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Through Whorny 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 her engagement and tries to persuade her not to marry this Protestant stranger. She, however, refuses and is married by the parish priest after which they depart for the strangers beautiful home in Boston Chapter II—Thomas Conlin is ordained and comes of 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 the Catholic church. She would not attend to the Catholic church. She would not, gratefully however and when Father Conlin arrived she 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 VI—Cecelia, the orphan who lives with her step-mother, is engaged by Mrs. Daton's companion. Her step-son, Edward falls in love with this Catholic girl, Cecelia, and marries her against the wishes of his step-mother. Chapter V—Cecelia is married eight years and has three children all of whom die and she and Mr. Daton are left childless. Chapter VII—After a lapse of seven and a half years we find Mr. and Mrs. Daton again happy with their daughter, Cecelia, who is about to celebrate her seventh birthday. Chapter VIII—The husband of Nellie O'Kane now Mrs. Cullen, dies and she is left a widow with one child, Agnes. Mr. Daton adopts her niece and brings her up with her own daughter. Chapter IX and X—Cecelia and Agnes are sent to a convent school. The grandmother is very much opposed to this and reproaches her daughter-in-law. Chapter XI—Mr. Daton is suddenly taken sick and Cecelia is called home from school. Cecelia, and her sister, give them a grand reception and a grand reception is given to them. Chapter XII—Cecelia and Agnes graduate and a grand reception is given to them. Mrs. Cullen while at grandmother's home, a dispute over religion Chapter XIII—Mrs. Cullen recovers and remains at Daton's home. Chapter XIV—Cecelia tells her mother that she intends entering the convent and becoming a nun. After a dispute she promises to remain at home one more year. Chapter XV—Cecelia and her grandmother are visiting in a distant city when a terrible fire breaks out making many homeless. Chapter XVI—Cecelia visits the prisoner, Charles Conlin, who started the fire. Chapter XVII—Grandmother Daton tells her grand-daughter that she has been convinced that the Catholic church is the only true church and Mrs. Daton becomes a convert.

(Continued from last week.)

PART FIRST.

CHAPTER XVIII.

"There is nothing you can do, child; but in your lack of ability to assist me I appreciate your good intentions none the less."

"Then it is really so that you are worrying about something?"

"Why ask such a question, my child, after I have assured you it is not in your power to aid me?"

"Papa, please tell me has grandma's conversion to the Catholic Church anything to do with what appears to be making you unhappy?"

At this question, which sounded so absurd to the man of the world, Mr. Daton laughed heartily, and it did Cecelia good, for it not only assured her that she had made a mistake, but it sounded more like her father's old.

"Child, so long as the members of my household live up to their principles, whatever they may be, it matters little to me what church they may attend. My mother has a perfect right to do as she likes, and perhaps, after all, it is better to have you all attending one church."

"You are right, papa; but do you not think it would be far better still if you, too, were a member of our Church?"

"Perhaps so, Cecelia," he replied, unwilling to disagree with her who was far more to him than life itself; "but I have no time to attend to that I have no time to be troubled with church affairs."

"Papa," she said, reproachfully, "papa, you do not, you cannot mean it. You have a soul to save as well as the rest of us and should take time to think of your salvation."

"Cecelia, has your father ever by word or example done anything that you would consider unworthy of a Christian?"

"I did not mean it in that way, papa, for you have ever been in your own home and also in your dealings with others all that a true Christian should be, and I cannot forget your bright example, but it would be untold happiness for me to see your noble life sanctified by the influence of our holy religion, for then in your good works might be found true merit which would bring you a bright reward in heaven."

It was more than Cecelia had ever said to her father before, and she spoke vehemently, her face glowing with the devotion and love of God with which her pure heart overflowed. Her father, in spite of the belief that she was carrying things too far, could not help admiring her. He gazed steadily at her for a few minutes. The light in her dark eyes seemed to be growing brighter and more heavenly, but it moved him not.

"I am glad, Cecelia, if your religion makes you happy, and I would not have you give it up, but as I told

you before, I have no time to waste on such things, so please do not talk any more on the subject."

The words, kindly meant rather than otherwise, cut Cecelia to her heart's core and it was hard for her to repress her tears. At length she found courage to say:

"Dear father, I hope it will not be long ere you feel differently. I feel now that there is some trouble on your mind and I wish I could help you."

"To see my daughter cheerful and happy is all I ask of her. I must admit that business has caused me some worry of late, and perhaps I do show it in my looks, though I would not if I could help it. But such is the way with many in my position and I trust it will soon all pass over."

"I do not comprehend your meaning, dear father, but I wish I could help you, I would do anything and everything in my power."

"I know you would, Cecelia, and I fully appreciate the kind generosity of your loving heart. You may go now; I have some papers I wish to look over."

"Can I not help you, papa? You look tired."

"No, dear child; I prefer doing it alone."

She was gone from the room now, the light and sunshine of his life, and he sat staring vacantly at the door she had closed behind her, his mind filled with sad thoughts.

"Poor child," he sighed, "how little does she suspect; but I will fight against it and she must not know the truth, for it would break her tender heart. For her sake, if not for the others, I must keep up."

The foregoing conversation had taken place a few days after Grandma's Daton's conversion. With her other multiplied duties, including the demands of society, Cecelia was very busily engaged instructing the convert for her first Communion. In this way the secret troubles of her father, who always tried to appear cheerful in his own home, were forgotten for the time, and if she did think of him it was mostly while at prayer, when she poured out her earnest supplications for his conversion. The Christmas holidays had passed pleasantly and uneventfully, and it was the second week in January when she was called to the parlor, where, to her great surprise, she found her father in company with the manager of the Clinton opera troupe. The man greeted her most kindly, but she met him with a dignified reserve which she had ever been accustomed to show among strangers.

"You may be surprised, Miss Daton," he said, "to receive a call from me in your own home, but you once rendered us valuable assistance, and I have come to ask another favor of you."

"If it is to sing in public, I fear I must decline."

"I deeply regret to have you speak so discouragingly. Our leading prima donna, having completely lost her health, has been forced to resign, and you are the only lady I have ever met who can satisfactorily fill her place."

"I could not think of such a thing."

"You sang for us once, Miss Daton, and most beautifully; will you not try once more?"

"What I did that night was done for charity. Under no other condition would I consent to appear in public."

"If you will but consent to join our troupe for a few weeks you will be well paid."

"Thank you for your kind offer, but I have a good home, where I prefer to remain, and money is no object to me."

"I need not tell you the honor attached to being a member of our troupe."

"I understand it perfectly, but I will say frankly that I do not like the thought of appearing before the public and therefore cannot consent to leave my home." And she gave a sign that the interview was ended.

"Miss Daton, I deeply regret your decision, but I shall not consider it final. I shall call again in two or three days, when you have fully considered the matter."

"My answer is final," she said, "so you need not trouble yourself to call again. There are others in this city who have excellent voices and some of them would be glad to grasp such an opportunity."

"There are, as you say, many who have fine voices, but it would take a long time and much work to train them to fill the place as you once did. Our present necessity is a trained voice like your own, and the lack of such a voice may cause us to lose much of the fame we have acquired."

He was strongly tempted to tell her that her brilliant beauty was also

an important factor, but he was too much of a gentleman for that and also was fully aware that to a modest young woman like herself such a thing would be highly offensive. He admired her the more for her reserve, and he made a secret resolution that if he were to have the good luck of securing her services he would watch over her and protect her as carefully as if she were his own daughter.

"Father," said Cecelia, after the man had gone, "did you know the object of Mr. Karsten's visit before I came down?"

"I did, Cecelia."

"Then why did you allow him to meet me? Did you not know that such a useless interview would be most unpleasant to me?"

Her father was silent for a time and when he spoke his voice was sad, and wholly unlike his own, so that it almost frightened the girl.

"Cecelia, we all have to meet many unpleasant things in this world, and as you are no longer a child, it is time for you to understand it."

"What do you mean, father? I do not comprehend."

"Perhaps you remember the little conversation we had not long ago."

"I do, father; but what has that to do with this?"

"You rightly suspected that I was in trouble, but you did not know the nature of it and I hoped you never should, but I fear it is useless to try to keep my secret longer."

She arose and, crossing the room to where he sat, laid her hand gently on his shoulder.

"Father, what is the meaning of this? Please do tell me, and I promise to do anything in my power to help you."

"Do you really mean that, Cecelia?"

"Mean it! Certainly I do. I should consider myself a most ungrateful daughter after all you have done for me if I did not."

He turned and looked her fully in the face, as if he would read in her eyes the inmost secrets of her heart. Holding both her hands, which were growing hot with fear, he said:

"Do you fully realize, Cecelia, what you have promised?"

"I ought to, father, for, as you told me, I am no longer a child."

"And would you be willing to make a sacrifice for me?"

He felt her hands trembling, but her voice was clear as she said:

"Anything in my power."

"You are a good girl, Cecelia, and perhaps you may be able to help save your father from ruin and keep a home for yourself and parents."

"Father, tell me what you do mean. Something terrible, I am sure."

"Only that I am in great danger of going the way that many a rich man has gone before. I have foolishly invested largely in stocks which are in danger of becoming worthless, and we are in great peril of losing the home which was the pride of my father's early days."

For nearly an hour he talked, explaining everything to her, and many times she was on the verge of tears. For his sake she summoned all her strength to the ordeal, and when he had finished she said:

"Poor, dear papa, I am truly sorry for you. And now, how can I help you?"

"By accepting the offer made you this afternoon."

"What! go on the stage? You cannot mean it."

"Yes, child, I do. It grieves me sadly to think of your engaging in an occupation so distasteful to you, but after you have sung a few evenings you will not mind it so much."

"Is there nothing else? no occupation where I shall not be brought so much before the bold gaze of the public? Oh, father, anything but that I would be not only willing but happy to work hard at home from dawn until dark. But to travel with strangers and be stared at by the public! It is too hard and I cannot do it."

"Cecelia, there would be much difficulty in your getting work to do at home, for there are already too many idle in the city who are looking for such work, and in any event your earnings would be so small to count."

Cecelia bowed her head for a few moments in sad reflection.

"Does mother know of your trouble?" she asked.

"Not yet, Cecelia; I dreaded to tell her because I knew too well what a bitter blow it would be."

"Poor mamma, it will indeed be hard for her, and I wish that it could be kept a secret from her."

"I wish so, too, child, but this evening she must know all. In regard to your going on the stage, the prospect is no more pleasant to me than in yourself. I dread the thought of

being separated from my child, but the hard position in which I am placed compels me to give the matter earliest consideration."

Cecelia could say no more and left her father with a heavy heart. Deep drifts lay around her grotto, so she could not go there with her new sorrow, but on her knees in her own room she gave vent to her feelings in tears and prayers. Within her tender heart a terrible conflict waged between duty to assist her father and her love of retirement. Her tears relieved the tension and through God's grace courage was given her to face whatever might come. It was well for her, for it required all her efforts to console her mother that evening and to prevent her from revealing the secret which they wished to hide as long as possible from the older Mrs. Daton and Agnes.

Mrs. Daton had been absent when Mr. Karsten called and did not learn of his visit until after the other story had been told. In the sad state of her mind it was at first difficult for her to fully appreciate the tribute thus paid to her daughter's talents, but when convinced that the offer had been made without any thought on the manager's part that he was really doing an act of charity, she began to see things in a different light. Her impending loss was forgotten for the hour in the flattery her pride had received in the promise of her daughter winning fame as a singer.

The girl had hoped that her mother might by her persuasions help keep her at home, but when she learned the contrary she was sorely grieved, and it was only after a long confidential talk with her confessor, that she was finally persuaded to make the sacrifice. The good man inwardly dreaded to see so tender a flower of his flock put in so trying a position, but trusting in her virtue to withstand whatever temptation might be thrown in her way, he told her that it might be best to comply with her parent's wishes. He assured her at the same time that if she remained faithful to her religion, as she had ever done in the past, God would watch over her and she had nothing to fear.

It was not many days ere Cecelia took her departure from her home, and it is needless to say how many prayers and tears the sacrifice cost her. Her only consolation was in the fact that her confessor had given her his blessing and promised a daily remembrance in his Mass, and Aunt Nellie had gone with her in the capacity of maid and companion and was to remain with her always.

PART SECOND.
CHAPTER I.

Passing a row of pleasant flats in a respectable though not over wealthy part of the great city of New York, our ear catches the sound of a man's voice singing to an accompaniment played on a sweet-toned violin. We pause to listen and in the clear tenor tones can distinguish the words of an old and sad Negro melody which almost moves us to tears. Can we be blamed if we take the liberty of ascending the flight of broad stairs and entering the apartment from which the sound proceeds? Everything in the interior speaks of home comforts as arranged by the hand of a loving true-hearted woman. The interior, like the exterior, shows no signs of great wealth, but there can be plainly seen what is far better. In deep boxes fastened to the outside of the open windows are bright colored and sweet scented flowers, which are being attended by a woman little past the middle age, but dressed in deep mourning, which tells the sad tale that she has been robbed of the companion she had chosen for life. Her face still bears traces of early beauty and she has a noble brow, from which luxuriant locks of once dark hair now streaked with gray are rolled back in a becoming puff. Her chief beauty, however, is in the dark gray eyes which now and then turn lovingly toward her companion.

It is the young man in whom we are most interested, for it was the sound of his voice attracted us hither. Allyn St. Clair is in feature much like his mother, any judge of human faces might easily see the marks of a noble character. He is a man of about twenty-one, with every prospect of a brilliant future before him. "Surely!" one might almost say, "God's image shines from those clear, honest eyes; but, no, for he is a confirmed infidel who is ready to stand up in the face of the world and the strongest religious principles and declare emphatically that there is no God and that the grave is the end of all, excepting the record we may be able to leave on the pages of the world's history."

(To be continued.)

CONSISTORY AT ROME.

Red Hat Bestowed on Mgr. Martinelli. Gov. Taft Witnesses the Ceremony.

Rome, June 9.—The Pope was present at the consistory, held this morning. He was borne to the hall surrounded by cardinals and formally bestowed red hats on Mgr. Martinelli, formerly papal delegate in the United States; Prince Archbishop Skrzbecky, of Prague, and Prince Bishop von Prosyra, of Cracow.

The pontiff also appointed several bishops, including Very William J. Kenny, vicar-general of Jacksonville, Fla., as bishop of St. Augustine, Fla., in succession to the late Bishop Augustin Verot and Rev. Phillip J. Carrigan, vice-rector at the Catholic University at Washington, as bishop of Sioux City, Ia.

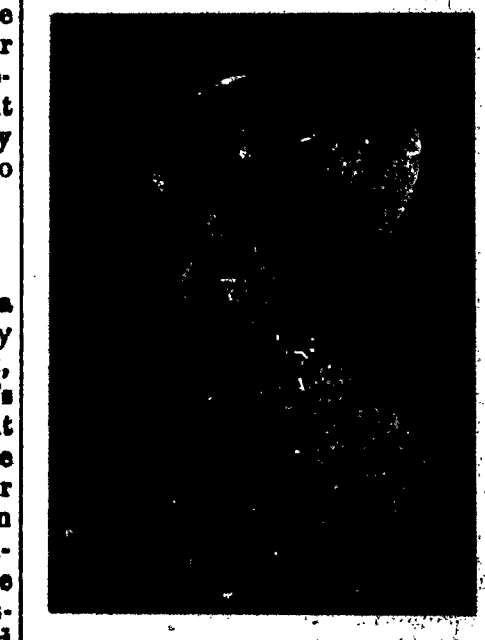
Subsequently at the secret consistory the pontiff delivered a short allocution. Governor Taft, of the Philippine Islands, and the Americans with him were invited to witness the ceremony. They had seats in the diplomatic gallery, in the Sala Regina (entrance hall to the Sixtine Chapel). As the Pope passed he recognized them and smilingly bowed to them.

After thanking God for preserving his life to attain the pontifical jubilee, the Pontiff expressed his gratification at the pilgrimage to Rome, and deplored the acts of the enemies of the Catholic faith in seeking to de-Christianize Italy, and particularly Rome, by spreading and protecting heresy, Protestantism and pornography, by writings, speeches and theatrical representations.

All the cardinals now in Rome, numerous bishops, prelates, diplomats, Roman nobles, the pontifical court and a host of privileged spectators attended the consistory. The Pope, who was in excellent health, was everywhere received with enthusiastic acclamations.

COOK OPERA HOUSE.

The Cook Opera House Stock Company, which has made such a hit in "Under the Red Robe" this week, will present next week the well known drama "The Ironmaster." Many theatre-goers will remember the drama so successfully produced by the Kendalls.



BERYL HOPE.

This will be one of the most pretentious plays put on by the Cook Stock Company this season. "The Ironmaster" will be presented at the Cook every night next week with matinee Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Mr. Glasser is said to be especially happy in the leading role which he says is a congenial one. The matinee prices are 10 cents to all parts of the house, except the dress and boxes, which are reserved for those who do not wish to brave the early crowd. For those 25 cents is charged.

BAKER THEATRE.

At the Baker Theatre the bill for the week of June 16th is "The Queen of Chinatown," a sensational and peculiar arrangement of the picturesque side of the Chinese quarter of New York. When first produced in Boston the novelty of the title and the unusual advertising matter drew a remarkable amount of business to the theatre where the play was presented. The stirring character of the plot and the strong dramatic situations pleased the people so much that the play became a tremendous success.

Miss Lyon will be cast for the part of the adventuresome who is placed by Fate at the head of the "Highlanders." Mr. Bowditch will play the American naval officer; Mr. Henderson the Confederate; the chief of the "Highlanders" and Mr. Meek and Miss Breyer two young New Yorkers who make their living selling newspapers.

SALE OF VESTMENTS.

Mater Admirabilis Society Had a Successful Sale.

The sale of vestments by the Mater Admirabilis Society at the Heart Convention this year was a most fine. About seventy large pieces of accompanying lines were disposed of. A set of beautiful vestments made by Mrs. Liesching has been presented to Father Consors by Mr. and Mrs. Wegman. Father Van Ness has received ten alb from Mrs. Liesching and altar lines from Mrs. Wilkin.

Mrs. Wilkin, the president, has been indefatigable in her labor for the society and much of its success is due to her generosity and careful management.

The ladies who have labored gratuitously during the last year in the work of making these articles are notified with the proceeds of their sale as they will be able to equip some struggling parish with the vestments necessary for the equipment of the altar.

Bishop Farley's Name Heads Best List.

The Bishops of New York and the clergy of the same province have submitted a list of three names to Pope Leo as their choice for the successor to the late Archbishop Corrigan. It is said that the name of Bishop Farley heads both lists and it is expected that he will be named.

A. O. H.

Division 2, A. O. H. made John E. Lennahan a handsome donation of Morris rocker for being a faithful worker in the division. The success of their last entertainment and ball had largely depended upon him. The donation committee were Joe McKee, Jerome O'Connor and Edward Moriarty.

C. F. B. A.

The Central Council will make arrangements for the annual picnic a special meeting to be held at the rooms of Council 40, Corpus Christi school hall, next Wednesday evening. All members are requested to be present.

Spring Sale.

Assemblyman Gardiner of 233 Main street, has one the most complete stocks of cloths for the spring trade in the city. All the new shades in English and English suiting and the new weaves for spring overcoatings are on his counters. Mr. Chris. Kerrigan who has charge of the cutting is turning out work that gives complete satisfaction. The prices are the lowest in the city for the class of work.

Reduction in Price of Butter.

Fancy Elgin butter reduced to 7 cents per pound. Remember the brand and quality of butter can only be obtained at our stores. Buy first-class fancy and staple groceries as well as our celebrated teas and coffees at cut prices.

Great A. & F. Co., 310 Main street, east, 74 Main street west, 141 North street. Both phones 141.

No Keweenaw Ferry.

Charged on Nickel Plate Equipment consist of 1000 tons and Pullmans, also other cars for Individual Club week at 35 cents. Also meals a la carte, colored ants look after comforts of all classes of passengers; rates lower than other lines. Many special excursions to points all through the West this summer. For names and rates write F. J. Moore, General Agent, Main St. Buffalo, N. Y.

Famous Fictional Person.

The Nickel Plate RR. has a new fiction novel in that it has in addition to the already divided Club meals, lunch, dinner, supper and Pullmans, also other cars for Individual Club week at 35 cents. Also meals a la carte, colored ants look after comforts of all classes of passengers; rates lower than other lines. Many special excursions to points all through the West this summer. For names and rates write F. J. Moore, General Agent, Main St. Buffalo, N. Y.

Low Rates to Niagara.

June 16 to 20, the Nickel Plate RR. will run round-trip excursions to Niagara Falls, Ontario, via Buffalo, returning by 11:00 A. M. Excursion rates on write F. J. Moore, General Agent, 231 Main St. Buffalo, N. Y.

Those of our members.

Those of our members who have been requested to attend the Convention at Buffalo, N. Y. on June 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th, are requested to be present.