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Through Thorny Paths.

BY MARY ROWENA COTTER.

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Synopsis of Previous Chapters.

Chapter I—Edward, a poor Catholic girl, Thomas Conlin, Agnes's cousin, who is soon to be ordained a priest notices a serpent ring on her finger and when told of it her engagement ring he tries to persuade her not to marry this Protestant stranger. She, however, refuses and is married by the good parish priest after which she departs for the stranger's beautiful home in Boston. Chapter II—Thomas Conlin is ordained and comes over a year 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 secreted a child in which she would move and as it was strictly Protestant she 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 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 later. 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—Cecilia O'Kane an orphan who lives with her sister, Nellie, is engaged by Mrs. Daton's companion. Her step-son, Edward falls in love with this Catholic girl, Cecilia, and marries her against the wishes of his step-mother. Chapter V—Cecilia is married eight years and has three children all of whom die and she and 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—Cecilia and Agnes are sent to a convent school. The grandmother is very much opposed to this and reproaches her daughter-in-law. Chapter X—Mr. Daton is suddenly taken sick and Cecilia is called home from school. Chapter XI and XII—Cecilia and Agnes graduate and a grand reception is given them. Mrs. Cullen while at her sister's home is taken ill. Cecilia and her grandmother have a dispute over religion. Chapter XIII—Mrs. Cullen recovers and remains at Daton's home. Chapter XIV—Cecilia 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—Cecilia and her grandmother are visiting in a distant city when a terrible fire breaks out, making many homeless. Chapter XVI—Cecilia visits the prisoner, Charles Coon, who started the fire. Chapter XVII—Grandmother Daton tells her grand-daughter that she has been convinced that the Catholic church is the only and true church and Mrs. Daton becomes a convert. Chapter XVIII—Mr. Daton is in fear of losing all he has and Cecilia goes on the stage.

Part Second—Chapter I. Allyn St. Clair, an infidel, meets Cecilia and falls in love with her. Chapter II—Allyn St. Clair accidentally finds a book belonging to Cecilia entitled "Following Christ." He reads it and becomes interested. Chapter III—Allyn and the manager attend the services at the Catholic Cathedral where Cecilia sings. Chapter VI—Allyn asks Cecilia to marry him and she refuses.

(Continued from last week.)

PART SECOND. CHAPTER V.

Of the days intervening between the fire and the time of his arrest the prisoner said nothing. He was as pale as death now. Cecilia looked at him, noting the sad wreck of what had once been a fine specimen of manhood, and she could scarcely retain her tears.

"I feared you would flee from me after I had told you all," he said, in a sad tone; "but it was a relief to my mind to have some one to listen to my story."

"You have certainly done a terrible deed and few can understand it more fully than myself, for I was one of the many who witnessed that awful fire and might have been one of your victims. It is something I never can forget."

"You!" he said; "were you there? Then perhaps you may be able to understand something of the awful remorse I suffered then and since for having caused so many innocent to suffer with the guilty one. I am sentenced to be severely punished by long years of imprisonment, and I feel that I justly deserve it not for what I did to him, for revenge is sweet, but on account of the suffering I caused to others."

"You should forgive your enemy," said Cecilia, softly, "for God will not forgive you for all you may have done against Him."

"Forgive," he said, bitterly; "it is easy for one like you, who has suffered no great injury, to say forgive, but not for me. My heart is hardened."

"I did not think so when I heard you say that the memory of your mother's teaching saved you from ending your life."

He bowed his head in silence. She had touched the one tender spot in his nature, and from her dark eyes he felt that he could see a well-remembered look of his own dear mother's when she had chided him for some misdeed in his childhood. Taking advantage of the moment, Cecilia gently tapped on the door, which quickly opened, and she glided out, leaving the prisoner alone with his sad but better thoughts.

CHAPTER VI.

Cecilia was deeply touched by the sad story she had heard, and pity filled her tender heart for the poor unfortunate whose life had been wrecked ere he had adieu to his childhood days. But her sympathy went out no less to the poor mother and sisters who had loved him. There came to her mind, too, another story—that of

opposed to such a step on the part of her who was the last of the Daton family and sole heir to the Daton wealth.

God's ways are not our ways, and Mrs. Cullen, whose life had ever been one series of sufferings and disappointments, had to submit to this and denied the happiness of giving Him the prize she vain would offer. All she could do was to renew the fervor of her prayers, not for Agnes now, but for Cecilia and the ones whom she knew would find it hard to part with her. Gently stroking the girl's hands she said:

"Cecilia, does your mother know your wishes?"

"She has known them for a year, but I believe she sometimes thinks I have abandoned the idea."

"For a whole year! And I was never told of it?"

"Could you have helped me had you known it?"

"I fear not, Cecilia, excepting by my prayers. Silence in such things, my child, shows great prudence and perhaps you have done as well not to speak, though you could have trusted your aunt."

"I know it, Aunt Nellie, and I hope you will pardon my silence."

A long confidential conversation followed, Cecilia speaking the inmost secrets of her young pure heart more fully than she could ever have dared in the presence of her mother.

"Happy child!" thought Mrs. Cullen; "but, God help her, I fear she has a bitter cross to bear." Just then Cecilia declared herself strong enough to bear almost anything for the love of God.

"Cecilia, how would you feel if you were to find that there was a great disgrace in your own family, wrought by a near relative?"

"I can scarcely tell, auntie, for such a thing seems almost impossible. Besides we have no one to disgrace us."

"I hope not, dear Cecilia," she said, tremblingly.

"What do you mean, Aunt Nellie? Please explain. I hope you do not refer to father's financial affairs, which caused me to go on the stage."

"I had no thought of that, Cecilia, and you may be pleased to know that things are not nearly so bad as at first feared and there is little chance now of losing our home."

"I am glad of that for the sake of my own dear parents."

The next morning Mrs. Cullen went to Mass, accompanied by Cecilia, and after it was over she left her, saying that she had a call to make and might not be home much before noon. Her niece would like to have accompanied her and visited the prison before their return, but she saw plainly that she was not wanted, so the visit must be deferred. Let us follow Mrs. Cullen and we shall learn why.

Aunt Nellie had rested but little the night before. A dread suspicion had kept her awake and during Mass she had prayed for strength to meet the worst. From the church she proceeded directly to the prison and asked to see the prisoner of whom Cecilia had told her. On being ushered into the darkened cell she stood and looked at him as if trying to discover some marks of identity in the man's face, which was covered with a heavy dark beard, streaked with gray. But she saw only a suffering criminal. Suddenly he turned and said:

"Madam, I was thinking deeply and unaware that I had a visitor."

"My niece, Cecilia Daton, was telling me of you, and I have come to see if I can be of any service to you."

The cold, dark face brightened.

"Miss Daton, you said, sent you. It has been long years since I have prayed, but if I dared to utter a prayer now it would be, 'May God bless that noble young woman.'"

She looked closely at him again and said:

"My niece told me you once lived in this city and would like to learn the whereabouts of your relatives."

"Such is my desire. But they must know nothing of me, for when a mere boy it was in disgrace I left them and I should not wish to come back to them after all these years a prisoner accused of an awful crime."

"It is a sad thing to find a noble-looking man like you here atoning for such a crime as you have committed, but do you think your own would have the hard hearts to disown you if they knew you were here and wished to see them? It hardly seems possible."

"I deserve nothing better from them."

"But if, as my niece says, you would like to know of their whereabouts, I am willing to do all in my power to help you."

"I fear it would be a useless search.

HIS TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

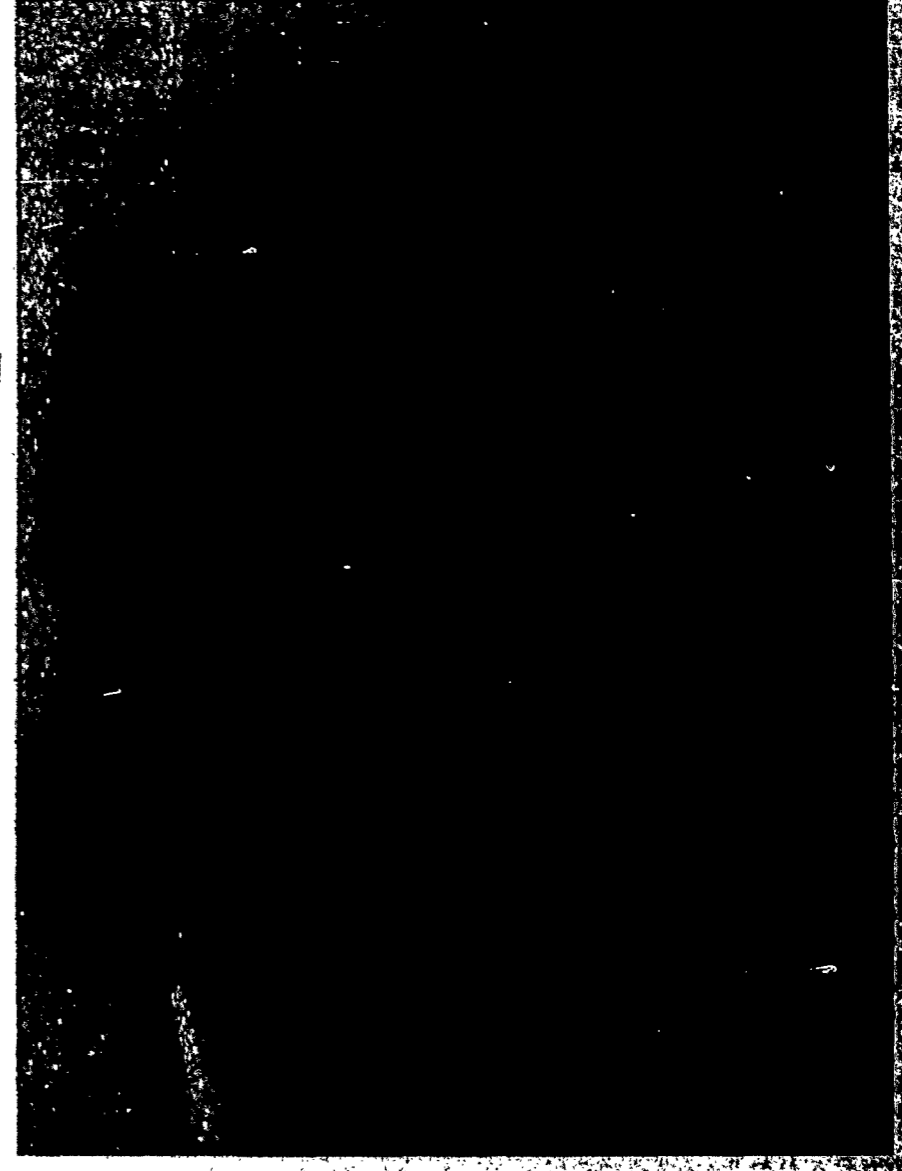
SILVER JUBILEE OF REV. JOSEPH W. HENDRICK, OF OVID, N. Y.

Twenty-five Years a Priest on August 6th—Short Sketch of the Reverend Father.

Wednesday next will be a red letter day for the Catholic people of Ovid, N. Y., as Father Hendrick, the pastor, will celebrate his silver jubilee, the 25th anniversary of his ordination, on that day.

The services in the church will be very impressive and will consist of a solemn high mass of thanksgiving at 10 o'clock A. M., which will be sung by the jubilarian. The officers of the mass will probably be Rev. M. T. Madden, of Trumansburg; Rev. Martin Hendrick, of Pen Yan; Rev. Felix O'Hanlon, of Clifton Springs; Rev. James N. Conolly, of New York, for so many years Master of Ceremonies at St. Patrick's cathedral, and Rev. Thomas Harrington, of Ovid.

present editor of the Pen Yan Review; also under the principalship of his distinguished brother, William Field, Esq., whose memory is a pleasant reminiscence to his former students. He also studied under C. M. Hutchins, a Methodist clergyman, and Rev. R. S. Green, a Presbyterian minister. He finished his course under the reign of His Majesty, T. Knox—the present county judge of Yates county—always warm friend of Father Hendrick. He attended the French colleges in Hyacinth and Montreal, and after four years' course at St. Joseph Seminary, Troy, was ordained August 6, 1877 by Bishop McQuaid, now the venerable bishop of Rochester. Sacred Heart academy, Rochester, which his sister was one of the teachers. Mother Ellen White was then the Superior at Rochester. She belonged to that distinguished literary family of Whites of which Gerald Griffin was a member. In 1892 among her first cousins was the late Hon. Stephen Mallory White, the great senator from California, who presided over the Democratic conventions of 1892 and Justice White of the United States



REV. JOSEPH W. HENDRICK.

The music will be of a high order and will be furnished by a select double quartette from Rochester, with Miss Aggie Madden, as organist. Mrs. Charles Cunningham and Miss Emma Moran, both of whom sang at Father Hendrick's ordination, twenty-five years ago, Miss Heverson, Miss Blasco Drury, Miss Julia Madden, Patrick Kinney, tenor, Arthur O'Hanlon, of Utica, and other artists whose names are a guarantee of merit. George's Mass will be sung, at which Connelly's offertory will be rendered by Mr. Kinney.

Supreme court, senator from Louisiana, and three being in the United States, and Burke Cookman, the longed for orator, another senator in Congress.

Father Hendrick was ordained the Cathedral, and St. Mary's, Ovid, St. Mary's, Auburn, St. Joseph, St. Mary's, Ovid, and St. Mary's, Ovid.

Livonia, Livingston county, Ontario county, and four years here.

He extends an invitation to

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, OVID, N. Y.

Rev. Bishop McQuaid will be present and will probably make an address.

Monsignor Marquis, of Boston; Monsignor Lynch, of Utica, Domestic Prelate of the Pope, and members of his household, and many other nobles and members of the clergy have signified their intention of being present to extend congratulations in person.

Rev. Joseph W. Hendrick is a native of Pen Yan, where he studied in the public school, and finished the preparatory course in the St. Patrick's school, Ovid.

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