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PEARL OF THE OAKS.

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BY MARY ROWENA COTTER.

(Continued from last week.)

PART THIRD.

XII.

The elder Joseph Montague had lost his life at Gettysburg, and a large fortune, which among other things included a flourishing dry goods establishment in Detroit was divided equally between his nephew and niece. The young people would have gone housekeeping in that city at once had it not been for Helen's poor health which had been the result of overwork in school. As soon as the estate was settled, and Joseph was able to leave his business, he started to take his sister to Florida to spend the winter, with hopes of her regaining her strength. On their way they stopped at Glendale intending to remain but a day or two. Only long enough to see where her dear brother had come so near losing his life and to make the acquaintance of the Southern girl who saved him. From what he had told her she loved Gertrude long before she saw her and when she had the happiness of becoming well acquainted with her she was not disappointed.

As soon as an opportunity presented itself Joseph said to Mr. and Mrs. Levimore, "I have an apology to make. Since my last visit to Glendale I have often looked back with a feeling akin to remorse when I remembered how I, an entire stranger, permitted myself to be cared for three weeks by your young daughter without the knowledge of even her mother; worse still I exacted from her a promise never to tell of me until the war was over. I felt at the time I was not doing quite right and my remorse was deepened when in imagination, I placed my dear Helen in the same position; but it seems as if I were surrounded by spies on every side and I was continually in mortal fear of being taken prisoner. The weakened state to which my wound had reduced me increased my nervousness; but let me assure you I meant the young lady no harm, and while in her company I tried to imagine that it was my own sister, Helen, who was ministering to my wants. Even when I was miles away, I was tempted to return and free her from her promise but dared not. Can you, her parents, forgive me now the wrong I did your daughter?"

"Under these circumstances, I will," said Mr. Levimore, "but I assure you had I known on my return to my regiment after my daughter's funeral I was leaving a blue coat in my own barn, it would have gone hard with you."

"It would have been but just; but it is all over now and I hope that we shall hereafter be friends."

"We will," said the colonel, and extending his left hand he firmly clasped in true friendship the hand which but a few months before might have been raised to take his life. Mrs. Levimore's interest in the motherless young lady was so deep that she would not hear of her continuing her journey as soon as they had intended, and she gave the young people a pressing invitation to remain for several days. Mr. Levimore learned that it had been a great inconvenience to Joseph to leave his business, and nothing but solicitude for his sister's health could have prompted him to do it. The young lady was already showing signs of improvement and a pressing invitation was extended to her to remain until Christmas while her brother was to go back to his store.

"You need not be afraid to trust her with us," said Mrs. Levimore, "for we will take as good care of her as if she were our own daughter."

"I assure you I am not," said Joseph, "for the mother of a young lady who once saved an enemy's life could not be otherwise than kind to my sister and I cannot find words to tell you how much I appreciate your offer."

Helen was left alone at Glendale and on Christmas eve her brother, who had left his business in good hands so that he could remain away for several weeks, came to take her to Florida. When he saw the glow of health on her face he knew there was little need of it, but he had promised her the trip and she should have it.

These Christmas holidays would have been most happy were it not for one thing; no tiding, as yet, had come from James and by all but his father he was mourned as dead. Mr. Levi-

more still kept his counsel, but it made the separation no less bitter now, he fully realized the meaning of the words: "The time may come when you will wish to see your son and you cannot have him."

After New Year's the guests took their departure and at the earnest request of Helen, Gertrude was allowed to accompany them. Mr. and Mrs. Levimore knew well what the result would be, but Joseph had proved himself so true a gentleman and devoted a brother that they were no longer afraid to trust their daughter in his company; and they were not surprised, when on the return of the travelers in the early spring, the young gentleman asked for Gertrude's hand in marriage. The parents did not object, but they insisted upon the young people's waiting for two or three years until, as Mrs. Levimore said, they would be old enough to understand better the sacred duties upon which they were to enter. It seemed a long time to Joseph, but he was content to wait if in the end he might have his dear Gertrude.

The three years of probation were over and Glendale was thronged with brilliant guests who had come to attend the wedding. None were more welcome than Lord and Lady Saxon and their daughter who had come from Ireland to see Gertrude married, as well as to make the acquaintance of those among whom Irene had been brought up. They had intended to remain at the home of the bride-elect, but Frank Tones insisted upon his Melissa's spending most of her time at her old home where he was leading a lonely life; so for a few happy weeks Irene as she was now called, reigned as mistress of the Oaks, while her parents were her guests. The wedding was a grand affair, and to Lord Saxon's daughter was given the honor of being first bride's maid. After it was over the tourists went on an extended western trip and on their way back to New York stopped for a few days in Detroit where they were royally entertained by Mrs. Montague and her sister-in-law in their beautiful new home.

In New York Irene found Hugh O'Neil's widow living in obscurity; and almost in poverty, toiling hard with her needle in order to support herself and daughter. Hugh had returned to her immediately after seeing Irene in her own home, but after all the suffering he had caused her he would only be reminding her of the past by remaining with her so he soon enlisted. "After the war is over," he said, "if you wish to take me back, I may return," but it was not long ere a message came saying that he was dead, and her father dying soon after she was now all alone with her little girl. Our heroine was deeply touched to see the state of poverty to which the once wealthy woman had been reduced and she wished to help her to better her condition.

After the downfall of slavery Frank Tones had retained many of his people to whom he paid good wages; but since Aunt Dora's death it seemed that there was no one who could please him as a housekeeper. Meg might have filled the place well, but as if in atonement for the past, Mr. Levimore had given Jack a pleasant little home of his own and Meg, with many apologies to Master Frank whom she otherwise would not have left, went to be mistress of it. She felt that she had all she could do in attending to her own household duties and caring for Jack and their increasing family. Mr. Tones had told Melissa that he had at last decided to hire a good middle-aged white woman to look after his household affairs; and Mrs. O'Neil, she thought would be a proper person. Through her influence the widow and her child were soon established at the Oaks and their days of privation and poverty were over.

In a letter to Melissa, several weeks later, Frank wrote, "I am very much pleased with the housekeeper you sent me and had I traveled the whole country through I do not think I could have done better. She is a perfect well-bred lady, fit to grace any parlor, but she never shrinks from duty; and as for her little girl, when our Melissa left me it seemed as if I could never find another to fill her place; but please do not be jealous and think that my love for you is growing cold if I tell you that our little Rachael is daily growing more and more dear to me. I do not know why it is unless because she reminds me a great deal of my little gypsy girl."

Melissa was greatly pleased over the good news and she was not surprised when two years later she learned

that the Oaks had another mistress. Frank Tones's third marriage, like his first had been a marriage filled with pure and holy love but this time he was almost at a loss to know which he loved more the woman he made his wife or the child his daughter. The union was a most happy one for both parties having experienced the sadness of an unhappy marriage, knew how to fully appreciate and enjoy the blessings of having two kindred souls united.

There is a mistaken idea which worldlings too often entertain that the young lady, especially if she be a person of wealth and high position who shows any marked inclination to piety combined with a distaste for gentlemen's company is destined to lead a religious life, and such was the idea which many had in regard to our young heroine. True, Lord Saxon's beautiful home was often thrown open to admit guests who were always welcome; but the round of brilliant, social gaieties which almost made a public ball room of the home of other noblemen was unknown here. The lord and his invalid lady having lived so many years without the society of young people had cared little for company, and Irene on her return having tired of the gay life Bonnie Tones had forced upon her, was too happy in the sanctuary of her own dear home to care to be continually molested by strangers. I do not mean to say that she wished to shut herself up entirely, from society, for many was the pleasant party in the neighborhood, as well as in her own home, where she was considered a belle. The interest of her friends had been greatly deepened by the strange story of her life, and many admired the free hearted, easy manner which they thought she had learned in the gypsy camp and the wilds of Kentucky. Spitors, she had many. She might have married well shortly after she came home, but she mildly but firmly repulsed them all. This, together with the fact that she attended Mass daily, received holy communion on every Sunday and holy day, besides spending much of her time among the poor, conveyed the idea that Lord Saxon's only child intended to become a religious.

"It is too bad," said many of the worldly-wise, who thought more of her wealth than of her eternal salvation, "that such a noble family should end in the convent and all of those grand estates be distributed among the ignorant poor or go to the church which has money enough." In Irene's mind there were no such thoughts. She was happy to divide with the poor, and she greatly admired the life of the noble religious who had given up all for the richer rewards of eternity; but she knew well that such vocations came from Heaven and are given to but a chosen few; and that few are not, as too many blindly suppose, those who being disappointed in earthly love seek to hide their broken hearts in a cloister. Such are not wanted in the convent, but the pure hearts which are to be entirely consecrated to Him whose spouse they are to become.

Had Irene never met James Levimore, or had he gone away without telling her of his love she might have married another; but here was a heart that once having been given could never be freely bestowed upon another. It had now been ten years since she had last seen him, and from the frequent letters she received from his sisters she knew that he had never been heard from. His own family, with the exception of his father who still kept his secret, had long since mourned him as dead, and he feared that he had sent his only son away to death; but something in the girl's heart told her that her lover still lived and she continued to watch and pray for his return.

"Irene," said Lady Saxon one day as they sat alone in her mother's room, "your father and I are growing old and we would like to see you have a protector before we die."

"You are not old, and I hope you may both live to enjoy many years with me yet, so please do not speak of that."

"Life is uncertain, my dear, and though you are still young, your own years are gliding away as well as ours and we would like to see you married."

"Married, mother dear, it would be a great injustice both to myself and my husband to give my hand without my heart."

"You are doing yourself a great wrong, my dear child, in thus mourning your life away for one who is undoubtedly dead long ago."

(To be continued.)

REV. JAMES T. DOUGHERTY ASSIGNED TO AVON-OUTLINE OF HIS GOOD WORK IN DANVILLE

A Zealous Priest, Devoted to his Sacred Calling and a Successful Executive.

Rev. James T. Dougherty, who has recently been appointed rector of St. Agnes' church, Avon, was ordained in Troy, Oct. 28, 1887.

After ordination he spent six months at the Cathedral, then was temporary rector at Honeoye Falls and East Rush, six months; two years assistant at St. Mary's, Auburn; three years pastor of Stanley and Rushville, and eight years at St. Patrick's, Danville. During his pastorate at Danville he has paid-off the church debt of \$1000 and made \$5000 improvements—rebuilt the convent, purchased the cemetery, added new windows and stations and new heating systems to church and parochial residence—and leaves the parish in excellent condition with but \$200 debt; \$100 on cemetery and \$150 due teachers. Out of his small salary he has generously contributed \$100 each year to St. Patrick's church. He organized the Aloysian

spones to the several gifts, briefly reviewing his happy work in a pleasant field of labor in which he should ever hold prayerful interest.

A. O. Bunnell followed in earnest endorsement of all the good words said of Father Dougherty by the other speakers in presentation of gifts, and added some words as to his broad creed of charity for all and his successful efforts toward the fraternizing of people of all creeds.

Then the Children of Mary served ice cream and cake, and a period of personal congratulations and farewells followed which extended far into the night.

CAN PARCELS POST BE MADE TO PAY?

Whenever the question of introducing Parcels Post into this country is raised, either in the House of Congress, through the columns of the public press, or upon the public platform, it meets with opposition on the alleged ground that it will prove to be an additional expense to an already overburdened postal system. As a matter of fact, it is rather hard to conjecture why the postal system of the



Reading circle, the Bible class and the Cadets of the Sacred Heart and has done much efficient work in the parochial school. In 1894 he built a new church at Groveland, added statues and leaves that mission unencumbered by debt. The Danville Advertiser pays the following tribute to Father Dougherty's sterling worth: "Father Dougherty has also been prominently interested in temperance work and the moral and literary advancement of the community. He is highly esteemed and beloved by all Danvillians, irrespective of creed, for his nobleness of character and unbounded charity. Gentle, patient and kind toward the weak and erring, and with gracious affection for his spiritual children, this ideal priest and man has endeared himself to the people of Danville who, deeply regretting his departure, wish him God speed and a successful career in his new field of labor."

At the formal leaving of Father Dougherty, Miss Belle Byron read a tender and thoughtful farewell address to "Our dear Pastor" and presented an onyx stand on behalf of the school. Dr. J. Andrew Jackson in earnest and feeling speech told what a shock it was to him and to this entire community to hear of the removal of Father Dougherty, enumerated some of his many good deeds to advance the highest interests of Danville, and closed by presenting as a slight token of esteem and love a purse of \$175 made up as follows: Congregation, \$150; Jackson Sanatorium, \$25; Mrs. Mannin on behalf of the Rosary and Altar society, \$30; Children of Mary, \$20; Michael Driscoll on behalf of the Ancient Order Hibernians, a Morris chair and couch; Mrs. Daniel Driscoll, on behalf of the L. C. B. A., a half-dozen each silver teaspoons and forks; Bible class, Ave Roma Immortalis by Marion Crawford in two volumes.

With brave control of his emotions, Father Dougherty made eloquent re-

United States, in these days of rapid transit and improved methods, cannot be run on a paying basis as easily as can those of European countries, where the labor is not so skilled, and where American ingenuity in labor-saving devices has not been brought into play as it has in the United States.

Takes for instance the German Postal system. It is run on a paying basis. Not only does it meet its own expenses, but, including its generous Parcels Post system, in its work of last year it paid into the German Treasury a surplus of 51,844,870 marks, or an equivalent of \$13,443,768.00.

If Germany can make her postal system not only self-sustaining, but actually profit paying, notwithstanding the fact that it includes a liberal Parcels Post system, is it reasonable to suppose that the United States Government, with the bright intelligence of American citizens which of course include all our merchant manufacturers and inventors, at its back, cannot give the same beneficial results to this country?

It is not a question of whether it properly conducted, the system will pay the United States. It is, rather, a question of whether the Postal authorities having the matter in charge can be induced to allow free-born Americans to enjoy as fair, reasonable, cheap and reliable Parcels Post service as is enjoyed by the subject of the various European countries.

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR.

Sunday, July 21, 1901.—Gospel, St. Luke xvi. 1-9.—St. Praxedes, virgin.
Monday, 22.—St. Mary Magdalen, penitent.
Tuesday, 23.—St. Apollonia, martyr.
Wednesday, 24.—St. Francis Solano, confessor.
Thursday, 25.—St. James, apostle.
Friday, 26.—St. Ann, Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Saturday, 27.—St. Piousness, martyr.

Patronize our advertisements.

FIVE MINUTE SERMON.

SHORT INSTRUCTIONS OF THE GOSPEL.

PRELUDING A REVEREND FATHER.

Gospel.—St. Luke xvi. 1-9.—The Parable of the Unjust Steward. With this parable Christ intended to rebuke the avarice of the Pharisees who made bad use of their worldly goods; and besides, He advised us to make good use of riches, especially when they have been acquired by violating in some manner the law of God and by offending the Divine Majesty.

This man, as you see, had the management of a large estate, and as this was not his, but his master's property, he had no right whatever to do with it as he pleased, to squander or squander it, and for this reason he was accused of being an unfaithful servant and was dismissed. Now this steward is a figure of ourselves, who are the administrators of the treasure which God, the Author of all good, has confided to our care. Life, health, talent, beauty, nobility, riches, all that we have, are so many trusts that God has placed in our hands, which we are to manage for our benefit, but only in the manner prescribed by Him, and not otherwise. Whenever, therefore, we make a different use of them, we are guilty before God of maladministration and of unfaithfulness, like the servant in the gospel. Alas! What use have we so far made of so many good things which we have received from God? What have we done with our worldly goods, with our health, with our talents?

CAPE CANON'S TRAINED ANIMALS.

Wonderful Act of the Trained, Wild Beasts of Africa.

Of all the animals of the animal kingdom the lion and the tiger are the most vicious, ferocious and terrible, but a troupe of these wild beasts, rendered as tame and docile as ordinary carriage horses by the training of the great French hunter, the late Baroness de Bunsen, are now exhibiting in the city of Buffalo, N. Y. The animals were trained by the late Baroness de Bunsen, who was the first to introduce such a system of training, and it has become the custom of the leading nations of the world to follow her example.

The Shrine of St. Anne.

This remarkable Shrine, St. Anne de Beaupre, with its numerous cures, situated near the town of Quebec, may be visited by excursion on Tuesday, July 23, at 9:30 a. m., returning on Wednesday, July 24, at 9:30 a. m. Tickets for the Shrine of St. Anne, Quebec, and back to Montreal, \$1.00. Tickets for the Shrine of St. Anne, Quebec, and back to Montreal, \$1.00. Tickets for the Shrine of St. Anne, Quebec, and back to Montreal, \$1.00.

KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN.

Annual Feast Day of the Knights of St. John, will be held at the Hotel de Ville, Montreal, on Tuesday, July 23, at 8 p. m.

The annual ball of the Knights of St. John, will be held at the Hotel de Ville, Montreal, on Tuesday, July 23, at 8 p. m. The ball will be given on the occasion of the annual feast of the Knights of St. John, and will be a most successful and enjoyable affair.

This committee is composed of Henry N. Schick, Mayor; Smith, Paymaster; Joseph, Treasurer; Adjutant; George, Sergeant; Marshall; Fred, Quartermaster; Joseph, Chaplain; and Charles, Chaplain. The committee is composed of the following members: Henry N. Schick, Mayor; Smith, Paymaster; Joseph, Treasurer; Adjutant; George, Sergeant; Marshall; Fred, Quartermaster; Joseph, Chaplain; and Charles, Chaplain.

Taken you to the Shrine of St. Anne, Quebec, on Tuesday, July 23, at 9:30 a. m. Tickets for the Shrine of St. Anne, Quebec, and back to Montreal, \$1.00. Tickets for the Shrine of St. Anne, Quebec, and back to Montreal, \$1.00. Tickets for the Shrine of St. Anne, Quebec, and back to Montreal, \$1.00.

Mr. Schick, Mayor.