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GRANDFATHER'S PROPHESY.

BY MARY ROWENA COTTER.
(For The Catholic Journal.)

(Continued from last week.)

CHAPTER VI.
Home Again.

The bright month of May had come again and once more the fragrance of the apple blossoms filled the air. At an early hour Jack's wagon stood in Mr. Norton's yard waiting for that man, for the girls were coming home to-day and Jack would not permit their father to go alone to meet them. The bottom of the wagon was filled with blankets and pillows to make a bed for Margaret who was just able to be moved. The poor girl was very sore from the effects of burns far more serious than had at first been thought, and they were obliged to lift her with the greatest care. She returned her father's kind greeting with joy, but when she heard Jack's voice she was unable to speak and silently permitted the two men to carry her to the bed in the wagon, while Nellie sat beside her and held her head in her lap.

"How good it is to be near home again," the invalid said wearily, when they were started. "How fragrant the apple blossoms are and how sweetly the birds sing."

Yes, dear, they are giving us a glad welcome home."

"How I wish I could see them," sighed Margaret.

"I hope you may be able to see soon."

"Why try to deceive me, sister, with such vain hopes; it is too cruel; perhaps you think I did not hear the doctor when he told you that my sight had been burned away and was gone forever.

"Doctors do not always know, Margaret, and let us hope that this time they have been deceived."

"I wish that it was so but I know it it not and as a punishment I must spend my life in darkness; but God's will be done, though it is sometimes very hard to say so. The hardest part of it is to think of the burden I must be to others."

"Do not worry about that sister, we should only be thankful that your life has been saved and it is easy to care for those we love."

Many of the neighbors were out to meet the girls and Nellie had a bright smile for them all, but Margaret the one they most wished to see, was at her own request hidden; for she said that she could not have her friends staring on her disfigured face yet, so Nellie carefully drew a heavy veil over her face as Jack carried her in the house and respectfully declined the offered services of her friends.

Over the long weary days spent in the hospital I will not dwell. Margaret at Jack's request had been given a good room which Nellie was permitted to occupy with her and nothing that his money could buy was demed her. He remained in the city only until the danger was over; and then, without bidding good-bye to the invalid, who knew not of his presence, he went home, leaving orders with the Sisters to deny the sufferer nothing, but on no condition was she to know whose money paid for it. As soon as it was deemed safe to move her she was sent home.

Under the watchful care of her mother and through the kindness of the neighbors whom Margaret permitted one after another to come into her room a few days after her return, she gained strength quite rapidly, and was soon able to walk out. The burns were all healed but they had left deep, ugly scars which were worse on her face Her beauty was gone forever and not even those dearest to her could have recognized her as one who only a short year ago had been considered the most beautiful girl in the neighborhood; but the hardest part of it was her total blindness so that for a long time she could go no where alone. It was thus she was spared the mortification which the many curious glances, cast upon her when she went out, would otherwise have cost her. After a time the people became more accustomed to her and the children, who at first had shyly avoided her, began to look for her appearance on the street and vied with each other as to which should have the privilege of leading Miss Margaret. As a reward she would tell them stories of what she had seen in the city. At first, frought with sad memories as those days had been, it hurt her sadly to recall them but when she saw how it pleased her little friends it soon became a delightful task.

Margaret indeed had many true friends but none were more faithful to her than Jack. True, she had crushed his bright hopes by sending him from her with an avowal that she could never be his wife and go back to the country, but that was all fergiven now. He blamed her not, for she had been deceivid by the stranger who had left her to die alone in the burning building; and, when he remembered the youth and beauty which she had been convinced ought to shine in a city home his heart softened more than ever. He thought now only of the loveliness of character which affliction had brought out and he was willing still to take her as she was and do all in his power to brighten her dark pathway He said nothing to her about it until fall when he asked her if she would be ready in the early spring to marry him and go with him to their new home.

"Jack," she said sadly, "why do you speak thus to me when you know that our engagement has been broken?"

"I remember, Margaret, that you said when I went to see you last spring that you could not marry me and return to the country, but I saw too plainly how it was. You had been deceived by a handsome stranger whom you thought you loved and your words, which sounded so cruel to me then, were not the words of my own dear Margaret."

"Yes, I was deceived," was the sorrowful reply," and had it not been for that accident I believe I would have married him, that is, if he had asked me, though perhaps he never would have taken a poor girl like me. If he had I am afraid my life would never have been happy; so perhaps, this terrible punishment God has sent me has saved me from still greater suffering for time and eteratiy"

"Perhaps so," said Jack. Your sufferings was a bitter price to pay for your being brought back to your duty, but since they have won you back for me I will be only too happy to help you share your affliction through life."

"Please do not talk that way, Jack, for when I told you in the city I could not marry you I meant it and I will never break my word now."

"Margaret, can it be possible that your love for me is as dead as that? I would never have believed it."

"Jack, dear Jack," she said in an agonizing tone which proved that he was still all the world to her, "please do not ask me such a question. I cannot bear to hear it. I still love and respect you as one of the truest friends God has given me; but if you must know the truth, I will tell you that I love you too much to have you take upon yourself the burden of a blind wife."

"Is that it, Margaret?" and could she have seen the bright smile which came over his face she would have found it hard to keep her resolution; "then I will volunteer to take what you call a burden upon myself and we shall yet be happy together."

"Jack, I would never have told you so much had you not forced it from me but my decision has been made so please do not urge the matter further."

"Think well of what you are saying. I have prepared a home for you and I could not give it to another."

After some hesitation she said, "It is not for me to say whom you shall marry for you have a right to choose for yourself, but" —she paused again —"I have often thought that my darling sister Nellie would make as good and true wife as you can find. I dreaded to have her go back to the mill alone when it was rebuilt and they sent for her, but you know that go she would in spite of all we could say because she said her money was needed at home. Not only that, but she has declared that she would work until she had returned every cent you spent for me at the hospital."

"Nellie is wrong, for, the little I spent for you was a free gift which almost any of your friends here could not have denied under the circumstances, so she need not think of paying it."

Scarcely heeding his words she added, "Jack, you said you wished me to enjoy the home you have bought for me; if you marry Nellie, perhaps, when father and mother are old and I will be too much of a burden on them you may permit your wife to give a home with yourselves to her poor blind sister.

Jack saw that Margaret was firm in her purpose and her words reminded him that there had been a time when it would have been hard to have told which of the sisters he preferred. He almost believed now that he had chosen the elder because she was nearer his own age, while Nellie had seemed like a mere child. But Nellie was a woman now as old and far more experienced in the ways of the world than her sister had been when he first asked her to be his wife. It was a long time, however before he could bring himself to fully break his part of the engagement with Margaret; but having learned at last that Nellie could fill her place in his heart he went to the city to ask her consent.

Nellie could scarcely believe she understood aright, and she at first refused the place which should have been her sister's, but when she learned that it was Margaret's earnest wish she gave him some hope but told him that he must wait until some of the younger children were able to take her place in helping support the family.

CHAPTER VII.
Apple Blossoms.

It was on another bright May morning five years after the girls had come home that Nellie and Jack were married with a Nuptial Mass in the little church at home. The altar was decorated with pink and white apple blossoms because Margaret had insisted upon it on account of the fragrance which was the only beauty she could enjoy from them.

"None of the guests appeared happier than she, when she sat beside the fair bride at the table, but in the afternoon she disappeared and the aged grandfather, who was the first to miss her hobbled out to find her alone in the orchard, tears falling from her sigh less eyes.

"Poor child," whispered the old man putting his arms around her, "I am very sorry for you."

"I know you are, grandpa, but God is just. I suppose that I should not complain because he has punished me for my pride."

"Yes, child, God is just but it is hard to see your sweet young life being worn away like this. I can sympathize more truely with you now for I fear that I too am growing blind."

"Poor grandpa, I hope that will never be."

"God's will be done," fervently replied the old man. "It will not be long ere we shall both have our sight in Heaven."

"I hope so, grandpa, but while we remain here we shall never be separated and can make other's path brighter."

"God bless you dear child, for you indeed make my days very brigh."

Both Jack and Nellie trid to prevail upon Margaret to come and live with them at once, but she refused, saying that she would never leave her grandfather, but a stronger motive, of which they remained ignorant, was that she could not visit the home her folly had caused her to lose.

During the summer Margaret's health failed rapidly, and on the approach of autumn she was confined to her bed. One morning in October after receiving Holy Communion, which was brought to her once a week, she spoke for the first time of dying.

"Nellie," she said to her sister who sat beside her, "I fear that the end has almost come, and I want you to be very kind to grandpa when I am gone. It will not be long, for I can see that he is failing fast and he will soon follow me."

"Do not talk that way, Margaret, for I cannot bear to hear it. I know grandpa is failing and I fear we shall soon lose him; but you, dear sister, you are young and will soon grow strong again, and after grandpa is gone you will come to live with us."

"No, Nellie, I will not, for something tells me that I must go ahead to greet dear grandpa when his time comes."

"You are too gloomy, and should not harbor such thoughts."

"I cannot help it, but it does make me a little sad to think that I must die when there are so few flowers. If I could only live until the apple trees blossom again, but I shall never see them. You will pick the first apple blossoms next spring and put them on my grave, will you not, dear sister?"

At that moment their youngest brother rushed into the room all excitement, exclaiming:

"Oh, Margaret! guess what I have found"

"I could not guess, please tell me dear. Something wonderful, I know."

"You bet it is for this time a year and I think God made the blossom just to please you because you are so kind to everybody."

Nellie looked in silent amazement on what her brother held in his hand and Margaret's face brightening she said:

"I imagine that I smell apple blossoms but it cannot be, for this is October and the trees bear only ripe fruit now."

"You are right," exclaimed the boy, "one of the greening trees in the north orchard has a whole limb all in blossom and here are two bunches for you."

She pressed the fragrant flowers to her lips thanking God for sending them to her, then handed back one bunch saying.

"There, Willie, please give them to grandpa and tell him I send them."

The old man's sight had not entirely faded through it was very dim and he could just see the delicate flowers. He was too feeble to arise from his chair to go to thank her for her gift, but he sent his thanks by the boy after having learned where they came from.

"It's a sure sign of death," said the old man to himself when alone, "but Margaret and I are ready so I do not care."

Before noon, with her fragrant treasure still held firmly in her hand, Margaret passed peacfully away. It was with difficulty that the stem was removed from her grasp when the undertaker came.

As she had foretold, the girl had gone before the old man, but she had been right in saying that he would not linger long behind her. They did not dare tell him at once that she was gone, when the priest came in the afternoon he was given the task of imparting the news as as gently as possible. He did not show the expected signs of grief, but his face brightened as he said:

"It seemed too bad to have her young life darkened as it has been and she was too young to die, but the ways of God are just. She has been the sunshine of my last days and now, I am not sorry she has gone before me."

Before dawn the old man had gone to join his darling in the bright home where they could both see for all eternity.

The double funeral, which took place two days later, was attended by a large crowd, and the little church could not hold them all. Few strangers there were who came because they had never known two corpses to be in that church at once; but the most of them were true friends who had known and loved the old man for years, and had fairly idolized Margaret, who had borne her affliction with such angelic sweetness as to endear herself to all. What surprised everyone was that both coffins were covered with apple blossoms for every flower had been picked for that purpose.

After it was all over Nellie in speaking to the physician said:

"Can you tell me doctor the real cause of my sister's death"

The reply was, "Her lungs have always been weak since she was overcome by the smoke in the fire, and I knew from the first that her life at most could be prolonged but a few years."

His keen eyes had discovered more, but he never told it, for he would run no risk of marring the perfect happiness of Nellie's married life by letting her know that her sister might have lived for many years had she not pined away with a broken heart on knowing that another filled the place which but for her folly might have been hers.

The End.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS.

Members of Rochester Council Receive Fourth Degree of the Order.

A class of one hundred and twenty-six members of Rochester Council, No. 178, and Buffalo Council, Knights of Columbus, received the fourth degree of that order, which was exemplified at Colonial hall last Saturday night. The exercises were attended by many of the sir knights from Buffalo, Syracuse and other cities of the state. The degree work was in charge of Michael Danby and staff of Buffalo. After the ceremonies the candidates and other members were entertained with a luncheon at the Union Club, the social adjunct of the local council. Much of the success of the degree work is due to the efforts of Grand Knight Edward S. Gurry of Rochester Council.

Among the prominent members of the order present from out of town were: Robert J. Powers of Binghamton, T. J. Lenahan of Albany, John F. Cochrane, John H. LaSalles, Councilman John J. Smith, John Manion, Frank S. Holmwood, Edward Murphy and Edgard Horgan of Buffalo, and Judge Sweeney of Geneva.

LECTURE AT ST. BERNARD'S BY REV. S. FITZSIMONS.

"Louis Pasteur and his Methods" was the subject of a lecture delivered on the 26th of February by Rev. S. Fitzsimons of Lima, N. Y., in the hall of Philosophy and Science at St. Bernard's Seminary, under the auspices of the St. Thomas Society. The learned lecturer was introduced by Mr. Frank Hassler, president of the society, and gave to his auditors, composed of the Rt. Rev. Bishop, the faculty and students of the seminary, together with a large body of priests, a most interesting account of the life and work of the great French scientist. He spoke of his early experiments on phosphorus and the relation of dimymetry in crystals to the laws of polarization of light. Although Pasteur had already made a name for himself by the remarkable discoveries which were the result of his first investigation, his world-wide reputation came from the study of those microscopical organisms, whose importance and wonderful activity were first revealed by him. He gave the death-blow to the theory of spontaneous generation. Beginning his experiments in 1850, he soon succeeded in demonstrating to his colleagues of the Academy of Science that no organic ed being, however small, could develope in a liquid when the germs contained in the atmosphere are completely shut out. This discovery applied to the contagious diseases, produced the aseptic treatment, neutralizing the action of microbes by means of fire. By showing that fermentation was a process connected with life, and not the result of death, he was lead to the method of keeping wines free from disease, know after him as Pasteurization. Having taken up at one time the study of the disease of the silk-worm, he saved the silk industry of France, when it seemed doomed to a complete destruction. It has been calculated that the amount saved thereby to his country was equivalent to the indemnity paid to Germany after the war of 1870. The service he rendered to agriculture by his studies on the cause of splenic fever, so injurious to farm stock, surpass all estimation in figures. Later on he made a study of hydrophobia, and found that the microbe of this disease has its seat in the nerve centers. He found the vaccine which if inoculated in time, never fails to save the patient. "Pasteur institutes have been erected in this country as well as in Europe, in which innumerous lives have been snatched from a certain and most horrible death. The name of this man is immortal; he if truly called the "Glory of France, the greatest scientist of the XIX century. In our age, when religion is constantly attacked in the name of so called science, let us not forget that Pasteur was through all his life a most humble and faithful believer in the teachings of the Catholic church. L.

BAKER THEATRE.

"The Sign of the Cross," Wilson C. Barrett's beautiful and impressive religious and historical drama comes to the Baker Theatre Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 9, 10 and 11, bargain day matinee Tuesday and Wednesday, the first time at popular prices. The scenery, costumes and appointments are elaborate and beautiful.

Sullivan, Harris & Woods big scenic production, "The King of Detectives," will be seen at the Baker Theatre Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Mar. 12, 13 and 14, bargain day matinees Thursday and Saturday. This is the play that caused such a sensation in New York City where it met with success.

In Memoriam.

At a special meeting held Sunday March 1, 1903, Branch 139, C. M. B. A. the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God in His infinite power and wisdom to take from our midst our beloved brother, Thomas J. Mitchel, an ever faithful member, and while we bow in humble submission to His holy will, be it

Resolved, that the assurance of true sympathy be herewith conveyed to the bereaved family and while prayerfully cherishing his memory we confide his loved ones to the compassionate heart of Him, who alone can truly comfort and sustain, we

Resolve, to present to the family of our deceased brother a copy of these resolutions, which are to appear upon the branch records and in the Catholic Journal and that our charter be draped in mourning for thirty days.

William L. Pessley and Andrew J. Young, committee.

Personal.

Miss Marie Maloney has returned home from Elmira accompanied by her guest Miss Margaret Sweeney of Elmira.

[illegible]

Low rates [illegible] will sell daily [illegible] special one way [illegible] in Pacific [illegible] connections at [illegible] from the [illegible] and Wednesday [illegible] West, leaving [illegible] E. F. Payne, Gen'l Agt., [illegible] Buffalo, N. Y.

Hamburg [illegible] Nickel Plate [illegible] round trip [illegible] tickets, first and third [illegible] month until April 1903 [illegible] low rate. Three [illegible] York all lines [illegible] D. L. & W. and W. [illegible] this trains each way daily [illegible] of local agents or write [illegible] Gen. Agt., 291 Main St., Buffalo.

Nickel Plate Tourist [illegible] modate the demand for [illegible] those in the famous [illegible] Transcontinental excursion [illegible] formerly 5th Boston [illegible] and Wednesday noon, a [illegible] service has now been [illegible] leaving Rochester every Monday and Friday [illegible] W. S. and Nickel Plate Rds. [illegible] joined at Utica, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo [illegible] special Colonist's ticket [illegible] See local agents or write R. [illegible] Gen'l Agt., 291 Main St., Buffalo.

On Thursday, March [illegible] Shore R.R. will sell excursion [illegible] to New York at rate of [illegible] $4. Tickets will be good [illegible] date of sale and returning [illegible] Tuesday, March 17th inclusive. The limit on these tickets [illegible] time to visit the numerous [illegible] interest in the great metropolis such as Bronx Park, Grant's Tomb, Metropolitan Museum, Art [illegible] theatres are presenting their best attractions with [illegible] entertainment to suit [illegible] Further information may be [illegible] at ticket office, Central [illegible] city office, 19 East [illegible]

Ocean [illegible]

Horace Goldin [illegible] head the bill of vaudeville [illegible] for next week at the Cook's House. He is one of the [illegible] wonderworkers [illegible] goes. The Clan [illegible] listed to give [illegible] have the atmosphere [illegible]

Dolan and Lenhart [illegible] give an entertaining [illegible] Carrol Johnson in a [illegible] guist. The balance of the bill [illegible] The Tobins, musical [illegible] rigan, the comedy [illegible] son, the "Swedish [illegible] the Bellows, colored [illegible]

This bill will be given [illegible] every afternoon and evening [illegible] week.

The New National [illegible]

"At Piney Ridge" [illegible] set the pace for all [illegible] has yet to find its equal [illegible] power and human [illegible] David Higgins and Miss [illegible] Waldron will present this [illegible] on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 9, 10 and 11, at the National Theatre.

A dramatic event of much [illegible] tance is the announcement that [illegible] Bonelli and Rose Stahl in "[illegible] Meredith" will appear at the [illegible] Theatre on March 12, 13 and 14. It is understood that the magnificent production of the piece made by Frank McKee for a run of [illegible] months at Wallack's Theatre, New York, has been bought outright by Mr. Bonelli and Miss Stahl, [illegible] the original "properties."

$100 REWARD, $100.

The readers of this paper are pleased to learn that there is at least one dreadful disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundations of the disease, giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer one Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for testimonials.

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