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PEARL OF THE OAKS.

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BY MARY ROWENA COTTER.

[Continued from last week.]
PART THIRD.

IV.

"No, Tom, and I wish to hear no more of this."

"I will go the war then and if I am killed you will regret your unkindness."

"If you wish to go to the war go, then, and be a man, and I will never have anything to regret."

"But if I should be killed."

"Many nobler lives than yours are being lost every day and you should never shrink from duty because your life is in danger."

"You are very cruel Melissa."

"Perhaps you think so," and she chose to let him think so rather than tell him how the very thought of the war sickened her and how she grieved for those whose homes were being made desolate.

Tom, who was unaccustomed to being thus coolly treated, would not have endured as much from anybody else; but it would not do for him to quarrel with Melissa. Assuming the saddest possible tone he said, "Do you wish me to go to the war?"

"Yes, if you consider it your duty."

"I suppose you would like to have me go North and enlist in the Federal army?"

"Go wherever you think is right, whether it be to fight for the North or the South, and I will respect you."

"If you promise to marry me I will enlist to-day."

"That I can never do, so let us dismiss the subject at once."

Gertie Levimore who was out alone for her morning drive stopped beside them and invited Melissa to accompany her. It is needless to say that the invitation was readily accepted and Tom with a cold bow to Gertie whispered to Melissa, "You will regret your unkindness." Without offering to help her into the carriage he hastened toward his sister's house.

Mrs. Tone was alone in her own room when he entered and she saw at a glance that something had gone amiss with her boy. "What is it Tom?" she asked kindly.

Tom threw himself into a big easy chair and told his sister all, representing himself as a cruelly wronged young gentleman, and so greatly exaggerated what Melissa had said as to make her appear a most heartless girl.

"Poor Tom," and Mrs. Tone laid her hand gently on her brother's shoulder, "I am very sorry for you but you should have waited a little longer before telling her of your love."

"Do you think she will ever care for me?"

"I hope so, for we would feel very badly to see the Oaks and all of the Tone property go out of our family, as it ultimately would, were she to marry a stranger. Of course during my lifetime, which will probably be for many years to come, I am sole mistress here, but after my death it goes to her."

"Do you not think Melissa very unkind?"

"Yes, very, after all I have done to make a lady of her; but let us overlook that as a mark of her low birth."

Tom looked at his sister and said what he would not have thought of mentioning to her had he not still been very angry with Melissa. "Bessie do you think it would be right for a Carlton to marry so far beneath him?"

"Under ordinary circumstances I would say, no; but remember no father could love an own child more tenderly than my husband does that girl and she will one day be a very rich woman."

"And that you think makes amends for a great deal."

"Certainly, Tom, money is everything and there is one thing I feel it my painful duty to tell you, father is not as well off as he was a few years ago and if the south is defeated in this war you will be poorer than ever."

"That is why you are so anxious to have me marry for money?"

"I must admit that it has something to do with it; but of course I look first to your own interests and wish to see you happy."

"I wish Melissa would not treat me as she does."

No one has more reason than myself to regret her conduct. She is indeed a most ungrateful person after all I have done to make a lady of her; but I will make her understand yet that she owes me something for my kindness."

kindness."

Tom's feelings for Melissa were anything but kind as he left his sister's room, and his wrath increased when she passed him on the stairs without appearing to notice him. On the dining-room table he found a bottle of brandy which had just been opened to put in sauce for dinner, and as there was no one present he drank it all. A little over an hour after his sister entered to find him lying on the floor sound asleep, while one glance at the empty bottle told the story. In his present condition it would be impossible for him to go home without assistance, and knowing too well how grieved her mother would be to see him taken home; besides she wished to shield him from the eyes of her husband and the servants. While deliberating what to do she was surprised by the sudden entrance of Melissa.

This was the most humiliating of all for she had scrupulously striven to hide her brother's falling from her whom she had hoped would become his wife.

"What is the trouble, mother?" innocently asked the young girl who did not at first comprehend the situation.

"Trouble enough and you are the cause of it," was the haughty reply. Melissa clasped her hands in dread as stepping nearer she saw his red face and heard his heavy breathing. She would have flown from the room had not instinct told her that she might be of some service; but she remained speechless until Mrs. Tone commanded her to help in carrying him upstairs; there was no need of it, however, for after a violent shaking from his sister, Tom was awake and insisted upon going home at once.

"Tom," said Bessie in a tone he never cared to disobey, "you must not go home, for I would not have mother see you in this condition."

Melissa now made her escape and after some difficulty the drunken man was led away to a room where he remained until he slept off the effects of the liquor when he was sent home. He was not allowed to depart without many reproaches from his sister, who in return for a promise not to tell his mother gave him word to be more careful in future.

Alas for the promises of the poor unfortunate Tom, they were no sooner made than forgotten and the wine bottles he found hidden in the cellar at home proved too strong a temptation for the weak youth. For a week he was not sober a single day, and then came the dreadful climax which deadened the brightest hopes of the Carlton family and brought their wrath upon the head of Melissa.

In his hours of inebriety thoughts of war had been uppermost in the mind of the reckless youth. Melissa had told him to go and be a man, and he would do it in spite of everything. All that he thought of was to win laurels for himself on the battle field; and returning he would lay them at her feet and claim his reward which was his confidence she would not refuse when she learned what a brave soldier he had been. He did not stop now to consider whether he loved her or not, he wished to become master of the Oaks, and his sister wished it too, so he was ready to undertake almost anything in order to achieve his purpose. Never did thoughts of any danger of his being unable to return enter his mind. James Levimore might be killed, and he maliciously hoped he would; but he never, life was too precious to him with such bright prospects before him. He told his mother in broken sentences of his plans and she sought to discourage him by pointing out the many dangers attending the life of a soldier, and begged her darling boy not to leave her.

"It is of no use, mother, no use, for you to talk thus for I must marry Melissa and become master of the Oaks; and she will not marry me unless I go to the war and make a man of myself."

"And her ideal of a man is one who goes North and turns traitor."

"She said it mattered not whether I fought for the North or South if I only enlisted in the army I considered right."

A scornful smile curled Mrs. Carlton's lips for she knew that her remonstrances with her son would be useless; for he who had always been accustomed to have his own way would heed neither her tears or entreaties. When he left his mother he was more determined than ever to go. Mad Tom been possessed of enough manly instincts to understand the true condition of the two conflicting parties of the country there would have been few firmer advocates of slavery than

he; but as it was, though he possessed the statue and appearance of a man he was still nothing more than a spoiled unprincipled child. Naturally he adhered to the South, firmly believing in slavery; but reasoning that one man more or less on either side would make little difference, he was ready to take up arms on either side. Unfortunately a band of Morgan's men happened to pass his home and, too intoxicated to consider what he was doing, he wrote a hasty farewell note to Melissa, telling her how for love of her he was going to the war to make a man of himself. Without bidding anyone good-bye he rushed out and joined the band of desperadoes, who learning that he was the son of wealthy planter, and had brought considerable money with him, gave him a most hearty welcome.

Mrs. Carlton was inconsolable when she learned from the letter to Melissa which he had left in his room that her boy was gone. It mattered not that the letter had been addressed to another, she read every word and showed it to her daughters who shared in her grief and anger. "To think that a poor, low born gypsy girl should bring such a disgrace upon our noble family after my daughter has done so much to make a lady of her; is more than I can bear. As soon as the first passionate outburst of grief had subsided she ordered the carriage and drove alone to the Oaks. On entering the house she hastened immediately to her daughter's room and sinking into an easy chair burst into bitter sobs which she did not try to suppress.

"What is the trouble, mother?" asked Bessie in a frightened tone, "is any one dead? Please tell me."

"Worse than that," sobbed Mrs. Carlton, who was always sure of finding sympathy in this daughter, "read that letter and see what an ungrateful wretch you have taken to your home and brought up."

"Oh, mother, this is dreadful!" Bessie exclaimed after she had read the letter a second time to make sure there was no mistake, "I wish with all my heart that I had left her with the gypsies for she is not fit to be in good society."

"I have always said that you would live to regret your folly in taking an adder to your home to turn on you after you had done so much for her. Better have left her in her wild home in the woods."

"I wish I had."

For over two hours the two women talked and wept over their great sorrow; the daughter vainly trying to console her mother, who in turn both reproached and sympathized with her for having adopted an unknown gypsy.

At first they thought best not to let Melissa know of the contents of the letter which told how much Tom had done for love of her. Mrs. Carlton did not wish to gratify her enough to let her know how her noble son's affections had been wasted upon her; but Bessie, knowing that Melissa cared nothing for his love, thought best to let her see the letter and then there would be more reason to reproach her for the trouble she has caused.

Melissa in the meantime was spending a pleasant afternoon in her own room in a work of charity which made her very happy. Despite many bitter reproaches from Mrs. Tone who never referred to the young girl's true Christian charity as her low, vulgar tastes, Melissa insisted upon doing all in her power to see the slaves properly clothed, as they had been during the reign of the most of the former mistresses of the Oaks. Meg's baby sat on the floor, his little black face beaming with childish mirth, as he watched the antics of a pet kitten brought for his amusement; while his mother and Melissa worked on a new garment for him. A most striking picture the group presented, when, without rapping, Mrs. Tone burst into the room. With a cold, scornful glance she took in the situation. Meg dropped her work and sat spellbound and Melissa arose to face the storm which she supposed had been called forth by her present occupation.

"Sewing for the niggers, who do not know enough to appreciate your labor and neglecting as usual the duty you owe to your own."

Meg's face beamed with rage but she dared not speak and Melissa asked, "What do you mean? What duty have I neglected?"

"Duty to those who seek you, a poor gypsy, from your wild home in the woods and tried the fruitless task of making a lady of you. Better, by far, would it have been had we left you where you were."

(To be continued.)

Subscribed for The Journal.

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE

BISHOP M'QUAID'S PASTORAL LETTER TO THE CLERGY AND LAITY.

The Jubilee Season to be From May 1st to November 1st.

As announced in last week's JOURNAL, the pastoral letter of Rt. Rev. B. J. McQuaid on the new century jubilee was read in all churches of the diocese last Sunday. It follows:

To the Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Rochester:

Very Reverend and Reverend Brethren of the Clergy and Beloved Children of the Laity—Scarcely had the jubilee which marked the close of the nineteenth century been brought to a glorious ending in the Eternal City than the holy father decreed that the same privileges and blessings should be extended to the children of the church throughout the world.

For one year pilgrims from all quarters of the world, singly, or in small numbers, or in crowds, made their way to Rome, there to testify their love for the venerable pontiff, still happily reigning and ruling God's church, to kneel and pray at the tombs of blessed Peter and Paul, to dwell for a while in the Holy City, amid its shrines and holy places, rich in memories of the past, and still glorious in the splendor of religious festivals and ceremonies. It was edifying and cheering, in an age when the incredulous and unbelieving mock at religion and religion's ways, to witness the burning faith and devotion of the countless pilgrims from far and near as they went from church to church on their rounds of visits prescribed for the gaining of the jubilee blessings. There was an absence of all human respect and of concern for what the infidel world thought. It was when 60,000 pilgrims met in St. Peter's to greet the holy father as he came among them to impart his special benediction to the assembled multitude that one felt an emotion of soul such as seldom comes to it. The enthusiasm of these thousands knew no restraint, but freely gave way to shouts of joy and praise. No one could doubt at such moments the veneration and love of the numerous audience for the head of their church.

These public demonstrations were a profession of faith in spiritual truths with regard to this life and the life hereafter. These public prayers were an acknowledgment of God's supreme power and majesty and of man's dependence. The coming together of all classes, rich and poor alike, exhibited in beautiful character the common brotherhood of all true followers of the Christ of the Gospels—Son of God, Son of Mary, true God, true Man, the Redeemer and Saviour of our souls.

Jubilees in the past have always proved their efficacy in bringing strayed sheep back to the fold, in rescuing even hardened sinners from their wickedness, in opening the eyes of the fallen to the danger of delay in returning to God and His law. They who have had experience of the power of common and united prayer such as is experienced during a jubilee, can bear witness to conversions so marked and striking that they can be confidently attributed to God's special favor and help. Hearts that had been obdurate for years, defying the advice and entreaties of relatives and friends, softened under the influence of God's grace and mercy during the jubilee season.

It is our confident hope and earnest prayer that this jubilee of 1901 will bring to our beloved children of the laity abundant blessings and favors. We pray that it may bring a return to God of those who, for one cause or another, have wandered from the right way; that amendment of conduct may prove enduring; that the good may be encouraged to perseverance; that faith and hope and charity may grow in all hearts.

God's church cannot but be the gainer by this increase of faith and zeal on the part of her children. Every member of the church ought to be in his own person an exemplification of the teachings of Christ, our Master and Redeemer. Every unworthy member is a stumbling-block to all inquirers after the faith.

The conditions laid down by the holy father for the gaining of the blessings of the jubilee are:

1. Any six months within the year. For this diocese the six months will be from the first Sunday of May to the first Sunday of November.

2. Fifteen visits to four churches to be designated by the ordinary of the diocese, subject to such communications as he may make.

3. The churches in Rochester to be visited are the cathedral, each one's own parish church, and any two of the following churches, St. Joseph's, St. Mary's and St. Peter and Paul's.

In Elmira the churches to be visited are St. Peter and Paul's, St. Patrick's, St. Mary's and St. John the Baptist.

In Auburn, each one's parish church, twice; the other two churches once. In Corning and Danville, each of the two churches, twice.

In all parishes having only one church, the four visits are to be paid to the one church on the same day. These visits can be paid, two before the mass of obligation on Sundays, and two after—Or all four can be paid after the Sunday mass.

4. When the visits are in towns having more than one church, they can be made processional, with the pastor at the head. These processions can be of the men and the women of the parish, together or separately, or of the children or of adults and confraternities. When any of these bodies pay these visits processional, accompanied by their clergy, these visits can be commuted to five in number. School children and others under 16 years of age visiting the churches processional are held to two visits. The sick and others unable to visit the churches can have this obligation commuted to suitable prayers by their confessors.

5. When visiting the churches prayers are to be offered up to God according to the intentions of the holy father and the needs of Christ's church.

6. A sincere and devout confession followed by a worthy communion completes the requirements of the jubilee. Everything depends on the spirit in which these exercises are performed. A chastened heart and a loving soul will draw God's blessing, which is what we all desire and seek.

You, reverend and dear Brother in Christ, will, as becomes your office and ministry, use more than your usual zeal in helping all entrusted to your care to take advantage of the privilege and blessings now placed before them during this jubilee year.

Wishing you and yours a rich harvest of God's holy benedictions.

Very sincerely in Christ,
Bishop of Rochester,
Rochester, April 25, 1901.

FIVE MINUTE SERMON

SHORT INSTRUCTIONS ON THE GOSPEL BY A REVEREND FATHER.

Gospel—St. John xvi. 5-14.

Christ Promises the Comforter.

Our Divine Master in today's gospel indicated what this was which the Holy Ghost would convey to the world by saying, "because they believed not in Me." In spite of all the proofs, the Jews did not acknowledge Jesus as the expected Messiah and the Gentiles did not even think of Him, nor had they accepted His doctrine. The Jews therefore sinned by their incredulity, their obstinacy, and their injustice; and these sins were the cause of many others, especially that of hatred, envy, and of murder. The Gentiles, on the other hand, were engulfed in the mire of their passions without knowing their miserable condition. But after the Holy Ghost had descended upon the apostles, the world would know the injustice of the Jews and the guilt of the Gentiles; then the whole world be converted to Christ was truly the Envoy sent by God, the Saviour of the world; the only One Who could lead us to eternal life.

"We should learn how great our sorrow ought to be when of our own accord we separate ourselves from Christ by sin; and learning how necessary the Holy Ghost was to the apostles, we should always invoke Him that He may also instruct us in the truths of the faith, and guide our way of evangelical perfection."

WEDDING FIFTY YEARS

Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Beyer, who live at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Joseph Schaefer, at 25 Leopold street, celebrated their golden wedding Tuesday, surrounded by a large and happy family of children and grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Beyer attended early service at St. Joseph's church in the morning. Mass was celebrated by Rev. A. Engel.

Union Male

Brewers' Boats at 14.00 and 15.00 at Schaefer's, 698 South street, 641 Orleans street, Rochester, N. Y.

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MAINE APPEARANCE

(For The Catholic Journal)

Collier the latest of Boston.

The first, most brilliant of Boston. And later, in May, Boston. Your period of time to bring.

For she is waiting to greet this. In this, her first appearance. Tomorrow, tell her name, and her. As you know it, her name to-day.

And let the fragrance of flowers. Rain and sweet thoughts to be. Be taught to compare with the virtues. The clarity, faith, purity.

For there are the gifts to offer. Enriched in the garden of flowers. These are the gifts that will gladden. The heart of the Mother of men.

The blossoms of spring will offer. These blossoms will bloom and grow. The fragrance of virtue will bloom. When all that's of earth shall offer.

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