

# The Catholic Journal.

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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 living in Ireland, falls in love with Agnes Conlin, a poor Catholic girl. Thomas Conlin, Agnes' father, who is soon to be ordained a priest, notices the ring on her finger and when told of this engagement, rings the bell to persuade her to marry this Protestant stranger. She, however, refuses and is married by the old Irish priest after which they depart for the rugged 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's wealth and luxury she was not happy. Her husband had selected a circle in which she was to move and 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 no, 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 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—Cecilia O'Kane, an orphan, who lives with her mother, Nellie, is engaged by Mrs. Daton as 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, find Mr. and Mrs. Daton again happy with a daughter, Cecilia, 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, but 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 to his bedside. Chapter XI—Cecilia and Agnes graduate and a grand reception is given them. Mrs. Cullen while at a sister's home, Chapter XII—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 XIII—Cecilia and her grandmother are living in a distant city when a terrible fire starts, making many homeless. Chapter XIV—Cecilia visits the orphanage where her grandmother started the fire. Chapter XV—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 XVI—Mr. Daton is in fear of losing all he had and Cecilia goes on the stage. Chapter XVII—Allyn at Clair, an invalid, meets Cecilia and falls in love with her. Chapter XVIII—Allyn, who is a Catholic, and Cecilia, who is a Protestant, are betrothed. Chapter XIX—Following "Christ" he reads and becomes interested. Chapter XX—Allyn and the minister attend the services at the Catholic Cathedral where Cecilia arrives at the Catholic Cathedral where Cecilia lives. Chapter XXI—Allyn asks Cecilia to marry him and she refuses. Chapter XXII—Mrs. Cullen discovers that Cecilia is a Catholic and is her lost brother. Chapter XXIII—Allyn St. Clair tells at Cecilia Daton's home. Chapter XXIV—Cecilia enters a convent to become a nun. Chapter XXV—Cecilia who is about to receive the veil is told by the superior that she has no vocation and she returns to her home. Chapter XXVI—Cecilia and Maurice Carroll are engaged to be married. Chapter XXVII—Cecilia fails at the altar and the marriage is postponed. Chapter XXVIII—The engagement is broken.

(Continued from last week.)

### PART SECOND.

#### CHAPTER XIII.

Opening a small valise, Cecilia took out what she had not entrusted to her trunk, the little prayer book, and handed it to her father, telling him to whom it had once belonged and showing the lock of hair.

Mr. Daton took the book reverently and looked at the hair, which reminded him so strongly of other golden curls he had loved to caress years ago, but with the exception of one which he had carefully saved they, like his mother's, had long ago melted away to dust. Keeping the book in his hand he went to the private drawer from which he had taken the agent ring which had been the sign of his learning so much and excited therefrom a little box, which he brought back to the parlor. It contained a lock of hair of each of his children, cut after their death.

"How much alike they are," he said, laying Agnes Conlin's hair beside the curl in the prayer book.

"Very much," said his wife, "only little girl's tresses were lighter." It would have grown darker in time, and from mother's picture I did see that our Agnes promised to just what my mother was."

During the remainder of the day Mr. Daton was sad and thoughtful, like his wife, in her pride at having so distinguished a relative, was very happy. In the evening he asked Cecilia to tell him the story again, and interrupting to ask questions. At last he said:

"I am going to see this new-found relation."

"Yes, do father," said Cecilia. "And I shall go with you, Edward."

He would have preferred to go alone, or to have taken only Cecilia, but when this proposition was made he could not object.

"Yes, you may go if you wish, Cecilia; and does our daughter feel strong enough to take the long journey again?"

"Indeed I do father, I am perfectly well now and will be most happy to accompany mother and you."

"If I were going alone I should start to-morrow, but I shall give my Cecilia a week to rest, and I suppose my wife will want a little time to get ready."

"I am ready to go any time," said Cecilia.

But her mother thought that a week would be short enough time in which to prepare. And while Mrs. Daton was worrying about fashions, Cecilia was spending her time in earnest prayer for two intentions—for the conversion of her father and for Divine assistance to break the family tie and return to the convent. She would mention neither of them now, but leave it all to the Archbishop to use his persuasive powers to bring it all about.

The aged ecclesiastic was overjoyed to receive a letter from his cousin's child announcing his intended visit, and quickly sent back a kind invitation for the family to come to his own home, where he would be most happy to entertain them. They were received in a manner with which Mrs. Daton could find no fault, and she was proud to tell her friends on her return home of the noted clergy and other people of high standing whom she had met and dined with. But one shadow had been cast over her visit, and that was the warning that she must give up her only child.

Cecilia had been admired, as she always was, by strangers as well as friends, and on Sunday at High Mass in the Cathedral she touched many a heart by her singing, while her parents proudly occupied one of the front seats in the middle aisle. It was the first Mass Mr. Daton had ever attended, and his heart was deeply touched, especially when he heard his daughter's voice and saw the venerable man who had baptized him seated on the episcopal throne. He resolved to make amends for the past by becoming a true and sincere Catholic. He deeply regretted that he had not listened to and acted upon Cecilia's pleadings long ago. This he told as he sat that afternoon with his family and the Archbishop, and finding him in the best disposition the prelate took this opportunity to plead for Cecilia.

The father felt deeply the prospect of losing her whom he had looked upon as the joy and consolation of his declining years, and during the Mass he had thought how happy he and his Cecilia would be in practicing their religion together, but now he must give her up.

"I cannot do it," he said, sadly. "If one of my others had been spared it would not be so hard. Cecilia, all I have."

"God might have taken her, too," was the reply, but He spared her to you for many happy years, and now when He wants her why refuse?"

It was very hard for Mr. Daton to make the sacrifice, but he finally gave out of pure love of God and never again by word or deed tried to prevent his darling from entering upon the life to which she had so long aspired. With his wife it was different. In the presence of the Archbishop she scarcely spoke whilst her husband pleaded to have their daughter left with them; but when at home she made Cecilia very unhappy by her lamentations and by continually reminding her of her duty to remain at home and after their death to inherit her father's wealth, to which she was sole heir.

"But you have Agnes," said Cecilia. "She has ever been to you all that you could wish a daughter to be. Why can you not be content with her?"

"Agnes has always been a good girl, Cecilia, but she is not our own and has no right to inherit your father's property."

But, mother, father always loved her as a daughter and she has a right to be an heir to his wealth as well as myself."

"Not on an equal standing by any means, but it has always been our intention to give her a good start in life."

"No use of delaying longer," Cecilia thought, for she saw that her home difficulties were in danger of increasing rather than lessening. If she remained during the winter her mother would force her into a series of social gaieties which she must avoid, and she was resolved to go at once. By so doing she must sacrifice the pleasure of seeing her father receive his first Communion, but she had the happy assurance that she was leaving him a sincere Catholic in both heart and practice.

When the autumn leaves were falling, at the time when he had hoped to claim his bride, Maurice Carroll was greatly surprised to be informed by Mr. Daton that Cecilia had gone that morning to join the Sisters of Charity. Everything had been kept so quiet that not even the most intimate friends of the family suspected that Cecilia was going until she was gone.

"It must be very lonely without her," said Maurice.

"It is, but Agnes is still left to us and she has promised to do all she can to fill Cecilia's place. It seemed that Cecilia never was intended for us. She never was like the rest of us and I feel that she was too good for such worldly people as we. So we had to let her go."

"I agree with you, Mr. Daton," said Maurice, sadly. "She was too good for me, too, and I should never have tried to win what belonged to God."

"No one could blame you, young man, and I know how to sympathize with you; but as Cecilia herself used to say, God knows what is best and we must bear patiently the crosses He sends us. How I laughed at her then and thought her foolish, but she has taught me many a good lesson which I shall remember until death."

"And I, too," said Maurice. The two men separated, each feeling that the bright sun which had long illumined their paths had suddenly been obscured by a dark cloud.

### CHAPTER XIV.

"It is over," said Agnes to Maurice Carroll, "and our Cecilia has at last received the habit and the great white bonnet of the Sisters of Charity."

"How does she appear in her new uniform?"

"Odd enough, and I cannot say that I like it, but she seems so happy that to look at her face is enough to make you forget all else."

"Does she seem really happy?"

"Well, you would not ask me if you could see her. Her face fairly glowed when she received the habit, and she has never looked so well since she was a girl in school. It seemed too bad to see all that lovely dark hair cut off, and I could scarcely keep from crying at the thought of it, but she cast it aside as if it were a burden she was glad to be rid of. I believed she would have burned it had not her mother asked for it."

This was told on a June day about a week after Cecilia's reception, which had been attended not only by the family, but by Archbishop Conlin, who had gladly accepted an invitation sent him by her whom he called his dear grandniece, and in honor of the dignity of his position he had been privileged to confer the habit on the young ladies and receive the vows of those who were to make their profession. During the years since his consecration he had officiated at many a like ceremony and had raised hundreds of noble men to the holy dignity of the priesthood, but this ceremony touched his heart more than any of the other. Despite his age and increasing feebleness, he would gladly have travelled hundreds of miles further in order to have conferred such a favor on the grandchild of his favorite cousin. Agnes Conlin seemed very near him during the ceremony and he hoped that she was looking down from heaven upon this fair young bride of Christ who over half a century after her death had embraced the life he had once hoped she would choose.

Maurice Carroll had found it very hard to give up his bride, but gradually he had come to understand the mistake he had made in trying to win what belonged to God. And now when he learned from the lips of Agnes that Cecilia had taken the final step, he was fully reconciled to it. True, she had five years of probation before making her profession, but there was little danger of her leaving in the meantime, and if she did, she could never be his. As a friend of the Daton family he continued his visits to Innisfallen, and remembering the hint Cecilia had given him in regard to Agnes, he soon began to see in her many charms he had failed to notice when he had entertained hopes of winning the other.

"Agnes," said Maurice, after she had talked of Cecilia for nearly an hour, "your cousin is now settled in life and is very happy. What do you intend to do?"

"I," said Agnes, "intend to remain here and try to fill Cecilia's place."

"For how long, Agnes?"

"Always, that is, as long as I am needed, which may be for several years, as uncle and aunt and mother, too, not forgetting Grandma Daton, I hope will long be spared."

"Agnes," he said, "could you not try to fill the place Cecilia once occupied in the heart of another, who loved her no less than they?"

"Whom do you mean?" she asked, dropping her eyes.

"Myself," he said. "Will you be my wife, Agnes?"

Her heart beat high with joy born

of the promise of what she had hoped for for years; but with an attempt to show indifference she said:

"Have you thus soon forgotten the love you had for my cousin?"

"Forgotten it, Agnes? No, I can never forget that situation, which was all on my side, while she, holy soul that she was, could not bring herself down to the level of earthly love and tried to care for me when she could not. It nearly cost her her life, but with herself I now thank God that our marriage was prevented. I now want some one whom I can love and who can return my affections without making a great sacrifice. Am I not right in thinking you can do that?"

"Yes," murmured Agnes, softly, "I can."

He reached for her hand and his eyes fell upon a ring he knew well. It was Cecilia's engagement ring, given to her cousin when she left home and worn by Agnes ever since.

"I see," he said, with a smile, "you are already wearing the engagement ring I bought for her who was to be my wife, and no one is more welcome to it; but I shall get you another to-morrow."

"Thank you, Maurice, but this is all sufficient, and much as I have prized heretofore, it will be dearer to me now as a gift from both Cecilia and yourself."

When he was gone Agnes hastened to her mother's room, and throwing her arms around her neck kissed her and told her the good news. For a long time mother and daughter talked confidentially, and as the now happy Agnes was about to retire to her own room her mother said:

"God bless my Agnes and Maurice too, and give them many long years of true happiness together."

"Why should I complain?" thought Mrs. Cullen, after Agnes had fallen into a sweet slumber. "If God had wanted my child He would have called her instead of Cecilia, and it is my duty to help her prepare for a marriage which I trust will be the beginning of a long life of happiness."

The following autumn a shadow fell at Innisfallen which caused the house to be closed from social gatherings during the winter. Grandmother Daton had bravely kept up after Cecilia's departure and nobody knew how much she missed the dear child, for she never uttered a word of complaint. Since her conversion she had been a true Catholic, but the effects of her early education could not be wholly effaced. She did not believe in young girls like Cecilia shutting themselves up in the convent, and in silence she mourned for the one who was gone. She had firmly refused at first to attend her reception of the habit, but at the last hour had gone with the others and had in part been reconciled when she saw how happy Cecilia was.

After that she seldom left the house, and during the summer it was noticed that she was failing rapidly. But no one suspected that the end was so near. After only a few days' confinement she passed peacefully away, fortified with all the consolations of the Church. Her last words had been a loving message to Cecilia, by whom she wished to be remembered in her daily prayers and many communions after she was gone.

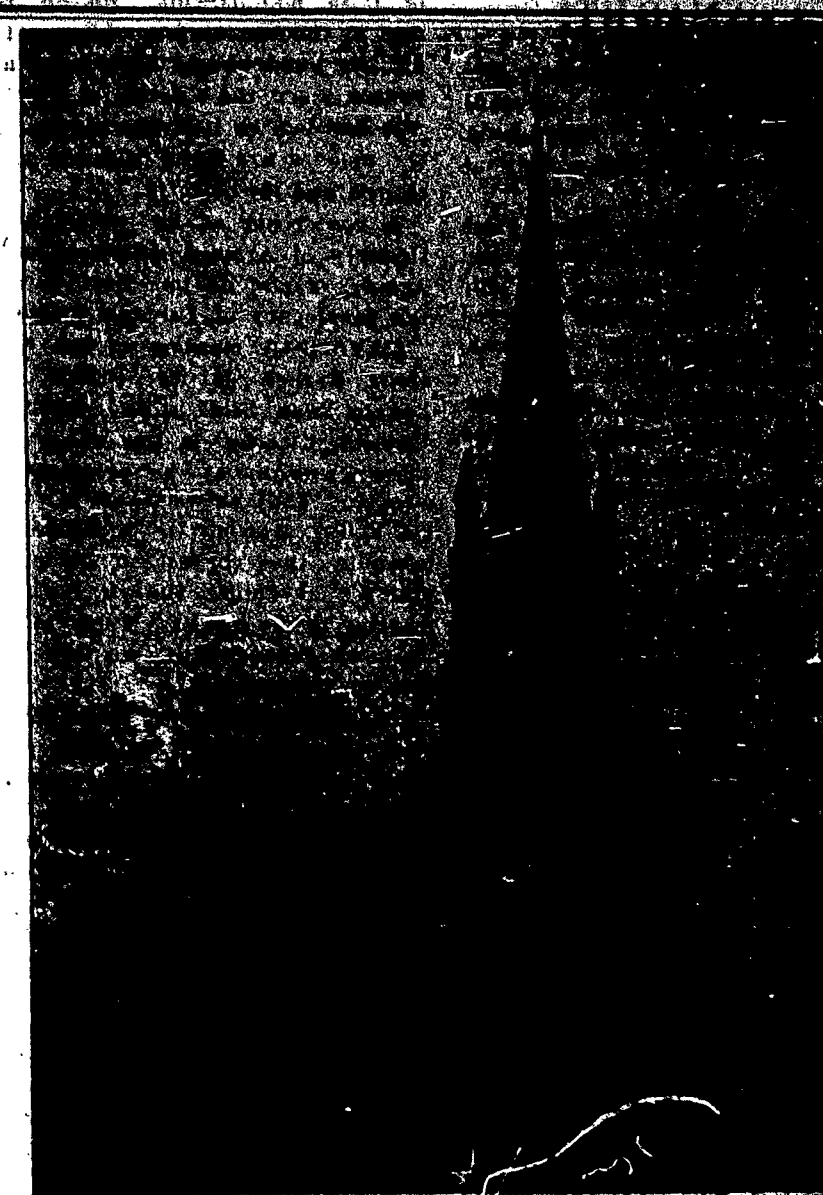
A year from that month was the time set for Agnes' wedding. Mrs. Daton wished to have it as grand as the one prepared for Cecilia, but Mrs. Cullen over-ruled her plans by saying she claimed the privilege of making arrangements for her own daughter's marriage. So early in October Maurice and Agnes were quietly married at an early Mass, at which only a few friends were present. A wedding breakfast was served at Innisfallen, to which only the Carroll family were invited, after which the happy pair took their departure for an extended trip to the West. On their return they went to the home which had been closed for two years and a half. Mrs. Cullen went with them, so Mr. and Mrs. Daton were now alone at Innisfallen.

In the winter they were called to attend the funeral of Archbishop Conlin, who had been beloved by all, both rich and poor, and mourned by the Church in which he had spent a long life of usefulness. The church was thronged with true mourners, but Mr. Daton and his wife were the only relatives who followed him to his resting place beneath the altar.

(To be continued.)

### Wedding Invitations.

We can supply the wants of the young lady or gentlemen who are about to be married at reasonable prices. Call and see our samples.



The Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral will be Celebrated on Sunday, October 12th.



Interior of Cathedral.

### Railroad Notes.

Sunday, Oct. 19th, the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh Ry. will run a delightful autumn excursion to Bradford and the new Kinkaid bridge. It is three seasons since the B. & P. Ry. has run an excursion to the latter point and, no doubt, the public will be glad of an opportunity to view the new and wonderful structure. Special train will leave Rochester at 8:30 a. m. Returning, leave Bradford at 4:25 p. m. Tickets will also be good returning from Bradford on regular trains Monday, Oct. 20th. Fare round trip \$1.50.

### COOK OPERA HOUSE.

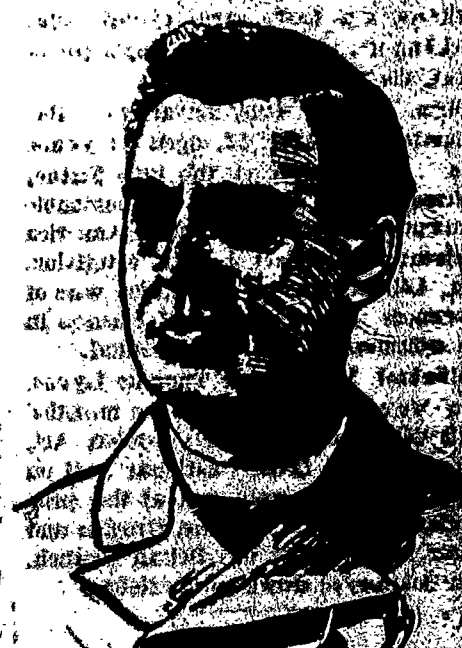
A special attraction, that but few vaudeville theaters in the country have been able to secure will be the big feature of the Cook Opera House vaudeville bill next week. This is Phroso, the mechanical doll. Whether the figure is a human being or an automaton no one seems to definitely know. It gives an amazing performance, and is said to be constantly gawking.

The children, as well as grown-ups, will be interested in "Teehows" trained cat. These felines are said to execute many amusing tricks. Dolan and Lenhart will give an amusing sketch called "Taking Chances." The Wabburg Brothers are expert foot jugglers. "Boyolius of unusual mark" are the Marvellous Morrills. The Lows Hughes Trio are said to have acquired the art of xylophone playing as well as any players in the business. With F. Denny is a comic singer. The Laurence sisters give a neat little act, and the Baileys are clever colored entertainers.

This bill of vaudeville will be presented at the Cook twice every day next week. It looks like a stunner.

### The Hottel and Sanatorium.

is not a Keeley Institution. We treat the liquor and drug habits as a disease and use no chloride of gold or other poison. No Gold is our own remedy and we will give \$100 for every case that it will not cure. We have never had a failure. Can others say the same? Write in confidence to the Hottel and Sanatorium, Wayland, N. Y.



Rev. Thos. F. Nickay, V. G., a member of the Cathedral staff.

Rev. Thos. F. Nickay, V. G., is the Rector of Cathedral.

St. Catharine's Church, Rochester, N. Y., will give a grand bazaar on Sunday, October 12th, from 12 o'clock to 5 o'clock. St. Wilfrid's Church, Rochester, N. Y., will give a grand bazaar on Monday, October 13th, from 12 o'clock to 5 o'clock. St. Charles' Church, Rochester, N. Y., will give a grand bazaar on Tuesday, October 14th, from 12 o'clock to 5 o'clock. St. Francis' Church, Rochester, N. Y., will give a grand bazaar on Wednesday, October 15th, from 12 o'clock to 5 o'clock. St. John's Church, Rochester, N. Y., will give a grand bazaar on Thursday, October 16th, from 12 o'clock to 5 o'clock. St. Peter's Church, Rochester, N. Y., will give a grand bazaar on Friday, October 17th, from 12 o'clock to 5 o'clock. St. Paul's Church, Rochester, N. Y., will give a grand bazaar on Saturday, October 18th, from 12 o'clock to 5 o'clock.

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