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The Catholic Journal.

Twelfth Year. No. 38.

Rochester, N. Y. Saturday, May 18, 1901.

\$1.00 per Year, 50 per Cent.

PEARL OF THE OAKS.

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BY MARY ROWENA COTTER.

(Continued from last week.)
PART THIRD.

V.

"Yes," said the priest, but I assure you his heart has been with you. He spoke very kindly of his scattered parishioners in this section and described your little chapel as one of the holiest spots on earth."

"Thank you, Father, and him, too for your kind words. Our chapel is indeed a blessed spot and no more beautiful monument could have been erected to the memory of her who caused it to be built; but I fear that our good pastor in his boundless charity often overestimates the value of his people."

"I will not promise to agree with you in the latter as I had the pleasure of hearing much of you all before I ever met Father Smith."

They were in the parlor now and Mrs. Levimore in her eagerness to make her guest comfortable had scarcely heard the last remark.

"I hope," said the priest, accepting the easy chair his hostess offered him, "that you will be pleased to learn that only a few days ago I left your son, with whom, as chaplain in one of the Federal hospitals, I have enjoyed many pleasant hours during the past few weeks."

Since James' departure, on the evening of Marie's death no tidings have been received from the absent one, and the mother's anxiety for her son had daily increased, bringing to her troubled mind fearful imaginations of dangers surrounding him, if he had not already met with a frightful death. Her face brightened and clasping the hand of her guest she could hardly control herself to say, "So you bring me tidings of my son? Where did you leave him; please tell me all about him for my heart has been breaking with anxiety for him."

"You should spare yourself such worry, for from what I have learned of your boy, I believe there are few truer, nobler hearts than his, and congratulate his mother for the blessings God has given her in having such a son."

Tears of gratitude stood in Mrs. Levimore's eyes as she thanked him for his kind words and again asked him where he had left James.

After listening to a few brief remarks which satisfied the anxious mother for the present in regard to the absent one she again said: "In James' name you are indeed a thousand times welcome to his home. Words cannot express how pleased we are to have you here and I would like to listen to you for hours but, you must be both tired and hungry after your long journey, so I will trouble you no more until after tea which will soon be ready." It seemed almost as good as having James himself at home once more, and Mrs. Levimore unwilling to trouble her guest with the attention of the blacks to whom he had been unaccustomed in the North, where she believed his home to have been, conducted him herself to his room. It was not to the pleasant guest chamber which had been reserved for Father Smith she took him, but to the still more beautiful apartment of her son which had never been occupied since within its walls Marie's spirit had winged its heavenward flight. As she was leaving him to prepare for the evening meal she told him whose room it was, and with tearful eyes asked him to say one prayer for her dear departed child.

Retiring in little over half an hour the hostess announced that tea was ready. When they entered the dining room she made apologies for the absence of Rose and Maude who were spending the afternoon at the Oaks with Melissa.

The weary traveler greatly enjoyed the refreshing repast laid before him and the frequent mention of Melissa, who was spoken of in the most endearing terms, greatly added to his pleasure. Not one word about her escaped him, and while talking pleasantly to his companions on whatever topic they chose his heart was lifted to Heaven in an almost continuous prayer that in her he might be disappointed. The meal was scarcely finished when callers were announced for Gertrude, and her mother's services were at the same time needed in giving some directions in the kitchen in regard to to-morrow's work.

"I regret, Father, that we must leave you for a time to entertain yourself," apologized Mrs. Levimore. "We have a well filled library where you

can find plenty to occupy your time or perhaps you would like to take a stroll through the grounds or visit our dear little chapel."

"I will go to the chapel if you will be kind enough to tell me the way."

Mrs. Levimore accompanied him to the door and pointing toward the pretty little building just visible among the trees said "There it is, Father, only a few steps away and you will find it unlocked as the children go there nearly every evening now to practice the May hymns with Melissa."

He thanked her and walked rapidly away thinking only of the girl whom he had traveled so many miles to find. Before he reached the edifice the sound of music mingled with childish voices reached his ears. As if fearing to disturb the singers he glided silently in and taking his breviary from his pocket knelt in a secluded corner near the door where unobserved, he could listen.

The music coming as it did from the untrained voices of about two dozen little colored boys and girls, was anything but melodious to the ear accustomed to hearing sweet singing, but the heart of the priest was touched. Who knows but what those shrill, uncultured voices of innocent children which sang the praises of God sounded far sweeter before the throne than the most beautiful hymns that accompanied the sweet-toned organ in the grand cathedrals of the world. Here the praises of God and His Blessed Mother were sung by unsullied hearts for the bright spirits of heaven alone; while there, alas, too often, human pride made the voices displeasing rather than pleasing to Almighty God.

The hymn was finished and ere the last lingering notes of the organ had died away a sweet voice said: "Very well done, dear children, I am proud of you, and wish that Father Smith could hear how well you sing the hymn. Now, let us say the Litany of the Blessed Virgin and then you may go."

"Please, Miss 'Lissy sing us one hymn first," said one of the little girls.

"Yes, on condition that Miss Maude and Rose will help me."

The two girls assented and soon the sweet voices, so different from the others, mingled in singing one of the hymns he had often heard in dear old England. In spirit Father O'Neil was back more in his beloved monastery where he had spent so many happy hours; but he did not linger long there for his heart went farther back until he saw the little private chapel where he himself and the daughter of Lord Saxton had been baptized. The voices of the two young girls were very weak compared with Melissa's and he knew that it was she alone who sang in a voice so like Lady Saxton's that he almost felt his kind benefactor were near him. "Can it be so," he thought, "or is it only a trick of my imagination, born of the hopes I entertained in coming here?" Louder but still sweeter now sounded the voice which sang:

"O Mother of Jesus, be my mother too."

Her voice thrilled with tearful sadness as she repeated the line lingering on the last words in quivering tones which betrayed the fact that she must be in tears, and indeed she was! It was over now and the last words had died away but they long continued to ring in his ears. After the recitation of the Litany of Loretto the little dusky choir was dismissed; he felt like going forth to give them his priestly blessing, but was to overcome to move. He heeded not the pattering of their feet as they were leaving the chapel until aroused by their loud shouts outside. Thinking he would be disturbed no more he opened his breviary and commenced to read, but he was soon surprised to hear the return of a light footstep. Melissa had come back alone, and in order to observe her more closely without being seen he drew back deeper into the shadows which were almost beginning to fall. With bowed head and wearied step he took a heart too sad for one so young and fair, she walked to the altar and knelt in silent prayer before the statue of the Blessed Virgin. Her head was turned so that he could see how sad was the face down which flowed many silent tears. In silent prayer she remained until it began to grow quite dark, then reverently pressing her lips to the feet of the statue she arose and said, "O my dear mother, pray for me, and if I have a mother, help me to find her, and if not help me to bear more patiently the heavy cross thy Divine Son has sent me," then she added the first prayer she ever remembered having said, "O Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee."

Father O'Neil did not wish her to see that he had intruded upon her secret devotion, but as she was leaving the chapel she saw him, so he stepped forth and met her at the door. "Miss Tone, I believe," he said, then introducing himself telling her that he had arrived at Glendale that afternoon and had stepped into the chapel for a few minutes devotion.

"You are most welcome, Father," she said, her sad face brightening. "I suppose we are to have Mass to-morrow."

"Yes I have promised to say my first Mass here for Marie Levimore in the morning," but he did not tell her to whom he had made the promise.

"Thank God, she murmured softly. "It is a great comfort to us here to be allowed the blessed privilege of hearing the Holy Mass and receiving the Sacraments; for you know it is only once in three months and sometimes not so often, excepting in cases of urgent sickness, our good priest visits us."

"So I have been told, I am a stranger in the country, called here only on important business, and your bishop has commissioned me during my visit to look after the scattered portion of his flock in this vicinity."

To one more accustomed to the ways of the world this unexpected arrival of a stranger at such a time might have excited grave suspicions; for had the priest come unaccompanied by one who was well-known to the people he might at first have been mistaken for a Federal spy in disguise. No such thoughts, however, entered the mind of the gentle, trusting girl and she uttered another fervent "Thank God" for this unexpected privilege.

A few casual remarks followed and the two separated, the priest returning to Glendale while Melissa went back to the chapel to make a little preparation for the great boon in store for her on the morrow. She did not forget to pray at the same time for the success of the business which had brought the good priest among them; but in her mind was no suspicion that it was herself for whom she was now offering such fervent prayers.

Father O'Neil had been deeply impressed by the short interview for he was now almost convinced that success had crowned his efforts and he had at last found the daughter of Lord Saxton. No child could bear a stronger resemblance to a mother than did this young lady to the lonely woman he had left in Ireland. There were the same finely chiseled features, while the color of the hair and eyes were identical, excepting that Lady Saxton's once beautiful locks were now mixed with many a silver thread. What struck the priest most forcibly was the sweet, sad expression which had settled on the face of the girl whose youth should know only smiles. While this carried out more fully the resemblance, it grieved him, for he knew there was some secret, hidden sorrow, and he wished to fathom the depths of her soul in order if possible to apply a healing balm to drive away the dark cloud whatever it might be. What he had witnessed in the chapel had been a still stronger proof that Melissa was unhappy. Once he thought that she might perhaps be mourning for her absent lover, but later in the evening became convinced that there must be another cause.

Returning to Glendale the priest was met at the gate by Gertrude, who after a few pleasant remarks, informed him that she was on her way to the Oaks to invite Miss Tone over to spend the evening. "She seems so much like one of the family," she said, "that our circle seems incomplete without her, especially when we are to hear about our dear, absent brother."

With a smile she passed on and Father O'Neil entered the house, glad of an opportunity to see more of Lady Saxton's ways in every word and movement, but when alone in his own room, the difficulty presented itself as it had many times on his way here, as to how he was to prove the girl's identity. It caused him long restless hours of wakefulness; but at last, he fell asleep with the assurance that the God who had guided him this far, would not forsake him at the moment when the prize for which he had so long prayed seemed to be within his grasp.

(To be continued.)

WEEKLY ORATION CALENDAR.

Sunday, May 19, 1901.—Gospel, St. John xv. 26-27; St. Peter Celestine, priest, confessor.

Monday, 20.—St. Bernardine of Siena, confessor.

Tuesday, 21.—St. Felix of Cantalice, confessor.

Wednesday, 22.—St. Julia, virgin, martyr.

Thursday, 23.—St. John Baptist Rossi, confessor.

Friday, 24.—Our Lady, Help of Christians.

Saturday, 25.—St. Gregory VII., priest, confessor.

We have just received a large line of medals and memorial sample badges. Call and inspect the same!

FIVE MINUTE SERMON.

SHORT INSTRUCTIONS ON THE GOSPEL BY A REVEREND FATHER.

Gospel.—St. John xv. 26-27; xvi. 1-4.—The Testimony of the Holy Ghost.

Christ promised that the Holy Ghost would give testimony of His divine mission, and of the truth of His doctrine. The promise was fulfilled. The world has acknowledged Jesus to be the only-begotten Word clothed with our flesh: it has recognized Him to be the Messiah foretold by the prophets and foreshadowed in the law; it was convinced of the holiness of His doctrine, by which truths not known before were taught, and precepts inculcated worthy of the God Who taught them and worthy of man, who was called to put them in practice with the help of divine grace.

The apostles were the first to know Him and to be intimately associated with Him; they were, therefore, witnesses of all he did and said. But although they were constantly with Him, spoke with Him, saw all His actions, they did not always understand His words nor know the object of His actions. But after having received the Holy Ghost they remembered and understood all they had seen and heard during the three years of Christ's public life, and from all this they gathered the materials to teach the nations, to explain the truth, and to establish the discipline of that Church of which they were to be the founders throughout the world. They would preach to the nations the divinity of Christ and the truths of faith; they would say: We have heard with our own ears a divine voice; we have seen with our own eyes all the things we announce to you; and thus they would give testimony of Christ.

We, also, bear witness to Jesus, by leading a life according to His holy law; we also, by sincerely professing the faith and by observing the laws of the gospel, may expect, as St. Paul says, to be persecuted; we also who find ourselves objects of persecution must be encouraged by the hope of our eternal reward in heaven.

Railroad Notes.

A change of time will go into effect on the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh Railway, Sunday next, May 19th, on and after which date trains will depart from West avenue station as follows:

Train 3, week days, day express for Pittsburgh, 7.45 a. m.; Sundays only, 8.30 a. m.

Train 15, week days, Perry accommodation, 4.00 p. m., 10 minutes earlier than now.

Train 7, daily, Pittsburgh night express, 9.00 p. m. instead of 8.35 p. m., as at present.

For the train leaving at 8.30 a. m. on Sundays special excursion tickets at low rates will be on sale at the following points, viz: Scottsville, Mumfords, LeRoy, Pavilion, Wyoming, Warsaw, Silver Lake and Perry, good returning on date of sale only.

West Shore Railroad Excursion to Buffalo.

On Monday, May 20th, the West Shore will run a special excursion to exposition terminal station to accommodate the large number of people who wish to attend the dedication ceremonies at the Pan-American Exposition. Special train will leave Rochester at 9.15 a. m., fare for the round trip only \$1.50. Returning special train will leave terminal station at 10 p. m. and another special will leave Buffalo station at 10.30 p. m.

Vice President Roosevelt, Senator Lodge and other prominent men will be present. Two big parades, one composed of 71st Regiment band, United States troops, the Mexican National band, a detachment of the Mexican army and the Fourth brigade, followed by a second parade composed of the Concessionaries and fifteen bands. This last parade will be over two miles long. Both parades will cross the triumphal bridge between 11 a. m. and noon. Special out door features during the afternoon and evening, and the most wonderful electrical display ever witnessed. Call on West Shore ticket agents for tickets and all information.

There are Slippers and Slippers. But there are no Slippers as good and no Slippers as comfortable, as "our own make" hand sewed Slippers for only one dollar (100 cents) a pair. August Schreiner & Co., 841 Clinton Ave. N.

Try your luck at our new picnic parties.

COOK OPERA HOUSE.

The programme announced at Cook opera house, starting Monday matinee, May 20th, presents many top line features, among which are Hal Davis and Miss Lucie Macaulay, who will appear in their successful playlet entitled "One Christmas Eve," which is said to be one of the brightest and most pleasing comedies in vaudeville. A special feature this week is Galetti's monkey circus. There are few, if any, animals more interesting to the human race than monkeys. Perhaps it is their assumed kinship (according to the Darwin theory) that makes their antics more attractive, but it is a fact that when you visit a zoo or circus, there is always a crowd around the monkey cages. Lovers of fine dramatic work will be entertained this week, as well as those who care for artistic music and the entertainment of jolly farce and comedy. Heading the list are the Miles Delmore and company in the most unique acts that have ever been presented upon the vaudeville stage. It is called "The Bridegroom's Reverie." Among the prominent entertainers is the great Amets, whose act always attracts dancing teachers and their pupils and bewilders all beholders has been for several years the undisputed legate of terpsichore. One of the best violinists of the trick order is John Geiger, and his clever work comes highly recommended from New York managers. The next comes Johnson, Davenport and Lorella, and their jolly burlesque entitled "The Farmer and the Football Players," in which they accomplish some wonderful antics in mid-air that promises to keep the audience in continuous laughter. Another pair of bright entertainers are John and Lillian Hoover, who have a budget of novelties in which Mr. Hoover introduces many clever juggling feats. George Hamersmith is said to be a novel comic and an amusing joker. LaMar and Gabriel, eccentric midget comedians direct from Keith's theatre, Boston, will make their first Rochester appearance. For all around excellence Manager Moore has scarcely presented a programme this season that had more attractive novelties than the bill for the coming week. More than half of the acts have comedy features, and many of them are appearing here for the first time. Prof. Joe Monk as usual will offer the musical selections in his masterly manner. Military march by Jarvis Lord of this city. Two performances daily. Another big show is underlined for week of May 27th. Murry-Lane Opera Company will inaugurate their summer season on or about June 10th.

BAKER THEATRE.

What possibly will be the last important musical event of the season is Mr. Hermann Dossenbach's musical matinee announced at the Baker theatre on Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock, May 20th. A musical programme arranged by Mr. Dossenbach is always looked forward to by Rochester's music lovers with considerable pleasant anticipation and the coming event is no exception to this rule.

The strongest play yet attempted by a local stock company, a play full of climaxes and situations, realistic, dramatic, bordering almost onto the sensational will be the presentation of the "Under Two Flags," by the Baker stock company next week. This popular story of Ouida's was first announced to be produced; the present cast, but on account of elaborate stage settings and the careful manner in which the management desired to produce it, it was found best to postpone its production until next Monday. "Under Two Flags" should be booked for a heavy run next week at the Baker and deserves full houses at each performance. Such plays certainly merit patronage. The usual popular 10 cent matinee will be given on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Tour of the Continent.

The New York Central offers the public a tour of the continent by special train personally conducted on the occasion of the Fifth International Convention Epworth League to be held at San Francisco July 18th to 28th. The train will cover 12,000 miles and will be 38 days in making the tour including stops. Three different combinations of tours are offered at very reasonable rates. For illustrated booklet giving itinerary, rates and descriptive articles of places to be visited call at New York Central office, 20 State street, or will be mailed on request. Address J. O. Kilbuck, district passenger agent.

Try your luck at our new picnic parties.

A BRILLIANT SUCCESS.

The annual bazaar of the Sacred Heart Convent was a brilliant success. The ladies invited were all of the taste and style for which the convent is famous were everywhere in evidence and made a brilliant assembly. The long study hall where the bazaar was spread was draped with lace and caught with clusters of roses. Among the attractions were the Klondike where treasure was had for the taking, the fish pond where small fishes swam and silver fishes were caught and drawn from the water. The McGinty revisited the glimpses of the moon and did ground and lofty mountain and flower girls as pretty as their waives were dressed in fancy costumes. One of the prettiest of the books was the Pan-American. Here the decorations were in May pole style, long streamers of red, white and blue, mounted by a liberty cap, while the young ladies attending were in costumes of the national colors. Here the "old woman in a shoe" found herself dispensing choice confections, and here the wheel of fortune brought luck to all seekers.

At the Master Admirable table Russian tea was dispensed from a samovar. Here was a bedspread of the old fashioned shell pattern knitted by a lady over eighty years of age. Here were also, presented by a lady member articles from Alaska, Palm Beach, St. Augustine, Atlantic City, and Washington. Among them was a pillow of deer skin in pyrography also other articles in this curious art and baskets made of pine needles, a grandfather's chair, a copy of the brought over in the Mayflower, a hand carved wood, and among other things from Florida, paper knapsack, orange wood with an alligator for handle, gold spoons from Russia, many other curious and beautiful things gathered in her travels and displayed by this lady.

At the Nations table three hearts in the papal colors were center of the decorations. Numerous devotional articles were offered from large hand carved boxes of olive wood from Jerusalem, tiny pocket watches in silver, to Russian lenses, Engraving, colored and hand painted articles, here, among them frames for pictures, some representing all scenes in the daily lives of the "passionists."

At the Sacred Heart table with chaste lines, hand wrought of silver, lace, beaded were beautiful album covers, exquisite dolls, etc. A wonderful doll house, features, about five feet high, complete, even to the electric which was presented by Mr. Reed, of the J. R. Snyder Co.

Among the clergy present Rev. Father T. A. Hendrick, O'Neil, Leary, Gleason, O'Donnell and Brophy.

The Master Admirable Society in June held an exhibition and vestments and altar hangings, brocade, lace and Mexican work. The meetings held every day at the convent have been well attended during the past week. The society numbers eighty members. Mrs. Wilks, president; Miss Ching, vice-president; Mrs. M. M. secretary.

Dedication of the Pan-American Exposition.

The dedication of the Pan-American Exposition will take place Monday, May 20th, at 10 o'clock, when the New York Central will special excursion at rate of round trip from Rochester to exposition terminal station to include the large number of people who have signified their intention of present on this occasion. A special train will leave Rochester at 10.10 p. m. and will arrive at Buffalo at 10.30 p. m. and another special will leave Buffalo at 10.30 p. m. and will arrive at Buffalo at 10.30 p. m.

There will be two big parades, one composed of the 71st Regiment U. S. troops, the Mexican National band, and a detachment of the Mexican army and the Fourth brigade, followed by a second parade composed of the Concessionaries and fifteen bands. This last parade will be over two miles long. Both parades will cross the triumphal bridge between 11 a. m. and noon. Special out door features during the afternoon and evening, and the most wonderful electrical display ever witnessed. Call on West Shore ticket agents for tickets and all information.

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