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PEARL OF THE OAKS.

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BY MARY ROWENA COTTER.

(Continued from last week.)
PART THIRD.

VI.

Before the last words had been spoken she already foresaw Melissa overwhelmed with congratulations from the aristocracy of the neighborhood, and of course she would come in for a share. Notwithstanding the recent death of her brother, which she was glad had been kept a secret, she intended before parting with Melissa to surprise the entire surrounding country by the royalty of the reception she was to give in honor of Lord Saxon's daughter. She even thought of sending for the Lord and his Lady to come and claim their child, not through any real esteem she had for the parties concerned; but in order to show her friends that she could entertain European nobility.

Such were the thoughts of the foolish woman of the world when Hugh O'Neill, addressing her said, "Mrs. Tone, I hope that I have almost proved to you that we have at last found in your family the young lady for whom I have sought for many long weeks, but in regard to her identity there is still another proof which I believe you hold in your possession."

Mrs. Tone was sure he meant the mysterious suit of child's clothing, which through the years Melissa had been with her had been carefully guarded from every eye excepting her own. The only article that had ever been brought from the hiding place was the medal she had given back to its owner on her first communion day. No one, excepting Mrs. Levi, more to whom she had described them when she had hoped to see James married to Melissa, knew of the existence of the others. Feigning ignorance as to his meaning she said, "Please explain yourself, sir, I have no proof that I am aware of."

"My old servant informed me that on the night you took the girl she gave you the clothes that Lord Saxon's child wore when she was stolen from home."

Mrs. Tone hoping to show indifference to the subject which had so greatly interested and puzzled her on the many occasions when, with no human eye upon her she had looked over the little wardrobe, remained silent with her eyes cast down as if in deep reflection.

"I hope you still have the garments in your possession," said Mr. O'Neill.

"Yes, I believe they are stored away somewhere. I remember distinctly of the old hag's bringing them to me, and eager to be rid of such an unwelcome guest, I took them from her, scarcely heeding what she had to say. After her departure I put them away and have thought but little of them since."

"You know where they are, I suppose."

"I think I can find them, if you excuse me a few minutes."

With a queenly gesture Mrs. Tone smilingly bowed to her guests and left the room, but her smile turned to a look of unutterable scorn as she brought to light the box containing the hidden treasures. Placing it unopened on the floor she sank into a chair to spend half an hour in bitter reflection upon the good fortune of her foster daughter. "I hate her now more than ever," she murmured half aloud, and the dark, angry lines on her face vindicated her words. "To think that she with her low vulgar tastes, should prove to be a high born lady is more than I can quite understand; but the proofs are clear, so it matters little whether I give up the clothes or not. She cannot forget, at any rate, that she owes me a great deal for my kindness in making a lady of her, who still might have remained a wild child of the forest, and when she is established in the stately castle of her own noble parents, I shall exact my pay. She must not only introduce me, but through her influence my dear sister Belle, may find a husband among the nobility who will be able to help restore our almost shattered fortunes as well as make a grand lady of her."

It was these last reflections which brought a smile to her face, and taking the box she at last started to the parlor. "Sorry to have detained you so long gentlemen," she said, as she laid her treasure on the table, "but the box had been hidden so many years that I had difficulty in finding it and thought at one time that I must

give up the search."

Hugh O'Neill stepped to the table and tried to lift the cover but it was nailed on. His face was like that of one who is about to open the casket in which the remains of a dear friend has reposed for many years, and his hand trembled so violently that he could not even open the blade of his knife. Had he been alone or in the presence of only his brother his strength might not have failed him thus; but with the eyes of Lord Saxon's child upon him he could do nothing. Without a word he handed the knife to his brother and stood motionless while the priest removed the lid and the dainty little frock, now yellowed by time, came to view.

"It is the same she wore on that unhappy day," he said in trembling accents as he held up the dress and shook out the delicate lace frills, "and those little shoes, too, how well I remember her, as clad in these robes she ran after the gay butterfly, which, alas, like an evil spirit was to lead to her own doom. Poor child, poor child, little did she dream then of the cruel revenge I was about to take through her upon my own brother's truest friend, and had not my heart been turned to stone through the influence of the evil one I could never have seen the little angel of innocence thus lured away from her living parents."

He paused and he was not ashamed of the tears which fell upon the garments as one by one he laid them on the table. Frank Tone stood on one side of him, his brother on the other, and tears stood in the eyes of the former as he thought how another sacred earthly tie was to be severed. Once more in spirit he was back again with his own golden haired Marie, whose place had been filled by one who had grown in his affections until he found at times that no little grave hid his darling from sight, but she still lived in the young lady before him. It would be hard for him to give up Melissa now; but as his thoughts went back again to the beloved child of long ago, he thought of the sad hearted parents across the ocean who like himself had mourned for their only child and for their sake he was resolved to try to give her up without a visible struggle. He knew that for some reasons unknown to himself the girl was unhappy with his wife, and crushing his own sad feelings he was glad on her account that the mystery had at last been solved and she was to be restored to the loving embrace of her own parents.

"There is one thing missing," Hugh said at last after he had searched every crevice and shook each garment. "What is it," asked his brother.

"The medal set with diamonds which your mother gave the little lady, Irene, on her baptismal day. I hope it has not been lost as it was a rare and precious jewel. I enquired particularly of my old servant for that, and she told me she had left it with Mrs. Tone among the other things."

"So she did," said the lady, "but being unable to find any other gift suitable for our daughter on her first communion day, I gave her the medal. That reminds me," she added turning to Melissa, who in the meantime had remained like a silent statue, "that I have not seen the medal on your neck recently. I hope it has not been lost."

"No," was the reply, "It is in safe keeping."

Father O'Neill alone detected the slight voice and the tell-tale blush on her hitherto marble cheek, and coming to the rescue he said, "Brother, we have proofs enough and will not ask to see the medal now," then he changed the subject so quickly that the medal was forgotten by all but Melissa, who suspecting that he knew the truth thanked him in her heart for his kind intervention.

Half past five, and as the old clock in the hall tolled the half hour, Father O'Neill, who had just resumed his seat, arose and begged to be excused as at six he was to sing the vespers. Before his departure Melissa had flown to her own room, and throwing her picture of the Blessed Virgin mingled her tears with a prayer of thanksgiving. She could have remained there for hours and did not wish to be disturbed, but she was to play the organ in the chapel and arising she bathed her face to remove the traces of tears and hurried to the sacred spot.

VII.

"Melissa, what has happened? You look as if you had been crying; but still you seem so happy," said Gertrude as she met her friend at the chapel door.

"Do I?" was the evasive reply, and Melissa's manner told that her mind was far away and she scarcely heeded the girl's presence.

"Yes, Melissa dear, please tell me what it means."

"Not now, dear; wait until after vespers."

"I think you might tell me for you know I am always interested in what pleases you and it must be something very good to make you appear so happy."

"It is, Gertrude, if it is only true, but I hardly dare speak of it lest it might be a dream or some great mistake. I cannot imagine what your secret may be unless my brother has returned and you are hiding him in Dora's cabin."

"No, Gertrude, it is nothing of that nature."

"You need not fear to tell me if it is, for if you were hiding a dozen Federal soldiers instead of only one, and that one my brother, I would never betray you," and there was a bright gleam in Gertrude's eye wholly unlike what might have been seen there at the mention of the enemy a few months ago. Deep in the heart of this spirited Southern girl, young as she was, a secret was buried and she no longer sympathized with her own people as she had done in days gone by. Melissa had not been wholly blind to the change, but even she had never suspected the true cause.

"You are mistaken, Gertrude, but it is already time for vespers to begin; so let us go in, and let me beg a share in your prayers."

The two girls entered the chapel and had only time to say a short prayer when Father O'Neill appeared in cassock and surplice. Melissa dared not look toward him for fear of breaking down entirely, but turned quickly to the organ. Her fingers trembled over the keys so that several times she was on the point of giving up and asking Gertrude to take her place, but she kept up until the end, and when she knelt at the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament her tears flowed freely but with a smile she brushed them away. When it was over and the clouds of fragrant incense were dying away upon the air, she still remained upon her knees.

"Come, Melissa, how long do you intend to remain here," asked Gertrude, it will soon be dark."

Melissa looked around and saw that they two were alone. "You are waiting for me, Gertrude. Pardon me for detaining you."

"It has not been long and I am willing to wait if you will reward me by telling the secret of your happiness."

"Forgive me, Gertrude, for disappointing you; but you know not what you are asking. I can't tell you this evening but Father O'Neill may; but if he does not it will not be long ere you will know all."

"I will not ask him, though your words and manner deepen the mystery so that I am more curious than ever."

"It may not be necessary for you to ask, as the strange story told in my home this afternoon may be repeated in yours."

The girls were now at the point where the path diverged, one part leading to the Oaks and the other to Glendale, and Gertrude scanning her companion's face, said, "I wish that I understood this mystery, but I suppose I must wait."

"Not long, Gertrude," said Melissa, kissing her good night, "for I may soon be leaving you all."

Melissa was gone and Gertrude stood looking sadly after her, then turned and walked slowly home, trying to fathom the cause of the sudden change in her friend. She, like her mother had not been blind to the fact that for several weeks sorrow had filled the heart of her whom she loved to look upon as a sister; but both had been unable to gain any clue as to the cause of the secret grief; for Melissa was too true a Christian to give even her dearest friends a hint of the tortures she had suffered from the Carlton family. They both knew that she was no less troubled than themselves over the absence of James, who perhaps would never return home, but there was a deeper sorrow that was often spoken of between mother and daughter, but it still remained a mystery. Whatever it might have been Gertrude thought the cloud must have been removed from her friend's heart to make her appear so happy, but the fact that Father O'Neill knew all and might tell them, again deepened the mystery.

(To be continued.)

Adapted from THE JOURNAL.

INJUNCTION ARGUED

SARGENTS' CASE COMES TO COURT.

Justice Rich hears the Points and Reserves Decision.

Argument was heard by Justice Rich in special term of the supreme court Tuesday on the temporary injunction obtained by James Sargent, restraining the Rochester board of education and fiscal officers from paying salaries to Sisters M. Leonie, M. Adrian, M. Cassimir, and M. Gerard, who act as instructors in St. Mary's Boys' Orphan Asylum.

Corporation Counsel French appeared for the city officials, James M. E. O'Grady for the orphan asylum, for which he is attorney, and David N. Salisbury represented Mr. Sargent. The argument attracted many lawyers interested in the constitutional questions involved, and some clergymen and others directly interested in the case.

Mr. Salisbury opened the argument by reading his complaint, in which he recited the specific payment of the salaries of the sisters for the month of April and declared that their employment as teachers and payment out of the public funds is illegal. Mr. French merely stated that he was present to oppose the motion on behalf of the city officials who had been restrained from auditing or paying the checks of the teachers as had been customary to do.

The brunt of the argument against the motion for making the injunction permanent was borne by Mr. O'Grady. There was very little verbal controversy between the opposing lawyers and absolutely nothing personal. The argument lasted two hours, and, at its conclusion, about noon, briefs were submitted to Justice Rich, who reserved decision in the matter.

Mr. O'Grady submitted affidavits of Bishop McQuaid, the president of the orphan asylum corporation, and Sister M. Justina Carroll, the secretary of the institution.

"Bernard J. McQuaid, being duly sworn, deposes and says, that he resides in the city of Rochester, N. Y., and is the bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Rochester; that he is president of St. Mary's Boys' Orphan Asylum of the city of Rochester, one of the defendants in the above entitled action; that the said corporation was organized for benevolent and charitable purposes on the 27th of December, 1864, pursuant to the act of the Legislature of the State of New York, passed April 12, 1848, entitled

"An act for the incorporation of benevolent, charitable, scientific and missionary societies, and the acts subsequently passed amendatory thereof; that the particular business and object of such society as set forth in its certificate of incorporation is and will be 'the maintenance and tuition of orphan children of the male sex, and in particular the male orphan children of soldiers who have lost their lives in the service of the United States,' that said corporation is the successor of a similar corporation which had been in existence in the city of Rochester for many years; that since the incorporation aforesaid the said asylum has been located at the corner of West Main and Genesee streets in said city, and has for its purpose and object the furnishing of a home for destitute and orphan boys and incident thereto the furnishing of food, clothing, suitable guardianship, direction and upbringing and the education of male orphans who might be committed to the charge of said asylum or be entrusted to them by reason of the death or desertion of said boys; that pursuant to said object, secular education in the ordinary branches of a common school education has been furnished to the inmates in charge of said corporation."

"That since 1864, or thereabouts, as deponent is informed and believes, the city of Rochester and board of education thereof have contributed to said corporation for the purpose of said secular education furnished to said orphans correspondents to and is the same as that furnished to children of like age in the public schools of the city of Rochester, the same system of grades, the same course of study, the same text books, the same examinations and the same hours of study being submitted to and made use of in the secular education of the inmates of said asylum; that the rule and regulation of said corporation and deponent's personal instruction to the sisters and teachers in charge of said asylum is that no denominational tenet or doctrine be taught in said secular

school during the hours of school prescribed by the rules and regulations of the Board of Education of the city of Rochester; that since 1895 the said asylum has been under visitation by, and all of its inmates have been received in accordance with, the rules and regulations laid down by the State Board of Charities of the State of New York, and from year to year since 1895, the said asylum has been in receipt of an annual certificate, issued by said State Board of Charities, certifying that it has conformed in all ways to the rules and regulations of said state board, and that all of its inmates have been received and retained therein pursuant to the rules established by the State Board of Charities.

"That, as deponent is informed and believes, all of the teachers engaged in the secular education of the inmates of said asylum have been so engaged under the direction of the Board of Education of the city of Rochester and in its employ for long periods of time, to wit: The said Sister Mary Leonie for the continuous period of thirteen years last past; the said Sister Adrian for the continuous period of eleven years last past; the said Sister Cassimir for the continuous period of eight years last past, and the said Sister Gerard for upwards of three years last past. That all of said teachers are educated and experienced teachers, competent and capable to impart the instruction prescribed by the Board of Education of the city of Rochester to children of the age of those now in said asylum; that the inmates of said asylum, who are sufficiently advanced in secular learning, take the system of examinations prescribed for the schools throughout the State of New York by the State Board of Regents at Albany, and the results of said examinations show that said inmates have acquired the necessary proficiency in the branches under examination to enable them to successfully pass the standards laid down by said State Board of Regents."

"That the St. Mary's Boys' Orphan Asylum is not a school or institution of learning as described in section 4 of article 9 of the Constitution of the State of New York, but is an orphan asylum and a home for dependent children as is described in section 14 of article 8 thereof; nor does the St. Mary's Boys' Orphan Asylum maintain a school and institution of learning within the meaning of said section 4 of article 9 of the constitution, nor is it its intention or purpose to maintain and conduct such school and institution of learning, but always in the future as in the past it is its object, purpose and intention to maintain an orphan asylum for orphan, indigent and destitute boys."

"That the certificate of incorporation of said St. Mary's Boys' Orphan Asylum is produced here in court and deponent desires that the same shall be read and considered in connection with this motion; that the said asylum has no regular income, but is dependent upon voluntary offerings for its support, together with such sums as are paid for the support and maintenance of such of its inmates as are charges upon the city of Rochester by said city of Rochester, and upon the amounts paid monthly by the Board of Education of the city of Rochester for the secular education of such inmates; that the deprivation of this sum is a great embarrassment to said school, as necessarily its items of expenditure are made to correspond with its expected income, and this temporary injunction imposes a great hardship, and one which said asylum can ill afford to bear."

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Bernard J. McQuaid, sworn to before me this 24th day of May, 1901. F. P. Kimball, Commissioner of Deeds.

MEMORIAL MASS.
The Knights of Columbus Honor Their Departed Brothers.

Members of Rochester council, Knights of Columbus, honored the memory of the deceased members of the order by attending a solemn memorial high mass at the cathedral on Thursday morning at 8 o'clock. Rev. Father Hickey said the mass. These knights have passed away since the council was instituted: James O'Barry, Andrew E. Sabell, Joseph Fleckenstein, Bernard F. Smith, John T. O'Brien, Martin J. Callahan, and Thomas McCormick.

A meeting of the Perpetual Help Society was held at St. Mary's Hospital Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. John C. King, Mrs. George W. Wadsworth, Mrs. Phoebe Hale and Mrs. Thomas E. Brannigan were present.

FIVE MINUTE SERMON.

SHORT INSTRUCTIONS OF THE HOLY GHOST BY A REVEREND FATHER.

Gospel.—St. Matt. xxv. 13-26.
The Disciples are Commissioned to Preach.

The principal works of mercy commanded in this gospel are, first, to not judge others; secondly, the second is not to condemn him who has sinned; the third is to pardon him who has offended us; and the fourth is to give alms, or in other words, help those who need our help.

The Holy Ghost tells us not to trouble ourselves with things that do not concern us. If, therefore, our neighbor does something that is not praiseworthy, as long as it does not interfere with our affairs and our conscience, clearly commands us to stand our eyes and not to take notice of it. Charity much more forbids us to judge our neighbor's actions upon grounds that are insufficient and more dangerous than real. Hence Christ in the passage of the gospel commands us not to judge rashly of our neighbors' actions that is without having positive reasons. However, let us reflect that if, judging from appearances, the conduct of our neighbor is not praiseworthy, then we can and should be on our guard and avoid intercourse with him, so that our reputation and conscience may not suffer.

If we close our eyes in order not to see the faults of our neighbor, God will mercifully close His eyes to ours. If we do not judge, but rather have compassion on others, God will not judge us; He will compassionate our faults. If we pardon our neighbor, God will pardon us; and if we give charity to the needy, God will give us the treasures of His grace. In all we treat our neighbor God will treat us with the difference, however, we do good to others as much as our power is limited, whereas God favors us with a power that is infinite and with a generosity altogether His own.

AT THE PAN-AMERICAN EXHIBITION.

The Midway and Main Buildings Located on the Midway adjacent to the American Exhibition will contain the most complete collection of the great war relics now famous "Battle of Mission Ridge." The great battle painting, 60 feet high and 300 feet in diameter, is more than the other canvases which constitute the jolly of panoramas, for it is not only a vast painted surface, but a plastic foreground of marvellous execution, over which is spread a series of chaotic disorder, the immediate great warring hosts.

Once upon the battle scene, it is hard to conceive that you are not left the busy Midway with its jingling merry men of nations, and on the top of Tennessee's great battle range.

The scene before you is the last of those things which November, 1863, which, with the smiling of the Confederates, the line of battle on November 23d, the capture from rebel forces of Lookout Mountain, Tuesday, the 24th, and the capture of Mission Ridge, by the Union forces, under the invincible leadership of the indomitable Grant on Wednesday, 25th.

This splendid assault from the Federal line of battle was made in one hour and five minutes, but it was that fateful November afternoon, the day of the battle of Mission Ridge.

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