

THE SCOTTISH CHIEFS; OR THE LIFE OF SIR WILLIAM WALLACE

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CHAPTER XXV.

WALLACE AND LADY HELEN AT STIRLING CHAPEL—DE VALENCE ATTEMPTS THE LIFE OF WALLACE.

Though burning with stifled passions, Earl de Valence accepted the invitation of Lady Mar. He hoped to see Helen, and to find some opportunity of taking his revenge upon Wallace. The dagger seemed the surest way, and could he render the blow effectual, he should not only destroy the rival of his wishes, but by riding his monarch of a powerful foe, deserve every honour at the royal hands. He accompanied De Warenne to the palace. Resentful alike at his captivity and thwarted passion, he had hitherto refused to show himself beyond the ramparts of the citadel; he was therefore surprised, on entering the hall of Snowdon, to see such regal pomp and at the command of the woman who had so lately been his prisoner at Dumbarton, and whom he had treated with the most rigorous contempt. Forgetting these indignities in the pride of displaying her present consequence, Lady Mar came forward to receive her illustrious guests. Her dress corresponded with the magnificence of the banquet; a robe of cloth of golds enriched while it displayed the beauties of her person; her simple blazes with jewels; and a superb carmine emitted its rays from her bosom. De Warenne followed her with his eyes as she moved from him. With an unconscious sigh, he whispered to De Valence, "What a land is this, where all the women are fair and the men brave!"

"I wish that it and all its men and women were in perdition!" returned De Valence. Lady Ruthven entering with the wives and daughters of the honouring chieftains, checked the further expression of his spleen; and he now sought amongst them, but sought in vain, for Helen.

The chieftains of the Scottish army, with the Lords Buchan and March, were assembled around the countess at the moment a shout from the populace without announced the arrival of the Regent. His noble figure was now disencumbered of armour; and he appeared with no more sumptuous garb than the simple maid of his country. De Valence frowned as he looked on him, and thanked his stars that Helen was absent from sharing the admiration which seemed to animate every breast. The eyes of Lady Mar at once told the libertine De Valence what were her sentiments towards the Regent. The entertainment was conducted with every regard to that chivalric courtesy which a noble conqueror always pays to the vanquished. Indeed, from the wit and pleasantry which passed from the opposite side of the tables, and in which the ever gay Murray was the leader, it rather appeared a convivial meeting of friends than an assemblage of mortal foes. During the banquet, the bard sang legends of the Scottish worthies, and as the board was cleared, they struck at once into a full chorus. Wallace caught the sound of his own name, accompanied with epithets of extravagant praise; he rose and motioned them to cease. They obeyed, but Lady Mar remonstrating with him, he said it was an ill omen to sing a warrior's actions till he were incapable of performing more, and begged she would excuse him from hearkening to his.

"Then let us change their strains to a dance!" replied the countess. "I have no objection," answered Wallace; and, putting the hand she presented to him into that of Lord de Warenne, he added, "I am not of a sufficiently gay temperament to grace the change; but this evening may not have the same reason for declining so fair a challenge!" Lady Mar coloured with mortification; for she had thought that Wallace would not venture to refuse before so many; but, following the impulse of De Warenne's arm, she proceeded to the other end of the hall, where the younger lords of both countries had already singled out ladies, and were marshalled for the dance.

As the hours moved on, the spirits of Wallace subsided into a sadness which he thought might be noticed, and whispering to Mar that he would go for an hour to visit Montgomery, he withdrew unnoticed by all but his watchful enemy. De Valence, who hovered about his steps, had heard him inquire of Lady Ruthven why Helen was not present. He was within hearing of this whisper also, and stole out after him; but, for once, the fury of hatred met a temporary disappointment. While De Valence was prowling along the paths to the citadel, Wallace had taken a different track. As he walked through the illuminated archways which led from the hall, he perceived a darkened passage. Hoping to quit the palace unobserved (for he was aware that, should he go the usual way, the crowd at the gate would recognize him, and he could not escape their exclamations,) he followed this passage, and at last found himself in the chapel.

While advancing towards the altar, he was startled by a voice which uttered these words:—"Defend him, Heavenly Father! Defend him, day and night, from the devices of this wicked man; and above all, in these hours of revelry, guard his unshielded breast from treachery and death." The voice faltered, and added, with greater agitation, "Ah, unhappy man, that should be the cause of danger to the hope of Scotland, that I should pluck peril on the head of William Wallace!" A figure, which had been hidden by the rails of the altar, rose suddenly, and stretching forth her clasped hands, exclaimed aloud, "But Thou, who knowest I had no blame in this, wilt not afflict me by his danger! Thou wilt deliver him, O God, out of the hands of this cruel foe!"

Wallace was not more astonished at hearing these words, than he was at seeing the woman who had been his secret enemy, that at seeing Lady Helen in that place, at that hour, and addressing Heaven for him. He stepped from the shadow. Helen's eyes fell upon him as she turned round. She was transfixed and silent. He moved forward. "Lady Helen," said he, in a respectful and even tender voice. At the sound, a fearful rushing of shame seemed to overwhelm all her faculties, for she knew not how long he might have been in the church, and that he had not heard her beseech Heaven to make him less the object of her thoughts. She sunk on her knees beside the altar, and covered her face with her hands.

The action, the confusion, might have betrayed her secret to Wallace; but he only thought of her pious invocations for his safety; he only remembered that it was she who had given a holy grave to the only woman he could ever love; and full of gratitude, as a pilgrim would approach a saint, he drew near her, kneeling down beside her, "in this lonely hour, in the sacred presence of Almighty Purity, receive my soul's thanks for the prayers I have this moment heard you breathe for me! They are more precious to me, Lady Helen, than the generous plaudits of my country; they are a greater reward to me than would have been the crown with which Scotland sought to endow me; for, do they not give me, when all the world cannot, the protection of Heaven?"

"I will pray for it!" softly answered Helen, but not venturing to look up. "And the prayer of the virtuous, we know, avails much; what then may I not expect from thine? Continue to offer up that incense for me," added he, "and I shall march forth to-morrow with redoubled strength; for I shall yet think, holy maid, that I have a Marion to pray for me on earth, as well as in heaven!" Lady Helen's heart beat at these words; but it was no unhallowed emotion. She withdrew her hands from her face, and, clasping them, looked up. "Marion will indeed echo all my prayers; and He who reads my heart will, I trust, grant them! They are for your life, Sir William Wallace," added she, turning to him with agitation, "for it is menaced."

"I will inquire by whom," answered he, "when I have first paid my duty, at this altar, for guarding it so long. And dare I, daughter of goodness, to ask you to unite the voice of your gentle spirit with the secret one of mine? I would beseech Heaven for pardon on my own transgression; I would ask of its mercy to establish the liberty of Scotland. Pray with me, Lady Helen; and the invocations our souls utter will meet the promise of Him who said, 'Where two or three are joined together in prayer, there am I in the midst of them.'"

Helen looked on him with a holy smile; and, pressing the crucifix to her lips, bowed her head on it in mute assent. Wallace threw himself prostrate on the steps of the altar, and the fervor of his sighs alone breathed to his companion the deep devotion of his soul. How soon time passed he knew not, he was so absorbed in the communion which his spirit held with the sublimest of beings. But the bell of the palace reminded him that he was still on earth; and, looking up, his eyes met those of Helen. His devotional cross hung on his arm; he kissed it:—"Wear this, holy maid," said he, "in remembrance of this hour!" She bowed her neck, and he put the consecrated chain over it:—"Let thy wear witness to a friendship," added he, clasping her hands in his, "which will be cemented by eternal ties in heaven!"

Helen bent her face upon her hands; he felt the sacred tears of so pure a compact upon them; and while he looked up, as if he thought the spirit of his Marion hovered near, to bless a communion so remote from all infringement ever to her, Helen raised her head, and, with a shriek, throwing her arms around Wallace, he felt an assassin's steel in his back; and she fell senseless on his breast. He started to his feet, and a dagger fell from his garments; but the hand which had struck the blow he could nowhere see. To search further was then impossible, for Helen lay on his bosom like one dead. Not doubting that she had seen his assailant, and so had fainted, he was laying her on the steps of the altar, that he might bring some water from the basin of the chapel to recover her, when he saw that her arm was not only stained with his blood, but streaming with her own. The dagger had pierced it in reaching him. How wild "Execrable villain!" cried he, turning cold at the sight; and instantly comprehending that it was to defend him she had thrown her arms around him, he exclaimed in a voice of agony, "Are two of the most matchless women the earth ever saw to die for me?" Trembling with terror, and with renewed grief for the terrible scene of Ellerslie was now brought in all its horrors before him, he tore off her veil, and, as he looked on her face, he saw too wide for his surgery; and losing every other consideration in fears for her life, he took her in his arms, and bore her out of the chapel. He hastened through the dark passage, and, almost flying along the lighted galleries, entered the hall. The noisy fright of the servants, as he broke through their ranks at the door, alarmed the revellers, and, turning round, what was their astonishment, to behold the Regent, and bloody, bearing in his arms a lady apparently lifeless, and covered with the same dreadful hue!

Mar instantly recognised his daughter, and rushed towards her with a cry of horror. Wallace sunk with his breathless load upon the nearest bench, and while her head rested on his bosom, ordered that assistance should be brought. Lady Mar gazed on the spectacle with dismay. None present durst ask a question; till a priest, drawing near, unbared the arm of Helen, and discovered its deep wound. "Who has done this?" cried Mar, turning to Wallace, with all the anguish of a father in his countenance. "I know not," replied he; "but I believe some villain who aimed at my life."

"Where is Lord de Valence?" exclaimed Mar, recollecting his enmities against Wallace. "I am here," replied he, in a composed voice; "would you have me seek the assassin?" "No, no," cried the earl, "but there has been some foul work, and my daughter is slain!"

"Oh! not so!" cried Murray, "she will not die; so much excellence cannot die." A stifled groan from Wallace, accompanied by a look, told Murray that he had known the death of similar excellence. The wound was closed, and Helen sighed convulsively. At this intimation of recovery, the priest made all excepting those who supported her, stand back; but as Lady Mar lingered near Wallace she saw the paleness of his countenance turn to a deadly hue, and his eyes closing, with a gasp he sunk back on the bench. Her shrieks now resounded through the hall, and falling into hysterics she was taken into the gallery, while the more collected Lady Ruthven remained to attend the victims before her. At the instant Wallace fell, De Valence, losing all self-command, caught hold of De Warenne's arm, and whispering, "I thought it was sure; long live King Edward!" rushed out of the hall. These words revealed to De Warenne who was the assassin; and, though struck to the soul with the turpitude of the deed, he thought the honor of England would not allow him to accuse the perpetrator, and he remained silent.

The inanimate body of Wallace was now drawn from under that of Helen; and, in the act, another priest, who had arrived, discovered the tapestry clothed with blood, and that the Regent's back was also bathed in the same vital stream. Having found his wound, the priests laid him on the ground, and were administering their balsams, when Helen opened her eyes, and looking around her with an aghast countenance, her sight met the out-stretched body of Wallace. "Oh! it is he!" cried she, throwing herself into the bosom of her father. He understood what she meant. "He lives, my child; but he is wounded, like yourself. Have courage; revive, for his sake and for mine!"

"Helen! Helen! dear Helen!" cried Murray; "while you live, what that loves you can die?" While these exclamations surrounded her couch, Edwin supported the insensible head of Wallace, and De Warenne, inwardly execrating the perfidy of De Valence, knelt down to assist the priests in their office. A few minutes longer, and the stamined blood refluxing to the chieftain's heart, he opened his eyes, and instantly starting on his arm—"What has happened to me?" demanded he; "where is Lady Helen?"

"At his voice, which aroused Helen, who, believing that he was dead, was relapsing into her former state, she could only press her father's hand to her lips, as if he had given her the life she so valued, and bursting into tears, breathed out her thanks to God. Her low murmurs reached the ear of Wallace, and looking round to Edwin, whose colorless cheek told the depth of his fears, "We both live," said he; "your cousin speaks, and it restores me to hear her sweet preserve."

The dimness having left his eyes, and the blood being stopped, he felt no further inconvenience from his wound; and rising, hastened to the side of Helen. Lord Mar whispered to his daughter, "Sir William Wallace is at your feet, my dearest child; look on him, and tell him that you live."

"I am well, my father," returned she; "and may it indeed please the Almighty to preserve him!" "I am alive and well," answered Wallace; "but thanks to God, and to you, that I am so! Had not that lovely arm received the greater part of the dagger, it must have reached my heart."

An exclamation of horror burst from the lips of Edwin, who could have schooled it; but she now held her feelings under too severe a rein to allow them so to speak. "Thanks to the protector of the just," cried she, "for your preservation! When I raised my eyes, I saw the assassin with his gown so held before his eyes, that I could not discern who he was, but the dagger was aimed at the back of Sir William Wallace! How I caught it I cannot tell; for I seemed to die on the instant."

Lady Mar having recovered, re-entered the hall just as Wallace had knelt down beside Helen. Maddened at the sight of the man on whom her soul doated in such a position before her rival, she advanced hastily; and in a voice which she vainly attempted to render composed and gentle, sternly said, "Alarmed as I have been by your apparent danger, I cannot but be uneasy at the attendant circumstances; tell me, therefore and satisfy this anxious company, how it happened that you should be with the Regent, when we supposed you an invalid in your room, and were told he was gone to the citadel?"

A blush overspread the cheeks of Helen; but as innocence dictated, she answered, "I was in the chapel at prayers. Sir William Wallace entered with the same design, and at the moment he desired to mingle mild with his, this assassin appeared. I saw his dagger raised against our protector, and I saw no more."

There was a heart present that did not give credence to this account but the polluted one of Lady Mar. She smiled incredulously, and turning to the company, "Our noble friends will accept my apology if, in so delicate an investigation, I should beg that my family alone may be present."

Wallace perceived the tendency of her words, and doubting the impression they might make on the minds of men ignorant of the virtues of Lady Helen, he hastily rose. "For once," cried he, "I must countenance a lady's orders. It is my wish, lords, that you will not leave this place till I explain how I came to disturb the devotions of Lady Helen. Wearied with festivities in which my alienated heart can so little share, I thought to pass an hour with Lord Montgomery in the citadel; and in seeking to avoid the crowded avenues of the palace, I entered the chapel. To my surprise, I found Lady Helen there. I heard her pray for the happiness of Scotland, for the safety of her defenders, and my mind being in a frame to join in such petitions, I apologised for my unintentional intrusion, and begged permission to mingle my devotions with hers. Nay, impressed and privileged by the sacredness of the place, I presumed still further; and before the altar of

purity, poured forth my gratitude for the duties she had paid to the remains of my murdered wife. It was at this moment, while clasping the sweet saint's hands in mine, that the assassin appeared. I heard Lady Helen scream; I felt her fall on my breast, and at that instant the dagger entered my back. This is the history of our meeting; and the assassin, whomsoever he may be, and how long soever he was in the church before he sought to perpetrate the deed, were he to speak, and capable of uttering truth, could declare no other."

"But where is he to be found?" demanded Lady Mar. "If his testimony be necessary to validate mine," returned Wallace, with dignity, "I believe Lady Helen can name him."

"Name him, Helen! name him, my dear cousin," cried Murray, "that I may have some link with thee. Oh! let me avenge this deed! Tell me his name, and so yield me all that thou canst now bestow on Andrew Murray!" There was something in the tone of Murray's voice that penetrated to the heart of Helen. "I cannot name him whom I suspect to any but Sir William Wallace; and I would not do it to him," replied she; "were it not to warn him against future danger. I did not see the assassin's face; therefore how dare I set you to take vengeance on one who perchance may be innocent? I forgive him my blood, since Heaven has spared to Scotland its protector."

"If he be a Southerner," cried Baron Hilton, "name him, gracious lady, and I will answer for it that were he the son of a king, he would meet death from our monarch for this unknighly outrage."

"I thank your zeal, brave chieftain," replied she; "but I would not abandon to certain death even the wicked man. May he repent! I will name him to Sir William Wallace alone; and when he knows his secret enemy, I trust he will guard against his emissaries. Meanwhile, my father, I would withdraw." Then whispering to him, she was lifted in his arms and Murray's, and carried from the hall.

As she moved away, she cast her eyes on Wallace. He rose and would have spoken, but she waved her hand to him with an expression in her countenance of an adieu so heroic, yet so tender, that feeling as if he were parting with a beloved sister who had just risked her life for him, and whom he might never see again, he uttered not a word, but left the hall by an opposite door. Daybreak gleamed before the wondering spectators of the late extraordinary scene had dispersed to their quarters. De Warenne was so well convinced, by what had dropped from De Valence, of his having been the assassin, that when they met, at sunrise, to take horse for the borders, he made him no other salutation than an exclamation of surprise "not to find him under an arrest for the last night's work."

"The will Scott knew better," replied De Valence, "than so to expose the reputation of the lady. He knew that she received the wound in his arms; and he durst not seize me for fear I should proclaim it."

"He cannot fear that," replied De Warenne, "for he has proclaimed it himself. He has told every particular of his meeting with Lady Helen in the chapel, even her sheltering him with her arms; so there is nothing for you to declare but your infamy. For infamous I must call it, Lord Aymar; and nothing but the respect I owe my country prevents me pointing the eyes of the indignant Scots to you; nothing but the stigma your exposure would bring upon the English name could make me conceal the deed."

De Valence laughed, and he mounted his horse. The cavalcade of Southerners now appeared. They were met on the Carse by the Regent, who advanced at the head of ten thousand men to escort his prisoners to the borders. By Helen's desire, Lord Mar had informed Wallace what had been the threats of De Valence, and that she suspected him to be the assassin. But this suspicion was put beyond a doubt by the evidence of the dagger which Edwin found in the chapel; its hilt was enamelled with the martlets of De Valence.

At the sight of it, a general indignation filled the Scottish chiefs; and, assembling round their Regent, they demanded that the false earl should be degraded, and punished as became the honor of a nation. Wallace replied that he believed the attack to have been instigated by a personal motive, and therefore, as he was the object, not the state of Scotland, he should merely acquaint the earl that his villainy was known, and let the shame of disgrace be his punishment.

"Ah!" observed Lord Bothwell, "men who trample on conscience soon get over shame."

"True," replied Wallace; "but I suit my action to my own mind, not to my enemy's and, if he cannot feel dishonour, I will not so far disparage myself as to think so worthless a creature deserving my resentment."

While he was quieting the indignation of his nobles, the Southerners, conducted by Lord Mar, approached. When that nobleman drew near, Wallace's first inquiry was for Lady Helen. The earl informed him he had received intelligence of her having slept without fever, and that she was not awake when the messenger came off. That all was likely to be well with her, was comfort to Wallace; and, with an unrolled brow, riding up the squadron of Southerners, which was headed by De Warenne and De Valence, he approached the latter, and, drawing out the dagger, held it towards him: "The next time, sir earl," said he, "that you draw this dagger, let it be with a more knightly aim than assassination!"

De Valence surprised, took it in confusion, and without answer; but his countenance told the state of his mind. He was humbled by the man he hated; and while a sense of the disgrace he had incurred, and my mind being in a frame to join in such petitions, I apologised for my unintentional intrusion, and begged permission to mingle my devotions with hers. Nay, impressed and privileged by the sacredness of the place, I presumed still further; and before the altar of

ing from Wallace with an affected disdain, said to the shivered weapon, "You shall not betray me again!" "Nor you betray our honors, Lord de Valence," exclaimed Earl de Warenne; "and therefore, though the nobleness of Sir William Wallace leaves you at large after this outrage on his person, we will assert our innocence of connivance with the deed; and, as Lord Warden of this realm, I order you under an arrest till you pass the Scottish lines."

"As this you determine, my lord; else no honest man could have continued in the same company with one who has so tarnished the English name."

De Valence, with an ironical smile, looked towards the squadron which approached to obey De Warenne, and said—"Though it be dishonour to you to march with me out of Scotland, the proudest of you all will deem it honor to be allowed to return with me hither. I have an eye on those who stand with you in habit to rebellion. And for you, Sir William Wallace," added he, "I hold no terms with a rebel, and deem all honor that would rid my sovereign and the earth of such low-born arrogance." Before Wallace could answer, he saw De Valence struck from his horse by the Lochaber-axe of Edwin. Indignant at the insult offered his commander, he had raised his arm, and aiming a blow with all his strength, the earl was immediately precipitated to the ground.

At sight of the fall of the Southerner chieftain, the Scottish troops, aware of there being some misunderstanding between the Regent and the English lords, uttered a shout. Wallace sent to the lines to appease the tumult, and throwing him-self off his horse, hastened to the prostrate earl. A fearful pause reigned throughout the Southern ranks. They did not know but that the enraged Scots would now fall on them, and, in spite of the Regent, exterminate them on the spot. The troops were running forward when Wallace's messenger arrived and checked them; and calling to Edwin, stopped his farther chastisement of the recovering earl. "Edwin, you have done wrong," cried he; "give me that weapon which you have sullied by raising it against a prisoner totally in our power."

With a blush he resigned the weapon; yet, with a look on the prostrate De Valence, he said, "But have you not granted life twice to this prisoner? and has he not in return raised his hand against your life and Lady Helen? You pardon him again; and, in a moment of your clemency, he insults the Lord Regent of Scotland in the face of both nations. I could not bear this and live, without making him feel that you have those about you who will not forgive such crimes."

"Edwin," returned Wallace, "had not the Lord Regent power to punish? and, if he see right to hold his hand, those who do it for him invade his dignity. I should be unworthy the honor of a brave nation, did I stoop to tread on every reptile that stings me in my path. Leave Lord de Valence to the sentence his commander has pronounced, and, as an expiation for your having offended military and moral law, this day you must remain at Stirling till I return into Scotland."

De Valence, hardly awake from the stupor which the blow had occasioned, was raised from the ground, and was taken, foaming with rage and mortification, into the centre of the Southern lines.

Alarmed at the confusion he saw at a distance, Lord Montgomery ordered his litter round from the rear to the front; and hearing all that had passed, joined with De Warenne in pleading for Edwin. "His youth and zeal," cried Montgomery, "are sufficient to excuse the intemperance of the deed."

"No!" interrupted Edwin; "my offended, and I will expiate. Only, my honoured lord," said he, approaching Wallace, "when I am absent, sometimes remember that it was Edwin's love which hurried him to this disgrace!"

"My dear Edwin," returned Wallace, "there are many impetuous spirits in Scotland who need the lesson I now enforce upon you; and they will be brought to maintain the law of honour, when they see that their Regent spares not his slightest violation, even when committed by his best beloved friend. Farewell, till we meet again." Edwin kissed Wallace's hand in silence; and drawing his bonnet over his eyes, he retired into the rear of Lord Mar's party.

CHAPTER XXVII. DEFEAT OF LORD PERCY—INVASION OF ENGLAND—TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF WALLACE.

Wallace and his troops, attending the Southern prisoners, pursued their journey. Dawn was brightening the dark head of Brunswark, as they advanced towards the Scottish boundary. At a distance lay the English camp along the southern bank of the Esk. At this sight, Wallace ordered his bugles to sound; they were answered by those of the opposite host. The heralds of both armies advanced; and the sun shone full upon the legions of Scotland winding down the precipices of Vauchope. Two hours arranged every preliminary to the exchange of prisoners; and when the trumpet announced that each party was to pass over the river to the side of its respective country, Wallace stood in the midst of his chieftains, to receive the last adieus of his illustrious captives. When De Warenne approached, the regent took off his helmet. The Southerner had already his in his hand. "Farewell, gallant Scot," said he; "if aught could imbitter this moment of recovered freedom, it is, that I leave a man I so revere, still confident in a finally hopeless cause."

"It would not be the less just, were it indeed desperate," replied Wallace; "but had not heaven shown on which side it fought, I should not have had the honour of thus bidding the brave De Warenne farewell."

The earl passed on; and the other lords, with grateful and respectful looks paid their obeisance. The litter of Montgomery drew near; the curtains were thrown open; Wallace stretched out his hand to him; "The prayers of sainted innocence are thine!"

"Never more shall her angel spirit behold me here, as you now behold me," returned Montgomery; "I must be a traitor to virtue, before I ever again bear arms against Sir William Wallace." Wallace pressed his hand and they parted.

The escort which guarded De Valence advanced; and the proud earl, seeing where his enemy stood, took off his gauntlet, and throwing it fiercely towards him, exclaimed, "Carry that to your minion, Ruthven, and tell him, the hand that wore it will yet be tremendously revenged!"

As the Southerners fled off towards Carlisle, those of the returning Scottish prisoners approached their deliverer. Now it was that the full clangour of joy burst forth from every breast and instrument in the Scottish legions; now it was that the echoes rang with loud huzzas of "Long live the valiant Wallace, who brings our nobles out of captivity! Long live our matchless Regent!"

As these shouts rent the air, the Lords Badenoch and Athol drew near. The princely head of the former bent with proud acknowledgment to the mild dignity of Wallace. Badenoch's penetrating eye saw that it was indeed the patriotic guardian of his country to whom he bowed, and not the vain affecter of regal power. At his approach, Wallace alighted from his horse, and received his offered hand and thanks with every grace in his noble nature. "I am happy," returned he, "to have been the instrument of recalling to my country one of the princes of our royal blood." "And while one drop of it exists in Scotland," replied Badenoch, "its possessor must acknowledge the bravest of our defenders in Sir William Wallace."

Athol next advanced; but his gloomy countenance contradicted his words, when he attempted to utter a similar sense of obligation. Sir John Monteith was eloquent in his thanks; and Sir William Maitland was not less sincere in gratitude than Wallace was in joy, at having given liberty to so near a relation of Helen Mar. The rest of the captive Scots, to the number of several hundreds, were ready to kiss the feet of the man who thus restored them to their honours, their country, and their friends; and Wallace bowed his head under a shower of blessings, which poured on him from many grateful hearts.

In pity to the wearied travellers, he ordered tents to be pitched; and he despatched a detachment to the top of Langholm hill, to send forth a smoke in token of the armistice being at an end. He had hardly seen it ascend the mountain, when Graham arrived, and told him that an English army was approaching by the foot of the hills. "They shall find us ready to receive them," was the reply of Wallace. Leaving his harassed friends to rest on the banks of the Esk, he put himself at the head of five thousand men; and sending a thousand to the Cheviots, and another to the Southrons when he should give the signal, he marched forward, and fell in with some advanced squadrons of the enemy among the recesses of those hills. Little expecting such a rencontre, they were marching in files upon the ridgy crags, to avoid the swamps which occupied the broader way.

At sight of the Scots, Lord Percy, the Southern commander, ordered a party of his archers to discharge their arrows. Wallace drew his sword, and called aloud to his followers. His voice echoed from hill to hill, and the higher detachments of the Scots, pouring downwards with impetuosity, precipitated their enemies into the valley; while Wallace with his pike-men, charging the horse in those slippery paths, drove the terrified animals into the morasses, where some sunk at once, and others, plunging, threw their riders to perish in the swamp. Desperate at the confusion which ensued, as his archers fell from the rocks, and his cavalry lay drowning before him, Lord Percy called up his infantry, who appeared, but though ten thousand strong, the Scots met their first ranks breast to breast, and levelling them with their companions, rushed on the rest with the force of a thunderstorm. It was at this period that the signal was given from the horn of Wallace; and the division of Graham, meeting the retreating Southerners as they attempted to form behind the hill, completed their defeat. The slaughter became dreadful, the victory decisive. Sir Ralph Latimer, the second in command, was killed, and Lord Percy, dead, covered with wounds, towards Alnwick.

This being the season of harvest in the northern counties of England, Wallace carried his reapers, not to lay their sickles to the fields, but with their swords to open themselves a way into the Southern granaries. He, meanwhile, provided for the wants of his friends on the other side of the Esk. The plunder of Percy's camp was despatched to them, which, being abundant

in all kinds of sufficient to fill they could point, to their sercuits, and of the countess disclosed his novation of left Stirling military org youth able to be instructed of war, but tion, and ab the rights f explained to The coun his plan w the day h chieftains submitted to on their to enforce Regent, all tion; and L mentally ex of this man of humility only to sp over all, an Athlon the benefi from its pr cold silence When arrived on large a be complete v gliations o bounds. On Badu despatches wish for t tioned. T for Stirling the super amongst th then diffo guard he th the libera the remai thus disp was to t Clydesdal give up th John Mon Annandal patrik in th that prov countess with his b the Engli and that, he would from Berve ed storec year," he have amp And wh he did. Northum knead into of cattle country y far on difo that of th There, f hand of husband impleme himself the father's widow; a for her here her the go Though the Sou harvests wasted more. I innocent the grou with vic hamlets from the end of a stored of Novie York, his offence occasion day wh and so turn so moving world, had so ing thos formed in sight of an smile to Annan appear chief, v knight, also, into th groans shouts, follow by the hal the Max Lochm for th thithe umph, hosts ready ant. castle, pity," of this as be to on Scotch arch." "B the co "and reject "B a br by Lo Guier exist, we no "T Reger while no Suler "I Kirk At twiso

Eye Strain Headaches Manitoa lady tells how headaches disappeared with the use of Dr. A. W. Chase's Nerve Food Women who use their eyes much for reading or fine needlework are sure to find eye-strain and nervous, sick headaches among the first symptoms when the nervous system gets run down. As a positive cure for headaches, not mere relief but cure, Dr. A. W. Chase's Nerve Food stands without a rival because it gets at the cause of the trouble and builds up the nervous system to health and strength. Mrs. George Fuller, Lakeland, Man., writes:—"Dr. Chase's Nerve Food cured me of nervous headaches, from which I was a great sufferer, and I am no longer troubled with twitches of the nerves in the arms and legs." The portrait and signature of A. W. Chase, M.D., the famous Receipt Book author, on every box. 50cents at all dealers or Edmondson, Bates & Co., Toronto. DR. A. W. Chase's Nerve Food

The Catholic Record

Price of Subscription—\$2.00 per annum. THOS. COFFEY, L.L.D., Editor and Publisher.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.

Mr. Thomas Coffey: My Dear Sir—Since coming to Canada I have been a reader of your paper.

Mr. Thomas Coffey: Dear Sir—For some time past I have read your admirable paper, the Catholic Record, and congratulate you upon the manner in which it is published.

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1906.

THE HAIL MARY.

We are asked by a correspondent to explain the authorship of the Angelic Salutation, or the Hail Mary. It is called the Angelic Salutation because its opening words were employed by the Archangel Gabriel when sent by God to announce to the Blessed Virgin the mystery of the Incarnation.

TO A CORRESPONDENT.

We received the other day a clipping announcing the marriage in New York of a Protestant lady to a Catholic earl.

Bishops know their business too well to be caught by social pride or itching palm. If our correspondent had reflected he would surely see under all the circumstances how unjust is his conclusion.

COMMUNIONS OF BOTH KINDS.

We have been asked "why the priests of the Roman Church partake of bread and wine while the laity partake of bread only." Our "Enquirer" cannot be a Catholic or he would not put the question in that way.

reception of our Lord's Body and Blood. Now, since our Lord is whole and entire under each Species it is to be acknowledged, as the Council of Trent puts it, that even under one Species Christ whole and complete is received and is the true Sacrament, land that therefore, as regards fruit or benefit, those who receive one species only are defrauded of no grace necessary for salvation.

A SAD MAJORITY.

The letter of a friend from St. John's, Newfoundland, reached us the other day, giving us figures which, though few, are most deeply humiliating. He first informs us that the city of St. John's is to take next month a vote on local option.

CATHOLIC SCIENTISTS.

We have received a complex question—one containing others. We are asked to name a few Catholic scientists and their discoveries and to tell whether Galileo was condemned.

contradiction of practically all that is written with regard to the Church's opposition to science as exemplified by the Galileo case." We need mention only the names of Fathers Perry and Secchi, most distinguished astronomers.

RELIGION IN EDUCATION.

A federal council was held in Philadelphia at which as many as thirty Protestant denominations were represented. They took up, among different subjects, the question of religion in education.

DISTINGUISHED CATHOLICS.

We add a few more Catholics who were renowned for their discoveries, inventions or learning: Volta, who made the battery called after him and was the first to discover the luminous power of electricity.

HERE IS A PEN PICTURE of the young man who seldom reads a Catholic paper and to whom the reading of a Catholic book would be time wasted.

THERE SEEMS TO BE trouble in the New Westminster penitentiary in regard to the escape of a convict.

IN THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS, Ohio, there is a strong movement on foot to extend the Holy Name Society.

THE GERMAN CATHOLICS of the United States, and Canada, too, and it is a pity we have not more of them in this country, are always a militant body in matters pertaining to the Church.

A SAMPLE OF THE WORK of the mad-cap reporters comes to us from Mobile, Alabama. We were told in a press despatch about the destruction of the Jesuit College, in Springhill, near that city, and that the library, which was stocked with books four hundred years old and of priceless value were destroyed.

MANY ARE UNDER the impression that the beautiful hymn, "Adeste Fideles," known in English as "Come all ye Faithful," is an old Anglican hymn.

INFORMATION COMES from Ireland that there is a gradual departure of the people of that country for Canada and the United States, and the Government has been urged to greater action to prevent the depopulation of the country.

so, the absentee owners of Ireland's soil have still a powerful grip in the country. A Government such as we have in Canada would bring about an era of prosperity, but this, we fear, will not be granted until there is a greater awakening in the public mind in England.

FOR SOME REASON, and no sane man can find a good one, our fellow citizens of the Orange Order are exceedingly active in the work of preparing for what we are told will be a great celebration on the next 12th of July.

RIGHT REV. THOS. F. HICKEY, who has become Bishop of Rochester, owing to the death of Bishop McQuaid, is one of the most remarkable Bishops in the Republic. Those who have the pleasure of his acquaintance recognize in him a man possessed of rare qualities of mind and heart which give him a splendid equipment for the performance of the duties of his high and holy office.

THE SOCIALIST PROPAGANDA has made some progress amongst that class which allows the demagogue to do their thinking. We are glad to know that few Catholics have anything to do with socialism.

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ually acting alone. But this does not
mean the final burying of the individual
and the despotic reign of unrestrained
socialism, as contended for by certain
socialistic political reformers."

"LAWLESSNESS" IN IRELAND.

For a year or more the leading Eng-
lish journals have been harping on the
blooded cruelty shown in persist-
ently driving cattle from grazing lands
in the west of Ireland as a protest
against the employment for grazing pur-
poses of the land which the people need
for farms. It would almost seem
that these writers thought a good fat
or a more desirable tenant of the soil
than a half-consumptive human being,
or they have repeatedly affirmed that
where grazing can be made to pay and
farming can go, the farmer must move
of the land and go—anywhere, to the
Local. It would seem that wherever he
poorhouse, to America, to wherever he
can, and make room for the grazier.
A strange disposition certainly, which
calls it necessary to drive men and
women to the almshouse, conducted like
a prison. Moreover, these critics ignore
or are ignorant of, the history of the
Irish land question. Mr. T. W. Russell
referred to it in an address which he
delivered last year at the Literary
society in Dublin. He is a Scotsman,
who was for years at the head of the
Government Board in Ireland, and
what he says during that time has
made him change his views. In his
Dublin address he spoke in part as fol-
lows:

"He drove over the other day, a huge
tract of Irish country devoted to sheep
and cattle, and from that tract of coun-
try, some sixty years ago, eleven thou-
sand families had been driven. They
heard a great deal about cattle drives
to-day. They heard very little about
the human drive that took place in these
glorious years. That great drive in the
late forties and the early fifties changed
the whole face of Ireland; and they
had now, whether they liked it or not,
great portions of the country devoted
to cattle. And even when they were
transferring the land now, in the en-
deavor to undo this, they found every-
effort blocked and impeded by the
habit that had been engendered in the
people, of trusting to grass and not to
tilling; and land given to the people
now for the purpose of altering this
whole system was all often sublet, a
small portion of it tilled and a great
part of it given over to cattle. It would
be a long and weary work before the
mischiefs that was done in the late
forties and early fifties was undone.
It would require infinite patience, in-
finite sympathy and a good deal of
courage upon the part of those who
governed the country and who guided
the people to undo that system, and to
put Ireland in the position that Ire-
land ought to be in. Ireland was an
agricultural country in the first place,
and these industries at best could only
be subsidiary to the great industry that
the land provided for the people of Ire-
land.—Antigonish Casket.

THE CHURCH OF THE PEOPLE.

An English clergyman, who has been
spending some time in this country,
gives the following as the result of his
observations in America:

"I have noticed during my stay in
America that church life among
the masses is on the wane. It is rap-
idly decreasing. This is because it has
got away from the people. It regards
cred more than human life, orthodox
more than the living. It is too con-
ventional, and, I must add, too respect-
able. Churches now are mostly gorge-
ous mansions built over the re-
mains of Christianity.

"What the Church must do to live is
to win back the workingmen it has
lost. It must realize that in the
Bible there are quite as many refer-
ences to what Christ did for the bodies
of men as to what He did for their souls.
Take the churches here in New York.
They are moving up town. They are
leaving the downtown with its dense
population of the poor and suffering.
They are club houses with the word
'Christ' over the door. Only the rich
go to them.

"I understand that there are a large
number of clergymen here to-day. I
want to say to your clergymen of the
city of New York that it does not mat-
ter what you have in your church; if
you have not a genuine passion for the
common people, your church cannot ex-
ist. Unless that is kept burning the
whole Christian church is doomed. Be-
gin at once. If you can win the city of
New York for health, righteousness and
God you have solved the great problem
of the church to-day. It should do it.
It must take its stand in the forefront of
human welfare in the struggle against
disease and for the bodies of men as well
as their souls, or all is lost."

The Republican of Cedar Rapids, Ia.,
commenting on these assertions, says:

We believe that these observations
are eminently fair and warranted by
the facts. A western clergyman, who
recently had somewhat of an opportu-
nity to examine into conditions in this
same city of New York, declared that
he was impressed by these same condi-
tions which called forth the criticism of
the visiting clergyman. He also tells
of a contrast that came under his
notice. One Sunday morning he went to
the great Catholic cathedral in New
York city, St. Patrick's. It occupies a
position uptown. It is true, in the very
heart of the Manhattan. Nevertheless,
this clergyman saw coming into that
cathedral what he described as "every-
body." The rich and the poor, the
proud and the meek, the fortunate and
the unfortunate, all met together on a
common level. Somehow the Catholic
Church has managed to maintain de-
mocracy. It does not talk about it as
much as the Protestant churches have,
but it asserts it by its practice. It has
something for everybody. It appeals
to the masses of mankind in a way that
Protestant churches do not seem to be
able to appeal to them. The minister
referred to said that after his experi-

ence in that Catholic Church it seemed
to him as though the Protestant
churches that he visited were filled with
people who were evidently satisfied
with themselves and with conditions as
they were with them. The poor and the
unfortunate were conspicuous only by
their utter absence.

It is true, as the English clergyman
says, that the Church that does not win
the masses of mankind is lost. How to
win them is the great problem that con-
fronts Protestantism to-day. There can
be no question about it. It is the same
everywhere. New York city is no ex-
ception.—Intermountain Catholic.

HOME AND MOTHERS-IN-LAW.

The recent judicial pronouncement
from Jersey City, on the subject of
"Mothers-In-Law" fell like a lurid
bomb-shell from yellow-journal head-
lines, on many a happy family and home.
"Home is not a home where there is a
mother-in-law," read the astonishing
decision. Surely it will astound many
an orphaned young wife and mother
upon whose inexperience and delicate
health her new duties press too heavily,
and whose domestic staff and prop is
the capable and devoted presence of
the widowed mother on the husband's
side—to learn that if a husband installs
his mother in his home it is not such a
home as the wife must accept, and that
such conduct on the part of the husband
is the abandonment of the wife."

Undoubtedly, circumstances alter
cases, and if a mother-in-law on the
one side, through fault of her own,
is destructive of the family happiness
or domestic peace, the matter should
be adjusted in favor of the rights and
privileges of the couple whom God hath
joined together, and whose life is before
them. Even such adjustment, however,
admits of due charity for the appear-
ance of perceptive jealousy, loving her
own "not wisely but too well," and of
pathetic widowhood's dependent age.

But against the exceptional mother-
in-law who is really a disturbing ele-
ment in the family-life, set the rule of
the thousands of heartstones whose
varied interests she guards and serves
with such selfless and tireless devotion
and versatile industry that she proves
a omnipresent angel of peace and good-
will, of message and mission of helpful
word and saving deed, and say if our
savage and literature, our comic songs
and verse, our press and public, should
not blush in shame for its time dishon-
ored, heartless, witless gibe and slur
and calumny for a class whose mother-
in-law should make it sacred from irre-
verence and insult, at least, and whose
deserts of love and gratitude and honor
are fully bestowed by inane obloquy!

The state mother-in-law joke of
stage vulgarity should be hushed down.
The mother-in-law jest of the heartless
should be dishonored socially. The
mother-in-law prejudice that has
wrecked the happiness of many a home,
and saddened the old age, broken the
heart of many a sweet old life, should
brand its holder as self-convicted of a
meanness and smallness of nature ostracizing
him or her from decent human
ranks.

Think of the long, weary, illnesses
through which "mother" nursed each
and all, in loneliness, sleepless, tender
devotion. Think of the endless-sitches
put in by the willing hands for every
one of the family-circle—of her humble
filling of gaps in lacking domestic ser-
vice, of her abnegation of personal claim
and pleasure!

At best, age is sad in a sorrow's crown
of sorrow in remembering happier
things.

Such compensation as life still holds
is God's measure of mercy, and we be-
lieve that that grudge and deny it. If
it were only for that "G-andum"
means in each home of wedded love and
parental happiness to the "little child
leading," let the "mother" alike of hus-
band and of wife, be unto both, dear and
sacred, and both in "publ" and private
life, consign the mother-in-law slur to
"oblivion."—N. Y. Freeman's Journal.

THE CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY.

OF ST. THOMAS TAKES EXCEPTION TO
"QUESTIONS ON THE SUNDAY SCHOOL
LESSON," WHICH ARE WIDELY PUBLISHED.

To the Editor of The Times:
Sir,—In your issue of last Saturday,
in the weekly installment for 31st Jan.,
of "Questions on the Sunday School
Lesson" by Rev. Dr. Lincoff, some
questions are propounded which con-
stitute an attack on the Catholic
Church and even calculated to bring
contempt upon the clergy of all denom-
inations. This society seeks to con-
troversy and attacks none, but these
"Sunday School Questions" are
widely published, we simply request an
opportunity of defence in the same
public manner. We quote the ques-
tions objected to in their order:

Que. 1.—Acts iv, v. 13.—Why did
these priests, who were God's appoint-
ees for carrying on His Church oppose
Peter and John, seeing they were in the
same service.

Comment.—Art thou a master in
Israel, doctor, and dost not know that
those Jewish priests were no longer
God's appointees, but were in opposi-
tion to, and not in the service of, that
Jesus Whom Peter and John served?

Que. 2.—"Are professional teachers
of religion naturally jealous, when
others begin to teach, and are making
it a success?"

Comment.—Yes, doctor, and justly
so, if they can show their commission
to "speak as having authority." So
also are governors, judges, physicians,
and other day appointed men, quite
reasonably jealous of self-appoint-
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FIVE-MINUTE SERMON. Sixth Sunday After Epiphany.

HOW TO USE GRACE. In the Gospel just read the kingdom of heaven is likened to a mustard seed...

In our times we see the Church of God spread throughout the whole world numbering her children by hundreds of millions.

And first we must pray. It is not enough to say a few prayers in a cold, mechanical way...

And first we must pray. It is not enough to say a few prayers in a cold, mechanical way...

By a recent decision of the Court of Appeal in England the Trades Unions of Great Britain are forbidden to impose compulsory levies on their members...

Resolved, That the Catholic Press Association invite all Catholic societies to pass a resolution pledging the patronage of their members to business men who advertise in Catholic papers...

Resolved, That we express our conviction that the Catholic press is the very best kind of an advertising medium. We also protest against the discrimination practiced by many lines of business against the Catholic press...

As to the contention that Catholic trade unions are in such a minority that they may be ignored or despised...

that there are more Catholic trade unionists in Great Britain than there are socialists, but regrets that, so far, there is little evidence of national or even local organization among them...

Because no question, perhaps, is more frequently asked than that of final penitence and God's mercy, the following from the Bombay Examiner, of which the Rev. Father Hill, S. J., is editor, will be of general interest:

Question: Take two cases—one of a man who lives well all his life, but on one isolated occasion falls into mortal sin and then dies suddenly and goes to hell; the other of a man who lives wickedly all his life, and a hasty repentance at the last moment manages to get to heaven...

Answer: Two such cases are theoretically possible; for, according to theology, it is not directly the state of the soul in life, but the state of the soul in the moment of death, which determines each one's eternal fate.

Although our theological theory about death and repentance seems on the surface to suggest the idea that it does not much matter whether one leads a good or a bad life, this is in practice certainly not the meaning of it.

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and the clergy in general, have spoken of the necessity of the Catholic newspaper in the church, family, and as a continuous mission in the parish...

The adoption and carrying into effect of the first resolution by 750 per cent. of our Catholic societies would soon place the Catholic press on a par with the German Catholic press...

CAUSES OF DISBELIEVING. POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ATHEISTS—PROTESTS AGAINST AUTHORITY—THE UNRESTRICTED RIGHT OF PRIVATE JUDGMENT—IT MAKES MAN INDEPENDENT OF GOD—PROTESTANTISM—HERESY OF CATHOLIC TEACHING IS A SKELETON OF UNBELIEF—THE NEARER THE FOUNTAIN THE PURER THE STREAM—VERIFIED IN THE OLD AND NEW DISPENSATION.

All articles of the Apostles' Creed from "I believe in God" to "Life everlasting" have been denied. The denial of God includes a denial of all religious creeds.

THESE FAKES FROM ROME. Once in every little while the secular dailies contain absurd bits of news about the Holy Father or some of his entourage.

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MADE IN CANADA MAGIC BAKING POWDER. There are many baking powders but There is Only One MAGIC BAKING POWDER.

SEAT YOUR CHURCH COMFORTABLY Interior Fittings and Panelling. ALTARS PULPITS FONTS RAILS LECTERNS DESKS. The Valley City Seating Co., Ltd. Dundas, Ont.

THERE'S NOT A FLAW IN A PAIR OF TUB MADE OF EDDY'S FIBREWARE. Every one is a Solid, Hardened, Lasting Man without a Hoop or Seam.

O'Keefe's Liquid Extract of Malt. Canadian Barley Malt is made from selected barley in such a way as to change all the constituents of the grain into easily digested nutriment.

Dominion Land FOR SALE. Any Dominion Land open for Homestead or pre-emption entry may be acquired by the purchase of scrip issued by the Dept. of Interior.

HEALY & CO. 124 St. James St., Toronto, Ontario. The best congratulatory thing for the Catholic press, says the Pittsburgh Catholic, "is a subscription."

The Angle Lamp. The ordinary lamp wherever used produces a glare which is not only annoying but also dangerous.

MENEELY & CO. WATERLOO, ONT. made very substantial gains in other departments of its business.

Church Bells. Ten beautiful Easter Postals, Crosses, Angels, etc., and your name in gold on each for 25 cents.

CHATS WITH GREAT EMERGENCY. There is enough in the world to feed the world's population. There is enough in the world to feed the world's population.

COMFORTABLY
Font Panels
Fonts
Desks
 Dundas, Ont.

FLAW
 OF
WARE

without a Hoop
 yours, too, if
 every where in
 nd St., London

efe's Liquid
act of Malt

Canadian Barley
 Malt is made from
 selected barley in such
 a way as to change
 all the constituents of
 the grain into easily
 digested nutriment;
 adding hops to this
 product gives the prop-
 erties of a nerve
 tonic, inducing sound
 and refreshing sleep.
 O'Keefe's Liquid Extract
 of Malt is made solely
 with this object in view
 and is the best malt
 W. LLOYD WOOD,
 Toronto
 General Agent

Union Land
FOR SALE

on Land open for Homestead
 entry may be acquired
 phase of scrip issued by the
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eer Bounty Scrip

purchaser to take up two
 quarter sections and after
 or near the land and culti-
 vating stock thereon for
 he will receive a patent
 Homestead entry may
 another quarter section ad-
 dition the pre-emption law
 at three Dollars per acre.

Lands in
 and Letbridge District
OF SCRIP \$800
 other information and scrip

ALY & CO.
 Phone Main 5705
 100 St. St., Toronto, Ontario.

694,882

the net amount of
 arance on the Com-
 's books December
 t. 1908 and the
 's operation showed
 that

Natural Life
OF CANADA

very substantial
 ns in other depart-
 ts of its business:

ined in Assets \$1,329,098
 " Reserve 248,268
 " Income 352,571
 " Surplus 348,296

its ratio of expense
 income was smaller
 an in previous years.

Office - WATERLOO, ONT.
EELY & CO. WATERLOO, ONT.
 CHURCH,
 SCHOOLS,
 & OTHER

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN.
 Great Emergencies Discover Great Men.

There is enough latent force in a Max-
 imite torpede to tear a war-ship to
 pieces. But the amount of force or ex-
 plosive power in one of these terrific en-
 gines of destruction could never be as-
 certained by an ordinary concussion.

Children could play with it for years,
 pound it, roll it about, and do all sorts
 of things with it; the shell might be shot
 through the walls of an ordinary build-
 ing, without arousing the terrible dynam-
 ic energy. It must be fired from a
 cannon, with terrific force, through a
 foot or so of steel plate armor, before it
 meets with resistance great enough to
 evoke its mighty explosive power.

Every man is a stranger to his great-
 est strength, his mightiest power, until
 the test of a great responsibility, a criti-
 cal emergency, or a supreme crisis in his
 life, calls it out.

Work on a farm, hauling wood, working
 in a tannery, store-keeping, West Point,
 the Mexican War, doing odd jobs about
 town, were not enough to arouse the
 sleeping giant in General Grant. There
 is no probability that he would ever
 have been heard from outside of his own
 little community but for the emergency
 of the Civil War.

There was a tremendous dynamic
 force in the man, but it required the
 concussion of the great Civil War to
 ignite it. No ordinary occasion touched
 his slumbering power, no ordinary ex-
 perience could ignite the dynamic pow-
 er in this giant. Under common cir-
 cumstances he would have gone through
 life a stranger to his own ability, just as
 most of the great dynamite shells now in
 existence will probably never be ex-
 plosive because of the lack of a war em-
 ergency great enough to explode them.

Farming, wood-chopping, rail split-
 ting, surveying, store-keeping, the State
 legislature, the practice of law, not even
 the United States Congress, furnished
 occasions great enough, resistance strong
 enough to ignite the spark of power, to
 explode the dynamic force in Abraham
 Lincoln. Only the responsibility of a
 nation in imminent peril furnished suffi-
 cient concussion to ignite the giant
 powder in perhaps the greatest man that
 ever trod the American continent.

The School of Necessity Makes Giants.
 There is no probability that Lincoln
 would have gone into history as a
 very great man but for the crisis of the
 Civil War. The nation's peril was the
 responsibility thrust upon him which
 brought out the last ounce of his re-
 serves, his latent power of achievement,
 the resources which he never would
 have dreamed he possessed but for this
 emergency.

Some of the greatest men in history
 never discovered themselves until they
 lost everything but their pluck and
 grit, or until some great misfortune
 overtook them and they were driven to
 desperation to invent a way out of their
 dilemma.

Giants are made in the stern school of
 necessity. The strong, vigorous, fore-
 cast, stalwart men who have pushed civiliza-
 tion upward are the products of self-
 help. They have not been pushed or
 helped, but they have fought every
 inch of the way up to their own loaf.

The stalwarts, the men of iron, of
 stamina and grit, are self-made. They
 are giants because they have been great
 conquerors of difficulties, supreme mas-
 ters of difficult situations. They have
 acquired the strength which they have
 overcome.—O. S. M. in Success.

The Lure of "Big Things."
 It is easy to be ambitious for great
 things, and it is hard to content oneself
 sometimes with the small. We all love
 to be men who plan largely. Too often
 we think it a mark of greatness that our
 minds can not come down to details.

The correspondence schools are always
 telling us about the "room on the top,"
 the glorious glistening mansions, the ne-
 cessity for finding room at the bottom on
 the way up. The boy who starts out to
 be President of the United States often
 ends by being a "ward-heeler." The
 lad whose ambition it is to be a Car-
 negie, and who has scorned the things
 that made Carnegie, often ends as a
 coal-shoveler for a big furnace.

The age needs thoroughness, and
 thoroughness demands a knowledge of
 detail. The big things are always
 beckoning and the lure is responsible
 for the ill-success of countless thousands.
 That which is true in business life is
 also true in the Church, and we are
 waking up at this day and age to realize
 it. There are some things born out of
 time and we begin to pay the penalty.

Brick-and-mortar success was, we often
 felt, the strong life of the Church and
 no man would do things in any but a
 big way.

It is a grand thing to see thousands of
 marching men join in the celebration to
 the music of a hundred bands. It is a
 gorgeous thing to see the pomp and cer-
 emony carried out in the presence of a
 hundred Bishops, but the rosary of suc-
 cess will not be gone over with these as
 beads. There are other marchers who
 are not with us and they are the millions
 that perhaps even our sacrifice for
 magnificence has caused us to lose.

God sees them and God knows that the
 lure of the "big things" has cost us more
 than we can afford to pay.

There is a punishment which every
 fault incurs whether we will or not,
 and the big "things," have brought their
 punishment. It is true they have done
 good and much of it. They have influ-
 enced thousands, but how many sorrow-
 ful gray heads is bowed because of them?
 Let us make a prophecy: Put your
 self one hundred years into the future
 and act as judge. No matter now what
 you think of the "big things," you will
 know that the works which went down
 for the neglected little ones; which
 went out into the pioneer districts to
 preserve the Faith; which followed them
 into the forests; which helped them to
 build their little chapels for the honor
 and glory of God; sent them Fathers
 for their souls; these will be the works
 that last and that will be to the per-
 manent glory of the Church universal.—
 Extension.

The Man Who Sings.
 Give us, oh! give us, writes Carlyle,
 the man who sings at his work. Be his

occupation what it may, he is superior
 to those who follow the same pursuit in
 silent sullenness. He will do it better,
 he will persevere longer. One is scarce-
 ly sensible to fatigue while one marches
 to music. The very stars are said to
 make harmony as they revolve in their
 spheres. Wondrous is the strength of
 cheerfulness; altogether past calcula-
 tions are its powers of endurance.
 Efforts, to be permanently useful, must
 be uniformly joyous, a spirit all sunshine
 because bright.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS
 Her Valentine.

Here and there gay groups of laugh-
 ing girls were talking fast and excit-
 ingly, schoolgirl fashion—always "valen-
 tine, valentine," or St. Valentine's
 Day, which was fast approaching. Grace
 was not talking, but she was thinking of
 what she was going to get. On her lap
 lay an open book, but her eyes had long
 since ceased to scan its printed pages;
 instead, they were gazing tenderly at
 the card, held tightly in her hand, and
 her lips trembled as she gazed. 'Twas
 a little card on which was a simple spray
 of June roses, tied with a delicate
 word "Grace, from Mamma." What a
 host of memories that little card awak-
 ened! Once again, she saw the dear
 dead face; once more, the soft grey eyes
 overflowing with love, just as they were
 when, of old, she had stooped over
 Grace's bed to kiss her child good-night.

The tears came freely now, but after
 the storm came a calm. She picked up
 the card which had dropped unnoticed
 to the floor, while a strange, but pecu-
 liar expression grew upon her counte-
 nance, and, she said, half aloud, "See,
 the roses are twined about with thorns,
 the roses are the joys, the thorns the
 sorrows of life, and the thread, the silken
 cord of life. Oh, Mother!"—she
 breathed the name softly. "I will learn
 the lesson you would teach me; since
 roses have thorns, thorns also have roses
 and my sorrow, great though it be, has
 also its joy." Stopping, she kissed the
 words, "from Mamma," then closing her
 book, set forth to greet her companions
 with a merry smile.

St. Valentine's Day arrived. Some
 fifty expectant girls filed into the re-
 fectory, to find there, as they felt they
 should, long envelopes and short envel-
 opes, daintily tied boxes, long and short,
 like the envelopes, square, round, boxes
 of every size and shape, and suggest-
 ively near each girl's place. Grace
 gave a glad little cry as she reached
 her place. Papa had not forgotten her,
 for there on her plate, daintily tied with
 blue ribbon lay a box about two inches
 square, but what could it be?

Blessing was asked and then such a
 chatter. "Oh see mine!" and "mine,"
 and "mine," resounded from end to end
 of the refectory. Meanwhile Grace,
 with trembling hands, was untying the
 ribbon. "What a dear little box!"
 "What could it be? Surely Papa did not
 tie it so daintily." It takes much long-
 er to write these thoughts, than it took
 them to course through Grace's mind.
 Her sweet face flushed with joy and a
 glad little exclamation of delight told
 how Papa had pleased his little daugh-
 ter. There on a cushion of palest blue
 lay a little gold locket, the locket, that
 she had seen on her father's neck, hung
 on Papa's watch chain and she knew
 how Papa had ever told her, that
 though she opened it, the face of her dear
 dead mother would smile up at her.
 She touched the spring and there before
 her lay, as she had known it would, her
 mother's face, but not worn and thin as
 Grace had last seen it beneath the
 coffin lid, but bright and rosy, with the
 flush of youth still on her cheeks, and
 the same face that years before had
 so much sunshine to every corner of its
 dear convent school, the winsome face
 of the Grace Norton, Our Lady of the
 Angels had known twenty years before.

Half an hour later, one passing the
 Study Hall might have seen a little
 head bent industriously over a school
 desk, and heard a busy little pen go
 scratching over the paper, for Grace
 was sending a "valentine" in return to
 her dear, thoughtful Papa. Open before her
 lay the golden locket, and smiling up
 at her was the sweet, winsome face of
 her valentine.—Ruth Cooper Reeling,
 '11, in the Nazarene.

Where Girls Make Mistakes.

Many girls think they are demeaning
 themselves if they are approachable.
 They cultivate an icy manner as a hall-
 mark of respectability.
 Don't be afraid of being pleasant. It
 cannot hurt you and will be good as a
 tonic for all you meet.

What though you do think yourself
 superior to most of your acquaintances,
 is it good taste to placard your belief by
 a freezing countenance?
 There is nothing like affability to
 conceal one's family skeletons.
 haughty manner is a direct bid for the
 rest of the world to rake up ancestral
 secrets that you thought buried under a
 mound of gold.

The secret of many a homely girl's
 success is an affable manner that makes
 every one she meets feel as welcome as
 a cold snap in the dog days.
 Not every one has the happy faculty
 of drawing the best out of others, but
 one need be guilty of the vulgarity of
 consciously seeking to put them at a
 disadvantage.

Girls have a way of coming home to
 roost that is as surprising to the snub-
 ber as when her pet Tabby avenges a
 tweaked tail with her claws.
 Be affable. Most of us can forgive an
 injury quicker than a rudeness.

Be affable. There is no one so lowly
 that her "good-will" can be scorned, and
 nothing so quickly makes ill-will as
 haughtiness.

Be affable. If you are not pleasant
 because it comes natural, be pleasant
 because it is the only manner that is
 well bred.
 Some people lack affability because
 they want to be disagreeable, others be-
 cause they are naturally still and re-
 served. The former might as well re-
 spond to the hatred; the latter
 should take a course in cordiality.

Catarh Cannot Be Cured

with LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they cannot
 reach the seat of the disease. Catarh is a local
 constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you
 must take internal remedies. Hall's Catarh Cure
 is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood
 and mucous surfaces. Hall's Catarh Cure is not a
 quick medicine. It is prescribed by one of the
 best physicians in this country for years and is a
 regular prescription. It is composed of the best
 known tonic, combined with the best blood-purifier.
 The perfect combination of the two ingredients, what
 produces such wonderful results in curing Catarh.
 Send for testimonials free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO. Toledo, O.
 Sold by all druggists.
 Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

ARE CATHOLICS COWARDS?

WHAT AN IRISH DOMINICAN FATHER
 THINKS.

"Do we act enough in the aggres-
 sive?" is the question Father McNeer,
 O. P., asks in the January "Irish
 Rosary." He answers the question in
 the negative and says:

"We should be wise if we initiated
 the Protestant plan of campaign with-
 out, of course, overstepping the bounds
 of charity and justice, as Protestant
 writers so often do. Protestants have
 invaded every inch of our territory.
 There is not an episode in the history of
 our Church which they have not mis-
 represented, nor any Catholic personage
 whom they have not libelled, nor a
 single doctrine or practice of ours
 which they have not arrogantly carried
 over to the enemy's country. "Ever
 since the beginning of their history,
 Protestants seem to have recognized the
 fact that aggressiveness is indefinitely
 preferable to remaining merely on the
 defensive. The dullest of sectaries
 have instinctively recognized that the
 policy of aggression is really the effec-
 tive policy. Yet, even at the present
 day, the majority of Catholic writers
 seem to content themselves with adopt-
 ing a merely defensive attitude—some-
 times even a halting, timorous, and in-
 effective one."

**THE DANGEROUS PERIOD OF A BOY'S
 LIFE.**

SIGNS OF THE PERIOD.

That there is a dangerous period in
 a boy's life all will agree, but teachers
 and parents. This period varies as to
 time with the individual. I think it
 fair to say it usually occurs between the
 fourteenth and eighteenth year. This
 is the period when the average boy lays
 the foundation for good or evil for future
 years. It can be said that this is the
 time the man is made.

The previous life and good habits make
 but little if any impression on him dur-
 ing this period. A new nature, entirely
 foreign to the old, has appeared and the
 training, temporarily at least, of the
 past seems lost. I do not mean to say
 that all is lost. It has kept the boy clean
 and strong for the struggle, but it will
 not meet the new conditions. It has done
 its work and its immediate usefulness is
 past. Should the boy pass the danger-
 ous period well he will return to his ear-
 lier traditions and begin again where he
 left off.

This period appears to me to be the
 "lapse in our civilization" and the re-
 turn to savagery. It is the call—the
 demand of our savage ancestry to return
 to old conditions. So strong is the
 "call" that the anxious mother feels
 almost hopeless. The father recognizes it
 and remembers that he "came out all
 right" and laughs at the mother's fears.
 He should not laugh. He should take
 notice. This is his time in the training
 of the boy. The mother has worked and
 labored for thirteen years in rearing him.
 So long and so well has she done her
 work the father has gradually ceased to
 think of doing anything. But now he
 must. She can not hope to cope with
 these new conditions. Man, and only a
 man, can do the work. Many a boy has
 met bitter sorrow because of that
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