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Through Thorny Paths.

BY MARY ROWENA COTTER.

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Synopsis of Previous Chapters.

Chapter I.—Edward Daton, of America, while visiting in Ireland, falls in love with Agnes Conlin, a poor Catholic girl. Thomas Conlin, Agnes' cousin, who is soon to be ordained a priest notices a serpent ring on her finger and when told it is her engagement ring he tries to persuade her not to marry this Protestant stranger. She, however, refuses and is married by the priest. The strangers' beautiful home in Boston, Chapter II.—Thomas Conlin is ordained and comes to America as a missionary and arrives at his cousin's home. There he learns that while his cousin has wealth and luxury she was not happy. Her husband had selected a circle in which she was to move and as it was strictly Protestant he said that she might give up her superstitions and become a member of his church. He would not even allow her to attend a Catholic church. She would not gratify him however and insisted that he hear her confession and baptize her little baby son, who had just been born. Father Conlin goes away with his secret. Agnes dies a week after. Mr. Daton marries again, a rich Protestant woman, and his son is brought up a Protestant. When Edward is eight years old his father dies. Chapter III and IV.—Cecelia O'Kane, an orphan, who lives with her sister Nellie, is engaged by Mrs. Daton as companion. Her step-son, Edward, falls in love with this Catholic girl. Cecelia and marries her against the wishes of her step-mother. Chapter V.—Cecelia is married eight years and has three children all of whom die and she Mr. Daton are left childless. Chapter VI.—After a lapse of seven and a half years we find Mr. and Mrs. Daton again happy with a daughter, Cecelia, who is about to celebrate her seventh birthday. Chapter VII.—The husband of Nellie O'Kane, now Mrs. Cullen, dies and she is left a widow with one child, Agnes. Mrs. Daton adopts her niece and brings her up with her own daughter. Chapter VIII and IX.—Cecelia and Agnes are sent to a convent school. The grandmothers are very much opposed to this and reproaches her daughter-in-law. Chapter X.—Mr. Daton is suddenly taken sick and Cecelia is called home from school. Chapter XII.—Cecelia and Agnes graduate and a grand reception is given them. Mrs. Cullen while at her sister's home is taken ill. Cecelia and her grand-mother have a dispute over religion. Chapter XIII.—Mrs. Cullen recovers and remains at Daton's home.

the church, where they had spent a night that was to leave an indelible mark on the minds of all. It was a terrible sight that met their gaze as the sun cast its first rays over the scene of destruction. The smoke-laden air was stifling, and in a narrow line five miles in length might be seen masses of smouldering ruins; the homes of rich and poor alike were gone, and, strange to say, many stately buildings of stone and brick had been completely demolished, while other poor houses of wood had escaped untouched by the flames. The fire had reached the very walls of the church, and where the shop had stood at the rear was only a pile of burned timber and a few stones, which before many weeks completely disappeared, leaving no trace of where the building had once stood. As a strong proof that He who had been exposed on the altar would not forsake His own in the hour of need, the fire had turned an abrupt corner at that point and had gone in an opposite direction.

Many who had retired to rest in peaceful homes the evening before had not wherewith to go for shelter now, and Mrs. Daton and Cecelia believed theirs to be the same fate. They stood at the church door undecided what to do, when Cecelia took courage to glance toward the house. Could it be possible that she saw aright? In the dim morning light she could discern the outline of the structure. Clapping her grandmother's hand she said:

"Come, grandma, let us thank God we have a shelter to go to."

It was true, for the house, as well as several others in the vicinity of the church, was virtually unharmed. Like the church, it had stood in a most dangerous place, and those who had witnessed the playing of the flames among the pillars greatly marveled that it had been saved. The family who had been accustomed to open their doors to only a select circle of friends, entertained a strange company of guests during the next next few days, for rich and poor alike came there to seek shelter until suitable quarters could be provided them elsewhere. It had never seemed before that the house could possibly hold so many. Mrs. Daton would have gone home by the first morning train, but Cecelia insisted on remaining a few days to help the sufferers, and her grandmother would not leave her.

After a most successful tour the "Clintons," whose opera Cecelia had attended at home less than a year before, had returned to the East and were expected in the city three days after the fire. Their advent had been eagerly looked forward to by the society people, but now it was feared they would meet with ill success, until the announcement was made that the entire proceeds of the evening's entertainment was to be given for the benefit of the sufferers. The generous offer met with great applause, and hundreds of tickets were sold not only in the city, but to people of wealth for miles around, some of whom paid fabulous prices, so the Grand Opera House would be almost to small to hold the vast audience expected.

The troupe arrived in the city early in the morning, but there was great uneasiness among them on account of the sudden and severe illness of one of the leading ladies, whose voice would be greatly missed. Worst of all, there was no one who could take her part, and the manager was obliged to seek a substitute for the evening. Some one referred him to Cecelia Daton, and he called on her in the forenoon, asking her if she felt able to take the part, to which she firmly replied in the negative. Her rare beauty and the sound of her sweet voice made him eager to secure her services, and he lingered long, finally asking her to sing for him. Her first impulse was to refuse, but her grandmother, who had entered the room shortly before and was ever ready to show the talents of her favorite to strangers, motioned to her to obey. Cecelia dropped a child's garment on which she had been working and, taking her seat at the piano, sang a simple little ballad she had learned in school.

"Thank you, Mrs. Daton; allow me to compliment you on your fine voice," said the manager; then mentioning a difficult piece from his own opera, he asked her if she had ever heard it.

"Yes, sir," was the reply, "I heard it sung in Boston by a member of your company last winter and admired it very much."

"Perhaps you have learned it and can sing it?" Cecelia colored slightly, but made no reply.

"Yes, she sings it very well," proudly answered Mrs. Daton.

"Would you please do me the favor, Miss Daton, to let me hear it?"

"I have only learned it to sing for my own amusement at home and cannot do justice to it."

"Perhaps you undervalue your own ability. I assure you I will not criticize you unjustly." A look from her grandmother commanded obedience, and, determined to do her best, she returned to the piano and put her whole soul in the words she sang. Success crowned her effort, and so enraptured did she become in the occupation she enjoyed more than anything else in the world that, forgetting for the time that she was in the presence of a stranger, she sang song after song as he called for them. When at last she turned and saw the admiration on his face, she inwardly reproached herself for her impudence and felt like fleeing from the room. Had not her grandmother been present she might have done so.

"Miss Daton," said the visitor, "I have something to tell you which may surprise you. With the exception of one or two unimportant items you have most beautifully rendered not only the part I wished you to take this evening, but several others. The lady in whose place I am looking for a substitute could not have done better."

Mrs. Daton smiled proudly, but the color deepened on Cecelia's face and her eyes fell to studying the figures on the carpet.

For fully five minutes the manager sat in silence, for he had found a prize which he was determined not to let slip through his fingers. Penetrating the veil of modest reserve, he knew she would be a hard character to conquer. He admired her the more for it. At length he said:

"Where, may I ask, Miss Daton, did you receive your musical education?"

She told him the name of the convent, to which he replied that the nuns were certainly deserving of great credit and might justly be proud of having sent forth so talented a graduate; then finally his conversation returned to the object of his call, and he asked her again to assist him that evening.

"I am sorry to disappoint you, but I cannot think of appearing before the public. I fear my parents would not like it."

"I see no reason why they should object, especially for so good a cause, but this lady here, your grandmother, I understand, is your guardian at present, and she ought to be able to speak in the name of your parents."

Cecelia turned to her grandmother, as for protection, but the lady replied: "My granddaughter may do as she likes, but I see no reason why her parents should object to her giving her services for one evening for so worthy an object of charity."

"Would it be any great loss to have that one place vacant?" asked Cecelia.

"Yes, a very great loss; it would spoil the entire programme, and we were seldom more anxious to have our opera a success. If you promise to take the part, I will pay you any price you may ask."

"Money is no object to me. I have plenty and would not sing for that, much less would I think of taking what should be given to those who are homeless to-day. I will sing just this once for charity, and that alone."

"You are a noble woman," said the manager, as, after having completed a few necessary arrangements, he was about to depart.

"Grandma, have I done wrong?" Cecelia asked, when he was gone. "I am almost sorry I promised, and if you think it was not right, I shall send him a note in time to get some one else to take the part."

"You will do no such a thing, Cecelia. I am only too proud of the honor conferred upon you. To be recognized by the Clintons is a great thing."

"I know it, grandma; but I dread to appear in public and among strangers, too. I almost wish I had refused."

"Fear not, Cecelia; it is perfectly proper and you should be only too happy to have so splendid an opportunity of helping in a work of charity."

"You will accompany me, grandma?"

"Certainly, Cecelia, and I'll remain

at your side every moment excepting when you appear on the stage."

"Grandma, you are so kind," and in perfect reassurance Cecelia put away her work and went out. Never for a moment did she suspect that her grandmother's underlying motives consisted of only a proud ambition to see her put before the public and admired.

The pleasant path where the girl had loved to stroll only a few days before were desolate now and only one place gave her a welcome—the church, which still stood unharmed by the flames, and there she went, as she had been accustomed when at home to go to her dear grove when in trouble. All was silent now, and with the exception of two or three devout persons who had dropped in for a visit she was alone, alone to think of the great miracle she had witnessed and of the work she had so reluctantly promised to do this evening. She had been there half an hour or perhaps longer when her devotions were interrupted by her grandmother, who announced that luncheon was awaiting, and she must hurry so as to be ready to go to the theatre for the afternoon rehearsal.

The manner in which Cecelia acquiesced herself in the evening betrayed only to the experienced theatre goer the fact that she was an amateur. If the deep blush of embarrassment which had mantled her face when she first confronted the vast audience was noticed, the melodious tones of her voice caused it to be soon forgotten, and the sight of her grandmother's smiling face in the box nearest the stage helped keep up her courage. She was happy in the belief that with the exception of a few acquaintances none knew who she was, but the grateful manager would not have it remain thus.

Just before the close of the entertainment, in speaking a few words of thanks to those who had generously helped make the proceeds among the largest ever realized in a single evening, he also took occasion to state that the success of the entertainment had been largely due to the kind assistance of Miss Cecelia Daton, one of Boston's leading society ladies, who had taken the place of the prima donna, who was ill. Cecelia having finished her part, had just taken her place in the box, and many eyes were turned upon her as hearty and deafening applause arose. She made an effort to draw back and hide herself behind the silken curtains, but she was prevented by her grandmother, who firmly held her hand.

It was a moment of supreme triumph for Mrs. Daton whose only regret was for the absence of Cecelia's parents and Boston friends, but to Cecelia it was a moment of deep embarrassment, and she was glad when all was over.

CHAPTER XVI.

Amongst the work of charity the cousins had taken upon themselves was to accompany the good Sisters who assisted at Mass in the prison chapel and sing during the Holy Sacrifice. To Cecelia it was a most pleasant occupation, though she could never leave the place without a feeling of sadness and deep sympathy for those whom crime had brought there. Sometimes in company with her cousin, sometimes with the Sisters, or alone, she would linger for hours, going from one cell or ward to another, cheering the suffering and sad-hearted, and many who had never seen the better side of life felt in her presence that the world was not all as hard as they had pictured it. She soon came to be known as an angel of mercy, and her coming was eagerly looked for, even among the most hardened.

Young as she was, Cecelia's visit to this desolate place taught her many a deep lesson which could never have been learned from books. When on leaving school the girls had been asked to assist in the work at the prison, they had both readily taken it up as a novelty. Agnes was of too light a character to have what she saw produce much effect upon her, and she simply looked upon the inmates of the prison as a class of men and women who were being rightly punished for crimes they had no right to commit, and she took little more thought of the matter, excepting to hope that they might be brought to repentance and learn to do better. Very much the same was it with Cecelia in the beginning, but she would not be content until she had learned many of the secrets underlying those broken lives, and slowly but surely she awoke to the fact that many of the worst criminals were not so wholly on account of the evil in their own nature, but through had influences brought to bear upon them, some from the evil effects of their early home training, others from the bad example of those

who perhaps held themselves up as models of perfection before the refined society the poor culprit dared not enter (To be continued.)

BISHOP FARLEY CHOSEN.

NAMED AS FIRST CHOICE FOR ARCHBISHOP.

Bishop McGuaid of Rochester Presided at the Meeting of the Irremovable Rectors—Bishop McDonnell Named as Second Choice and Vicar General Mooney Third.

New York.—By unanimous vote the irremovable rectors and consultors of the archdiocese of New York Thursday named Rt. Rev. John M. Farley as their first choice to succeed the late Archbishop Corrigan.



RT. REV. JOHN M. FARLEY.

That the diocese was for Bishop Farley and that the priests would head their list with his name has been known since a day or two after the death of Archbishop Corrigan.

The meeting was held in the room at Madison Avenue and Eleventh Street. Bishop McGuaid of Rochester presided, by virtue of his rank as the senior bishop of the province, Bishop Farley, who was entitled to a vote, was not in attendance at the session.

Voting was by ballot. After the unanimous vote for Bishop Farley as dignitarius had been recorded, a ballot was taken which chose both Bishop McDonnell of Brooklyn as dignior and Vicar General Mooney as dignus. If any other names were voted on for dignior or dignus that fact could not be learned.

This is but the first step in the selection of a candidate. The three names selected will be submitted to the bishops of the province, who will pass upon them and, if they choose, add three more of their own selection. These names will then be turned over to the conclaves of archbishops of the United States, who will pass upon the names, and, if they choose, submit three more. All will then be sent to Rome. It will not be obligatory upon the pope to name a man mentioned by the American prelates. It is highly possible, however, that he will, since that would be consistent with his home rule policy.

The Bishops of the province will meet in New York in the week beginning June 3.

If You Want To Spend Decoration Day Away From Home Here Is Your Opportunity.

The New York Central offers for this occasion the following excursions: Buffalo and Niagara Falls and return \$1.25; Watkins Glen and return \$1.50; Adirondack M. resorts on the Adirondack Division \$1.00 more than the regular one-way rate for tickets for the round-trip. (These tickets are sold on Thursday, 29th, and give one an opportunity of spending Decoration Day, Saturday and Sunday in the mountains as they are good returning until Monday, June 2nd.) Clayton and Alexandria Bay, \$1.00 more than single fare for the round-trip excursion tickets good returning until Monday, June 2nd inclusive giving patrons an opportunity of spending Decoration Day and Sunday at the Thousand Island resorts. (These tickets are sold and good going only on Thursday, May 29th.)

No Excuse Fare

Charged on Nickel Plate train. Equipment consists of finest coaches and Pullman, also dining cars serving Individual Club meals at 25c to \$1.00 also meals a la carte; colored attendants look after comfort of all classes of passengers; rates lower than on other lines. Many special excursions to points all through the West during this summer. No money agent or writer. F. J. Moore, Gen'l Agt. 281 Main St. Buffalo, N. Y.

The list of the annual musical lectures was given at the annual day evening and took the form of a musical lecture.

"Let Us Forget," an address on the religious-social movement of the Philippine Islands by William Marackie, Albany correspondent of the Post-Express, was the principal feature of the evening.

Mr. Marackie has given much attention to religious matters pertaining to the Friars, and placed the much discussed subject before the auditors in an unbiased, clear and forcible manner.

Besides Mr. Marackie's lecture a program containing excellent musical and literary talent was given.

WALLACE CIRCUS CROWDS.

The great Wallace Circus which will be in Rochester on next Friday, May 30th, has been doing phenomenal business this season. Most of the places it visits have been visited by the Wallace Show almost annually, and it is because of the familiarity of the public with the excellence of the Wallace Circus that such great crowds attend it. Under the circumstances liberal patronage is the highest possible commendation for this show.

The real worth and merit of the Great Wallace Show have taken hold upon the public that it is nothing can restrain people from attending its performances. It is a common thing for this show to play in crowded tents every day, and nothing unusual for it to turn thousands of people away from ten of the tents every week.

We clipped the following paragraph from the Ohio State Journal, Columbus, Ohio: "Columbus circus weather Friday, and the Wallace Show gave the ideal circus entertainment of the year. The verdict of the thousands who had the pleasure of watching exhibitions in the afternoon is that the Wallace Show is the front rank of first-class entertainments, and as an amusement-loving public the merit is a claim by right."

At the afternoon performance a big tent was filled to its capacity, all records were broken as the exhibition. The circus was so busy that it became necessary to close doors 30 minutes before the performance began, and fully 4,000 were refused admission. The large crowd was greatly pleased by the performance was shown the hearty applause which greeted the number on the program.

The Great Wallace Show has two performances at the Devotion on Decoration Day and its parade will take place at 10 o'clock.

C. E. B. A. Council 45, are to hold party June 11th.

Excursions to San Francisco May 28 to June 7. The Plaza will sell special round-trip tickets to Buffalo, N. Y. to San Francisco, Portland and return, at rate of \$10.00 to other points, bearing return sixty days. See nearest agent, F. J. Moore, Gen'l Agt. 281 St. Buffalo, N. Y.

Life of Matthews

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Wagon

Invitations going up must be office at reasonable prices, please send out the money at once so we can get our office.

Spring News

Assemblyman Corbin's report, has been the subject of much of the talk in the city. All the news and editorial writers have written for him, and he has been the subject of much of the talk in the city for the past few days.