public discovery till the critical moment when Parliament was about to assemble, so as to turn public indignation more strongly against the whole Catholic body, who were perfectly innocent in the matter, so that he might have an excuse for introducing into Parliament still more oppressive laws than were already in force; and this he did; and so pleased was he with the success of his plans that King James used afterward to call the 5th of Nov. "Cecil's holiday."

It is here further to be remarked that Lord Montague, a Catholic peer, ten days before the assembling of parliament, received a warning to absent himself, as a terrible blow was impending. The fact that he at once laid the letter thus received before Cecil and the King showed that the Catholic body had no complicity in the conspiracy. On the contrary, the Catholic Lords and Commons were in as much danger as the Protestants, as no one but Lord Montague received such a notice. In fact there is good reason to believe that this notice was sent to Lord Montague from Cecil himself, who wished to implicate him and other Catholics, but the plan did not work, as Lord Montague at once revealed what he knew of the matter. This made it useless to endeavor to implicate others, and no more such letters were sent.

It is generally stated by Protestant historians that the first knowledge of the plot was gained through the letter to Lord Montague. If this version of the history be correct, it was due to the loyalty of a Catholic; that the catastrophe was averted, and very poorly he was compensated for his fidelity, whereas the event was made a pretext for greater severity than ever in the anti-Catholic penal laws.

As we have here treated this matter at some length, it will be necessary to take some notice of the fact that Father Henry Garnett, the Superior of the Jesuits, was among those executed for complicity in the plot. Does not this show that the Catholic Church was implicated in it? We are sometimes asked.

To this we answer that at a time when all priests were subject to the death penalty merely for being in the country, it was not difficult to find a pretext on which to execute Father Garnett. He was in no way an accomplice in the plot, and there was no proof implicating him. The most that was laid to his charge was that Catesby had consulted Father Garnett as to the lawfulness of taking vengeance on the King and Parliament for the iniquitous laws which were in force against Catholics. Father Garnett had disapproved of all plans of vengeance, and had even gone to the trouble of obtaining the theological opinion of the Pope and of the General of the Jesuit order in regard to such plans, which were unhesitatingly condemned both by the Pope and the General.

Father Garnett was not aware of what was intended, though it appears he was made aware under the strict secrecy of the confessional that certain persons were inclined to vengeance, but he had no knowledge that they would attempt to put any such designs into execution. This is evident from his letters, which have been preserved.

On July 24 he wrote to the General of the Jesuits that he had on four different occasions prevented a disturbance, and that he believed he should still be able to hinder any outbreak, unless that (beyond his control) the Catholics of some particular province should rise in insurrection in which they might be joined by those in other provinces, "for," he continued:

"There are not a few who cannot be strained by the bare command of his Holiness. These persons protest that no priest shall henceforth be privy to their designs, and they complain more especially of us (the Jesuits) and even some of our friends join in this complaint, that we oppose an obstacle to their success."

On August 28 he wrote again:

"For anything we can see, Catholics are quiet, and likely to continue their old patience, and to trust to the King and his son to remedy all in time."

This is the last evidence available to show that Father Garnett had any knowledge of any insurrectionary intentions, and even so, the only knowledge he had of the matter was to the effect that such intentions, if they had existed, were no longer entertained.

In any case, it is impossible for him to use knowledge obtained through the confessional only to betray those who consulted him on a matter of conscience.

There are two lessons taught us by the saints of God. The one is that they and we, religious and secular, as our names may be, are bound, by law of our supernatural existence, to love each other's perfection; the other is that we rejoice in each other's works.

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THE CENTENARY OF THE SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART.

Mother Madeleine—Sophie Barat, its Foundress.

The history of the Society of the Sacred Heart is coeval with that of the Nineteenth Century, begun, as it was, on the eve of it. Its development is one of the marvels of an age of rapid growth alike in the spiritual and the material orders.

It has averaged four foundations a year, since now, on the eve of its first centenary, it counts four hundred convents. Thus does it rival the early glories of the Order of St. Benedict, and it has even a wider field than it had at the outset wherein to plant its sturdy saplings.

Convents of the Sacred Heart are spread all over Europe and North and South America.

The Society has crossed "the summer of the world" to plant itself in Australia and New Zealand. It is known in Asia and Africa. But such is the fidelity of the Order to its primitive spirit and customs, that passing from an American convent to an English or Irish one, and thence to Paris, or to Athens, or to Sydney, New South Wales, one finds but a duplicate of the mother home and family ways, set against a new landscape.

The Society of the Sacred Heart is founded primarily for the education of the children of the nobility or the wealthier classes, though the scope of its labors includes schools for the children of the people, and at need, orphan schools, and schools for the deaf-mutes.

Its convents are ordinarily edifices of great architectural beauty, with noble churches attached, recalling the stately ministers with which the daughters of St. Scholastica adorned the face of Europe in bygone days.

To say nothing of the famous houses in France, the motherland of the Order, we need but call in our own land, the familiar names of Manhattanville, Kenwood, Eden Hall, St. Michael's—to bring before the eyes visions of religious loveliness, and sweet traditions of piety and scholarship.

Like the Jesuits in their influence on boyhood, the Nuns of the Sacred Heart, whose rule is modelled on that of St. Ignatius Loyola, have a wonderful gift for attracting feminine youth, to form it to virtue.

The history of their schools, wherever established, is largely the history of families of honor in the State and in the Church; and the influence going out from them has helped to keep home and social life pure and sweet.

Yet, a hundred years ago, these four hundred convents, this multitude of consecrated virgins, these myriads of pupils of every nation and tongue, this distinction, wealth, and influence that inhere in the very name of the Society as a corporate body, were only in the germ in the brain and heart of the young daughter of a humble vine-dresser of an obscure French village.

Seven years before, for the fruitful sign of those who sowed the wind, the whirlwind broke on France, and the visible Church was all but obliterated from the land. The court of the Fourteenth and the Fifteenth Louis rivalled the iniquities of the courts of Pagan Rome. The nobility were oftentimes forgetful of humanity in their dealing with their fellow-mortals of low estates.

God suffered the outraged people to arise in their wrath against both. Alas! that the people in wicked Paris, at least, lost sight of God, or tested Him by their cruel fellow-man.

When at last the ruin was cleared away, and the Church began her work of reconstruction, God brought down the eyes of the proud by raising up examples and teachers for the nation from among the lowly.

Conspicuous among these was the child of the plain people, Madeleine Sophie Barat, destined to receive the religious obedience of princesses, and to train the daughters at lordly houses in the ways of learning and virtue.

But the daughter of the vine-dresser was lowly only in her origin. As King Cophetua adorned the poor maiden of his choice with his own cloth of gold and jewels for her espousals, so did the King of kings adorn this child of His Heart with the choicest gifts of person, character, and mind.

She was fair to look upon and most delicate and fascinating in all her ways; yet for her feminine daintiness and charm, she joined a man's robust intellect and capacity for prolonged mental application. She had a horror for the slightest untruth; and her humility was real, because founded in justice.

She was trained to domestic duties, like her glorious countrywoman, Joan of Arc, and her strong and brilliant intellect might never have had its meet development were it not that she found a tutor in her elder brother and godfather.

Louis Barat was studying for the priesthood in that troubled last decade of the eighteenth century in France. During his vacations and occasional enforced retirement in his parents' house, he applied himself to the training of his sister's mind, grounding her not only in the usual branches of education, but in the sciences and in Latin and Greek.

As soon as some degree of quietude had descended on Paris, he took her thither, and gave her a still severer training in learning and virtue, so that, when on Nov. 21, 1800, she consecrated herself with her companions to the Sacred Heart of Our Lord, being then not quite twenty-one years of age, she was what would be called even in these days of female colleges, a learned woman.

In less than a year, the building com-

munity were asked to take charge of little boarding school, in Amiens which had been declining steadily under its previous management. The year also brought the Society two of its most notable early members, Genevieve Deshayes and Henriette Grizard.

The school in Amiens had been in charge of the aunt of the latter. The pupils were diverse ranks in life, though perhaps the "well-born," he world has it, were in the majority.

The school was reconstructed on very advanced plan—for those days—and Madame Sophie Barat was placed in charge of the higher classes. The religious were at that time known as "Ladies of the True Faith" or "Ladies of Christian Instruction," the name and emblems of the Sacred Heart—to which they had made their consecration, being considered edifying, as they were emblems of the Vendéens!

The house was poor and small. The best of it as well as the best of everything else, was given over to pupils, and the nuns endured great hardships in following their vocation.

In 1802 Sophie Barat, then scarcely twenty-three years of age, and youngest member of the community, was chosen Mother Superior by votes of her Sisters. The decision announced to her by the venerable Father Varin, who had been the father of the little Institute, as he was also of that other teaching order, Sisterhood of Notre Dame, founded about the same time.

Scarcely was the gifted daughter the vine-dresser installed as "Mother" than the daughters of the old nobility of France hastened to become her children in the modest convent at Amiens. We find the names of Mlle. du Ternay of the family of the Chevalier Bayard, Mlle. Catherine de Charbonnel, Mlle. Philippe Duchesne, afterwards foundress of the order in America, Euphrosyne Jouve, her niece, and many others.

Meantime, the fame of the Nuns' teachers grew; their services were ardently sought, and new houses were opened. By the year 1806, it was evident that the form of government of society and its rules and constitution must be definitely fixed, and must thus befitting a work with a grand future. This was duly done under the direction of Father Varin. The election of a Mother General resulted, the choice of Madame Barat, by majority of one vote.

Father Varin then withdrew himself from the government of the Institute, and it remains ever since in the hands of a monument of the administrative ability of women, which would surpass the claim reality the wildest claims of certain non-Catholic women who make for practical recognition in line. Think of the general government of four hundred establishments scattered over the world, and representing an educational apostolate among every nationality, rank and condition in the hands of one woman and counselors. Think of the human domain required for the administration of these vast temporalities greater than those of any ancient Abbess, who also ruler of vast estates. Think of the spiritual wisdom required for maintaining of holy discipline in piety and contentment, among a body of women far more than average in intellect and ability. Think of the mental breadth and flexibility demanded for the chief direction of these schools and pious confraternities.

Yet, the vast system moves with a jar; the ranks depleted by death are filled promptly, and the society, large as it is, borders without effort, all this wonderful work was built by a daughter of the people, who little more than a girl when a full of authority scarcely ever before conceded to a woman, was put into slender hands.

She exercised her office for fifty years, or until her death, in 1865. She was spared, therefore, to work all her ideas, to perfect all her plans, and see the world-wide spread of the Society.

What was the secret of her marvellous success? It may be found in watch words—"Courage and endurance." It may be found further in her self effacement. For the Blessed Mother of the Magnificat, she would say: that is mighty hath done great things in me.

She loved her own low estate, was happy when anyone remembered the cottage at Joligny, and the humble line from which she had stepped. Space falls us to speak of the sweet and magnificence of her virtues, and were based on His Who had said: "When I am lifted up, I shall call all hearts to Myself."

Her paucity will be present from many altars on the centenary of her Society. The Church has to set its seal upon the heroism of her virtues, and she has already the honor of venerable. May her Beatification come as an early glory in the centenary of her Order.—K. E. Boston Pilot.

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION

November 21.

The Presentation of our Blessed Mother is a mystery full of beauty, yet a which can hardly be called its own. It is a lovely sight in truth to see, is the miraculous maiden of three old, mounting the temple steps of the gravity and dignity of age, offering herself to the House of God with the full use of

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS. THE STORY OF LITTLE BLANCHE

A Breton Tale. H. Horn, S. J., in American Messenger of the Sacred Heart for November.

THE ATHEIST AND LITTLE BLANCHE. CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.

Next night she was more feeble than ever, but she began again, "Papa, do you think God will make me better?" He paused for a second, then said, "I think He ought to do so." She waited a minute, then said, "Papa, if I die do you think I shall go to Heaven?" "Yes," he replied almost involuntarily. "I am sure you will." "I shall so want to see you come, Pa," she said, and sank back exhausted.

That same night he sat beside her, and for the first time he saw that speech was beyond her. He sat down at the bedside and took her little white hand in his. The diamond pines of the window were shadowed by the moon into the corner of the room. The patch of light moved slowly across the wall and lit up in its passage the pale, lifeless face of the little one on the bed. Then it moved along and had reached the other corner, but the father still sat with his face turned to the window. Was he asleep? Did he not know that the hand he clasped in his was dead? Yes, he knew it, indeed. He had felt the pulse stop. He felt the hand growing cold, but he dared not look; he dared not stir. His little Blanche was dead. What was he thinking of as he sat with his brow set and his body motionless? Had grief robbed him of sense? Was he unconscious and dreaming of happiness now passed? No, he was quite conscious. He had expected the little life that was all the world to him to go that night. It had gone, and now he was realizing his loss. He was running over in his mind all her words, all her habits, all, in fact, that he knew of her. He was talking again to her in the library. He was listening to her prattle. She was asking him again to bless her. Then he remembered that there must be a funeral. Where? At the church? Should he not take her up in his arms, and go and bury her in his own woods, where he might go daily and mourn over her grave? Should she be buried in the churchyard, the place of all places that he never passed through? No, that could not be. Then there rushed upon him a flood of old memories. How years before, he had stood beside a little sister's grave, while the priest had blessed it, and there had been white flowers put upon the sod, and all had said that she had gone straight to Heaven. Yes, he would like people to say that of his little Blanche—and a stronger reason still—Blanche herself would have liked it. Yes, she must be buried in the churchyard. She must be looked on with kindly eyes by the country people. What ever he was, his little girl should not be thought an outcast and a sinner. So he wandered on in thought, ever sitting quite still, until the rays of morning began to glimmer and the moonlight began to fade. Then he rose heavily, took one long look at the little form on the bed, kissed the cold brow, and with teeth clenched to stop the rising sobs, walked out of the room.

The news of Blanche's death soon became known in all the country round. It was a great subject of talk for all the villagers that the atheist's daughter was dead and was going to be buried in the churchyard. Children had endless questions to ask their mothers about the bad man's daughter. "Was she a terrible little hunchback?" "Had the devil come and carried her straight off to hell?" "Had the atheist murdered her, perhaps?" Some good old Breton mothers, quite as ignorant as their children, were not at all sure that something of the kind had not happened. Others took a middle course and told the inquirers that the little dead girl had had such a bad bringing up that she could not be bad, but that a great part of it was not her fault. While others again of the more enlightened sort said that they had no doubt that the little thing had gone straight to Heaven, as she had been too young to do any harm. This view was backed up by some of the little peasant lads, who said that they had caught sight of the atheist's daughter plucking flowers one day, and that she had looked "quite good and just like other little girls." So with these stout supporters, and the favorable opinions of many of the better folk of the neighborhood to boot, little Blanche became quite well known and pitied by all the country side. That she had been quite good was soon generally admitted. In fact, she had died because God did not want her to become an atheist like her father. Only one thing was still considered quite probable—that her father had killed her, and they thought that the gendarmes ought to be sent to investigate the matter.

So when the day of the funeral came, all the little folk of the country were a-stray, and were waiting at a safe distance from the dark woods of the chateau to meet the little funeral cortege. They had heard from M. le Curé that the atheist was not to be there (as they had expected he would not for their own reasons) so they all followed close upon the single hearse, accompanied as it otherwise was, only by one or two grim-looking hired servants. So Blanche, closed up in her narrow box, was surrounded by the first time by a crowd of sympathetic little friends, who little knew how she

had often thought about them, and longed to join them, when she saw them playing in the distance. They were all very reverential as they formed into their self-arranged procession. Many of them clasped their small hands—that being the way most familiar to them of showing that they were engaged in a religious ceremony. There was a tiny little grave under a chestnut tree in the cemetery at the church door, and into this the body of the atheist's daughter was lowered, amid the groups of children, and the prayers were said, and so many blessings repeated over Blanche's head that her little soul must have been well satisfied. Then they threw sods on and the mourners moved off, and as they walked away the chattering recommenced, and they trooped into school to wonder over the paradox of an atheist having a daughter in Heaven.

The library now in the evening was much the same as before. The old journalist sat on his chair, and his manuscript lay on the big table. He did not get up to light his lamp when dusk set in, but sat on in the firelight. Then came his moments of sorrow and loneliness. "I might as well die now," muttered the old man to himself, "it's hard to live on with no one to care for you. It's a hard thing to think that all human solace is gone for me. Shall I get married again? Married! No! He burst out passionately. "It is not any hand that can soothe me. It is a tiny hand I want. That is what I shall never get again. Never feel that little arm around my neck. Never hear that little step again. Why could not that one little life have been left to me? Why of all the little ones that might have been taken was this, my little one chosen—the one that could so ill be spared—that made my life was happy—that made me feel that I was not alone. Oh! for that little hand once more." Then he walked to the window and with a choking sensation in his throat, tapped on the frame, and muttered "God bless my little Blanche."

So night after night as the dusk came on, the old atheist might have been seen standing at his library window, muttering "God bless my little Blanche," and doubtless the nightly blessing as it rose up to the soul that needed it not, fell back on the head of the father who uttered it.

It was six months after the events I have been relating, that I came once again to the country of my childhood. I got out at the station and walked along the old rough road which led past the graveyard. There were some children playing at the gate. I passed among them, to look over the wall at the spot beneath the tree where I knew my little friend of the Chateau Noir now was buried. What was my surprise when I saw beside the tomb a grey-haired man, bare-headed and evidently praying. The tears came into my eyes as it flashed across my mind that this must be the atheist, brought to a sense of a holier faith by his little dead daughter. I approached cautiously. His eyes were closed and he did not observe me. He had put his head upon the white tombstone, and was leaning his sorrow-stricken brow against it.

I crept quietly up and looked at the stone. It was a plain white marble slab, with no date or circumstances inscribed upon it, but only the words "God bless my little Blanche." My heart felt quite full as I crept quietly back to the gate. The little group of players were looking at me with wonder, as much as to say, "Don't you know the story?" I knew most of it, and I guessed the rest, but I had to hear it all over again from the ready little gossips. "It's M. L'atheé," they burst out as I came quietly up to the gate, "he's praying for his little Blanche." "No, he isn't," interrupted some more advanced theologians; "he's praying to her; she does not need praying for." "He's so good now, as M. L'atheé." "His little Blanche, as soon as she got to Heaven, set to work praying for him, and he has been made quite a good man." "We're not a bit afraid of him, now," cried another with an air of pride. "I should think not," they all chimed in. "He's patted me on the head," said one. "I make him bunches of flowers, and he gives me sixpences for them," said another. In fact, it was evident that the atheist was a general favorite among the juvenile group.

The old atheist had been quite converted by the death of his little daughter. He had been found one morning praying at the grave of his little girl as I had found him, and the news had spread like wild fire through the country. There had been quite a gathering at times round the gate, watching the head bent in prayer. But the length of his prayers; generally tired even these curious watchers out, and he was in solitude as he walked back in the evening to the Chateau Noir. Then a new face had appeared in the village church, and for one Sunday at least, the congregation had been perfectly oblivious of everything else, save the presence of the converted atheist in the sacred building. Gradually the interdiction was raised from the Chateau Noir, and the woods became no longer the haunt of demons. There were soon short cuts taken through them, and old disused paths were reopened.

The connections of M. de Chauncy in Paris had heard rumors that the celebrated journalist was converted, but they were incredulous. At last two young men arrived one at the Chateau Noir to see their quondam friend. His manner was cordial and affectionate, but the marks of patient suffering which he bore on his face, kept them from the question which they had come to ask. At last the con-

versation took the appropriate turn, and the old atheist owned to his change of views. After dinner they grew bold and rallied him on his sudden change of opinion. He only smiled, then suddenly looking through the window said "Do you see those children wandering through my wood. A year ago they would have been terrified at the idea of coming so near to the Chateau Noir." Another attack only produced the remark "Don't these fresh wild flowers give quite a scent to the room." When they were bidding him adieu they said with a touch of irony: "Adieu M. de Chauncy, we will tell your friends that you have quite changed, and have become a great lover of nature and of little children." "Ah! it is true," replied the converted atheist. "It seems to me that I scarcely had human sympathies before, but I have now."

Another year elapsed before I again visited this part of the country. I stepped up to the churchyard, as before, and looked over the wall, half expecting to see the old man at his prayers. But the grave was deserted. I walked up, and on the stone I saw that a change had been made. Underneath the words "God bless my little Blanche," "God bless and pardon her Father" had been carved. My little group of friends were not at the gate this time, but I met some of them further down the road, and learnt the details of the atheist's death. He had been found one autumn morning lying stiff and lifeless on the tomb of his little girl. He had evidently been there all night, for the snow and leaves had drifted up and formed a shroud round about him.

For some time he had been growing feeble, and probably the cold of the evening had caused a fainting fit from which he had been unable to recover. So the two bodies were laid in one grave, and the two souls were doubtless united in heaven.

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

Railroad Men Always at School.

On the railroad men go to school all their lives. They never get too old to go. Whenever there comes into use any innovation that requires technical knowledge, such as the air brake, or whenever there is a change in any of the commonly used codes, such as the hand signals used by trainmen the men are divided into squads and sent to division headquarters for special instruction. These places are known among railroad men as "schools." The methods employed combine those in use in the kindergarten, the primary department and the High school.

Perhaps the most interesting railroad school is the one sent out by the Westinghouse company to confer upon railroad men the final degree in the process of learning the air brake. This school is on wheels, and in the three years that it has been in service has travelled twice the distance of the circumference of the world, and granted certificates to nearly 218,000 railroad men. The instruction car is packed full of every kind of appliance and fitting and model that will be found in any train of thirty cars. The car is in charge of competent lecturers, and every railroad employee who has anything to do with the actual handling of engines or cars is required to attend. Engineers, firemen, conductors, trainmen, galvanizers and hostlers all have their separate classes, and the conditions in the car are as nearly as possible like those they meet every day. Here in the car, however, the different parts are so arranged that they can be taken apart and viewed in section, and used to illustrate the lecture.

The men who conduct these lectures speak the vernacular of the railroad, and their talk is not always a model of good grammar and rhetoric; but what they say is practical and easily understood. Moreover, the men feel that the lecturer has actually sat in an engine and gone down a long grade with a heavy train, or that he has crawled around on the ground to fit hose. After the lecture is over the class passes into another car and is examined. There is something strangely familiar about the way these big-bearded fellows hitch their shoulders and wriggle when they are called upon to recite. This school, by the way, has engagements that will require three years to fill. There is now on its way to this country a band of German mechanics who are coming over to learn the air brake, and it is probable that they will take their degrees here.

In an item headed "Murphy's Lantern" the Lexington (Ky.) Leader tells how Superintendent W. J. Murphy of the Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific examines his trainmen on their proficiency in the train rules. He uses a stereopticon to show pictures of life-size signals of all kinds—semaphores and other fixed signals, trains with markets, classification signals, and in fact almost anything else that the men will ever be called upon to translate. Various men have various methods, although it is doubtful if many superintendents go to the length of helping the men out with lantern slides. When it comes to examining the men in hand signals the superintendent usually calls in a subordinate and says: "Here, Jim, take these men out to school." Then Jim takes them out in the yard, gives them a train to break up in a dozen different switches, and soon has them waving themselves wild. Their engineer is extremely literal; he keeps his eyes glued on them, taking nothing for granted. The men get no help or sympathy from Jim, and altogether the test is apt to be more severe than

anything they will ever run up against in actual service.

Almost all of the operators of the block signal service, which has come into use on most of the big roads, are youngsters and wherever one of them happens to be stationed he manages to attract a considerable body of youthful admirers. A bright boy in a tower will pick up telegraphy in a short time, and it is from these that the ranks of the tower operators are kept filled. As a matter of fact, almost all of the operators in the country to-day have picked up telegraphy themselves. Before the boy gets a chance, however, he has to go to school at division headquarters, where the chief of the service examines him in telegraphy on the electric bell code, and tries to "stick" him with original problems.

Patient Effort.

There seems to be increasing difficulty in getting young men to engage in hard study and the patient effort which is necessary to the conquest of any real branch of learning. It is easy to point out to them the remarkable success obtained by unlettered youths who through patient study made names for themselves in literature, art or the sciences; but boys of the present generation are imbued with the ideas that are expressed in special machinery. They want to do things in the shortest possible period of time and with the least possible expenditure of effort. They argue with some reason, but not enough to be convincing, that the development of the arts and sciences has been so great that there is no longer any necessity to study first principles. Photography takes the place of skill in drawing; machine tools replace tedious hand labor. Why, then, should any one give long years of apprenticeship to arts and industries that have been revolutionized by modern inventions? But there is a weak point in their argument. There is still, and always will be, a great demand for the artist who can draw accurately and, and for the mechanic who can fashion things by hand. The optical, chemical and mechanical appliances that have come into use in recent years to simplify and cheapen production have stimulated consumption, and there is as great demand as ever for the man who can, so to say, create, who is independent of machines and processes. The artist who is dependent upon photographs is a mere "hewer of wood and drawer of water," compared with the artist who designs and draws; the machinist who is dependent upon the lathe or milling machine is helpless in comparison with the bench hand. In the domain of literature and science the same thing is true. One may obtain place to day in the ranks of literature and science without that broad knowledge to be obtained only by patient effort, but it is an inferior place and bears no comparison with the honors and emoluments to be won by those who have by patient study and the use of native powers obtained mastery in their special field of learning.

There is as much need as ever of patient effort by those who would rise to the head of their profession or calling. If they are contented with an inferior place they may get along in the worldly sense by some lucky speculation or fortunate move, but they will not command success, nor even often attain it.

The men who succeed are in general the men who are patiently studious, the men who ground themselves thoroughly for some special calling and devote all their efforts not so much to gaining rewards as to deserving them. The man whose motive for effort lies in the price to be won, seldom has the patience to prepare to win it; the man whose motive it is to do good work, to accomplish for the present the best of which he is capable, is the man who builds up character and reputation alike and sooner or later reaches the goal of his ambition. The world has reached a feverish and impatient age, an age of daring speculation, but it has not yet reached an age when it can do without the men who know, the men who have by patient effort mastered the art of the science they have chosen for their special study. Patient effort is still the surest means of success in life.

DISCOURAGEMENT.

One of the most active, persistent and successful agents of Lucifer is the Devil of Discouragement.

To every one who is doing good in a place intended for him by Divine Providence the Devil of Discouragement comes and whispers over and over again: "You are lost here and you are wasting time. How much better off you would be if you were over there! You could do so much more there. Besides, you're not appreciated where you are. If you were gone, you'd have no such vexations and those who now set little value on your services would learn to prize you at your true worth. No wonder you lose heart here!"

This poison of discouragement the evil spirit endeavors to inject into those whom he hopes to make his victims, and day after day he says the same thing, taking advantage of every little annoyance, every supposed slight, every short-coming of neighbors, every partial failure, every report of triumphs wrought by others.

If the tempted give up the work appointed them, desert the place assigned to them, and set out on a career for which they have no divine calling, they are undone; for, unforeseen difficulties will arise, which will be used by the Devil of Discouragement to instill further dissatisfaction and more hopelessness, until his thralls abandon

effort and yield themselves a prey to bitterness, mutinous against God, despair and impotence.

So, the question is not—Could we do more good, or be more happy, or acquire more virtue, as something else besides what Heaven made us or in some other place, or at some other employment than what have been allotted to us? No, the question is: Are we where our vocation wants us to be? If so, let us make the best of it and the most of ourselves, right there, whether it be conspicuous or obscure, laborious or leisurely, for there is where we are needed, there is where we can achieve the most good, there is where we can most surely speak of victories.

Let us send the Devil of Discouragement back to his master in hell, discouraged.—Catholic Columbian Columbus.

A PRIEST'S EDUCATION.

He Should Be Learned in an Academic Sense—Science as Well as Sanctity Needed.

In a circular letter to his clergy, Monsignor Mignot, Archbishop of Albi, lays down what the priest of the hour should know. This prelate is an authority on the subject of which he treats, for he is considered to be the most learned one in France, says an exchange. He is looked upon, moreover, as the one the most in the van of modern thought. According to him, the priest of the hour should be as deeply versed in classical knowledge as were his elders in previous generations of the priesthood. Besides Latin, he should have at least a good knowledge of Greek. He should be learned in the academic sense. From this it will be seen that Monsignor Mignot concedes to modern exigencies no iota of the traditional character of a priest's education. According to him the modern priest must be what the best before him have been in the matter of learning. But he must be something besides. After poring over Greek and Latin he must bring his mind on a level with the discoveries of the age. He must be versed in natural as in sacred science. By a few splendid strokes of the pen the Archbishop of Albi traces the progress of modern science. He shows how the heavens and the earth have in times revealed their secrets, upsetting the old order of things. In presence of this he places the priest of the hour and with the latest scientific discoveries as point of fact. "The priest nowadays," he says, "should be the most cultured man of his parish, because he is the defender of religion. He should know the ground of attack as well as that of defence. To objections unknown to our forefathers he should have ready answers. In reality, the Church instead of being the enemy of science has been its savior."

If the progress of physical science under the Church's sway was comparatively slow, Monsignor Mignot gives the reason. He shows that the Church's first object was to produce saints and learned men in the supernatural order. "But if," he says, "she did not discover the secret of the earth's motion or raise a monument in honor of physical science, she raised one incomparably more important in honor of revelation." He shows how modern scientists are indebted, as no words can tell, to the courageous efforts and silent labor of men working during long ages under the Church's shadow and often in his religious garb. Our Roger Bacon is cited as an instance, and Isaac Newton is made to say by the pen of the Archbishop of Albi that without the Abbe Picard's labors he would not have been in a position to verify the exactness of his discoveries. Admitting that modern science and the Church now work on separate lines, the Archbishop attributes this in a measure to the suppression of priests under the revolution. He shows the Church from her ruins and falling priests worthy of their sacred mission. But the time has come for something besides, he thinks. According to him the modern priest must be a man of science as well as of learning and of sanctity. "If our generation has more than ever need of holy priests, she has also need of learned ones." This remarkable address has been considerably echoed in the French press. It is likely to be a point of departure for changes in the ecclesiastical training of priests.

FILIPPINO PIETY AT CLOSE VIEW.

Mr. M. J. Dowling, a correspondent of the Minneapolis Journal, writes to that paper from Cebu in the Philippines:

"As in other towns, there are fine churches and public buildings. One of the most powerful Bishops of the Archipelago lives here in a fine palace. I saw him go down the street one day holding out his right hand, which the natives crowded around to kiss. They ran eagerly from all directions upon being told that the Bishop was passing, and fairly trampled each other under foot in an effort to touch the hem of his garment or kiss his hand. "There is a large cathedral here, a fine convent, a good seminary, a leper hospital and the most beautiful cemetery in the island. Easter Sunday in Cebu was an occasion for great festivities. One feature was a religious procession consisting of floats drawn by natives; upon these floats were arranged the most beautiful and comely of the natives to represent Christ, the apostles, the Blessed Virgin, etc., each float representing one event in the life of Christ from His birth to His crucifixion. As the procession moved slowly through the crowded streets, natives by the thousands literally buried their faces in the dust before it. A

good band furnished the music and children's voices formed numerous choirs. It was the Oberammergau Passion Play in miniature. These festivities taught me to believe that these natives are very devoted Church people, at least they pay most particular attention to the observance of holy days and the rituals of the Church."

Dyspepsia is difficult digestion, due to the absence of natural digestive fluids. Hood's Sarsaparilla restores the digestive powers. Dyspepsia and Indigestion.—C. W. Snow & Co., Syracuse, N. Y., write: "Please send us ten gross of Pills. We are selling more of Paronell's Pills than any other Pills we keep. They have a great reputation for the cure of Dyspepsia and Liver Complaint." Mr. Chas. A. Smith, Lindsay, writes: "Paronell's Pills are an excellent medicine. My sister has been troubled with severe headache, but these Pills have cured her."

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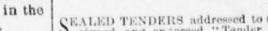
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Persons tendering are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made up on the form supplied and signed with their actual signatures.

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