

A BRILLIANT CAREER.

A Beautiful Catholic Story Written
For The Catholic Journal.
BY MARY ROWENA COTTER.

(Continued from last week.)

CHAPTER XXIII.

"Must the hand of death hover over every ideal on which my heart is set," sighed Beatrice as she was preparing to go to school the morning after the burial. "Surely it seems that God sends me friends only to take them away when I have learned to love them."

She was thinking now, not of Willie alone but of Helen Lee. Short had her acquaintance with the latter and though it was now nearly five years since her life had been brought to so sudden and disastrous a close, Beatrice felt that she could never forget her. As a reminder of that true friendship she still carried with her Helen's badge of the Sacred Heart.

Beatrice was ready to start for school when little Alice rushed in with her right hand behind her saying:

"Guess what I got, Miss Beatrice."

The child's voice recalled her from her sad thoughts and turning to her she said, "I couldn't guess, Alice, what is it?"

The little girl held up a bunch of wild roses saying, "I just picked them from Willie's bush to put on his grave. I have been watching the buds for two weeks and I intended to surprise him with some of the roses when they were blossomed. Some of them were almost out the morning he died and I thought I would have a nice bouquet for him that night, but I felt so bad when they told me he was dead I forgot the flowers."

Beatrice took the flowers and inhaled their sweet perfume while her tears fell on the delicate petals. Only last fall Willie had brought the bush home from the fields for her and had planted it under the window of what was then her room, but hers no longer now, for being the best bedroom in the house, she had given it up to him in the beginning of his illness and she would not now return to the room where he had died. How carefully he had watched the bush all the fall, watering it every day until the roots had taken firm hold of the new soil, and telling her of the pretty blossoms she would have in the spring. On her way to school the teacher stopped at the cemetery and knelt in prayer while Alice arranged the flowers in the vase she had brought from home.

School was to have closed the following week, but there were several days to be made up which had been lost on account of Willie's illness, so she had over three weeks longer to remain. How eagerly she looked forward now to the end, for it almost seemed as if she could not endure remaining here where there was so much to remind her of the dear little friend she would never again see in this world. What she dreaded most was the annual school picnic which she must give the children before she left them. Willie had told her all about that in the most glowing terms in the early spring. The memory of the happy sports in which the boys always indulged had brought a new light to his pale face, and he had emphatically declared that he knew he would be well enough to attend.

The children had deeply mourned their young friend, but childhood's sorrow is like a passing shower which oppresses only while it is present and quickly passes away. So it was with the majority of the children in the school and preparations for the picnic were entered into with an earnest zeal by them. In the course of a conversation with several of them, on their way home from school one evening, one little girl, a sister of one of the big boys who had caused his teacher so much trouble in the beginning, ventured to ask what she would like most of anything to have.

Beatrice reflected a few minutes on the strange question, then replied: "Most of all I would like a cross to mark Willie's grave," and she thought no more of the matter.

The picnic which was held in the woods near the school was a success, for a pleasant day could not have been chosen. Had not the absence of one dear face left a sad and lasting impression on the young teacher's memory she would have been truly happy. She could not banish Willie for one minute from her thoughts for he had planned much on the enjoy-

ment he was to derive from this event. She would not however retard the happiness of her dear little friends by betraying her own feelings; so with a heroic effort and smiling face she willingly joined in the happy, childish sports which she could not enjoy. In the evening those whose homes lay in an opposite direction from Mr. Snell's came to kiss her good-bye, telling her how glad they would be to see her when she returned in the fall. She felt that it was a final farewell, for she had no intention of returning, but she would not mar their happiness by telling them so. Among those who insisted upon going, at least part way home with her, were the three rough boys who had so annoyed her, but they now showed by their gentle manner how much they loved and respected her. On reaching the cemetery Beatrice turned in to pay what might be her farewell visit and the others followed. On the head of Willie's grave stood a neat wooden cross which had not been there the day before, and the grave was covered with spring flowers. The cross was painted white, with his name and age printed in black letters. A poor affair it was compared to the costly marble stones which marked the graves of her friends at home, but it showed plainly the work of tender loving hearts and hands.

"Whom may I thank for this?" she asked, looking at one of the boys as soon as her surprise was over so she could speak. "We three wanted to give you something," said the eldest, "to prove our respect for you, and as we heard you wanted a cross for Willie's grave most of anything, we made it and brought it here last night after you had gone home from school." "How very kind of you, boys, I thank you with all my heart for thus remembering a poor orphan, and I know Willie would too, if he could speak."

"You need not thank us, Miss Snow, for we felt that it was our duty to do something to please you after treating you so mean when we first went to school to you."

"You afterwards became my best scholars, and your poor beginning was long ago forgotten by me."

"We wouldn't have done so well, but your kindness made us ashamed of ourselves and we would not let you go without telling you how sorry we are for having treated you so mean, and now we all ask your forgiveness," said the eldest of the three.

"That has been freely given long ago, for I know you sincerely wished to do what was right."

"Indeed we did, Miss Snow," said another, "after we got acquainted with you. You are so different from the other teachers we've had, and we've learned more in this one year than we ever did in two years."

"Boys," said Beatrice, "a teacher's life in many respects is a hard one and I do not like to hear you speaking ill of those who were here before me."

"I believe you," said another, "and we are sorry for anything we've done to make their lives harder. We will not forget all the good you have taught us."

In their own rough but honest way they showed that they were really sincere, and Beatrice felt sorry, when at the grave of the first true friend she had met in this strange place, she had to bid them farewell. They would have accompanied her home but she dismissed them in order to have one short half hour with the dead, at whose grave she could never offer another prayer.

That evening as the family sat alone on the veranda Mr. Snell said: "Miss Snow, you have given better satisfaction than any teacher we have had in years, and it has been decided to hire you for another year."

Beatrice could not answer at once for this was so unexpected as well as being contrary to her own plans.

You do not appear to be as pleased as we expected you would over your good fortune. You seemed to take such an interest in your work that I thought you would be delighted to have the school another year."

"I appreciate your kindness more than I can tell you, and as for the children I have taught they are very dear to me and I deeply regret leaving you, but I cannot accept your kind offer."

"Why not, is the pay too small? If that is it I am sure it will be easy to get a raise for you next year."

"No, I am well pleased with what you have paid me for my work."

"What then is the reason?"

"You wish me to be frank with you and I will," said Beatrice firmly, "I have sadly missed the privileges of attending religious services this year and I have resolved that another year, even though I may not be as well paid and my work may be more difficult, to try to find a position where I can attend church."

"Is that your reason?"

"It is."

Mr. Snell was tempted to repeat the old story that one religion was as good as another, and duty which to her was to remain where she could do so much good, should be first, but he knew her too well to venture such a useless suggestion.

"You Catholics are strange people," he said, "and I deeply regret your choice, but I suppose if your mind is set on being near a church of your own creed next year there is no use of pressing you further to return to us."

"No, but I shall always remember you and your family as the kindest of friends."

CHAPTER XXIV.

"Carriage, Miss?"

Beatrice who had just stepped from the train looked around to be greeted by the smiling face of the same old hackman who had always driven her to the seminary. Heeding him not she was about to pass on when he again accosted her with the same question, repeating with the freedom of his class that she had a long way to go and had better ride, for remembering both her face and her liberality in the past, he supposed that she was on her way to Madame Van Horn's, and he expected to be well paid for taking her there. She shook her head and passed on. Some time ago she would have considered such a walk too much for her strength, besides being entirely out of place for a young lady like herself, and the only time she had ever refused the carriage was when she had gone to the seminary on the bicycle, which the highly offended mistress still declared had been the means of bringing upon the school irreparable disgrace. But with Beatrice all things were now greatly changed and the poor country school teacher had no right to the luxuries once enjoyed by the daughter of a New York millionaire. She was weary, too, from long hours of travel in the close dusty cars and was glad to walk and enjoy the pure evening breeze. The distance of two miles seemed nothing to her on the pleasant evening after some of the long, tiresome walks she had taken in going to and from school.

Having disposed of her check and her small baggage to a truckman she started on her mind filled with pleasant thoughts, for now she was almost home to the dear convent, where she could kneel once more in the chapel and enjoy the holy privileges of religion which had been taken from her almost as soon as she had first received them. Reaching the village limits she saw the beloved building towering above the shade trees, which from here looked like a pleasant grove surrounding, and to her it seemed like a beacon light to a weary, storm-tossed sailor. So intent was she upon her own thoughts that she did not hear the sound of approaching wheels until a grand carriage was directly opposite her, and quickly looking up she found herself face to face with Madame Van Horn. Forgetting for the time the past, Beatrice was about to speak to her, but the woman whom she knew well to be a severe critic of dress, looked at her, taking in every line of her outfit in one glance then with a haughty toss of her head she turned away. The girl knew her former teacher's mental comment as well as if she had heard it put into words, and she keenly felt the insult.

This is what Miss Van Horn thought: "How shabby she looks in her old traveling suit she wore when she returned here after her Easter vacation, over a year ago, and how out of date it is. I am glad she is learning what poverty means and she will know much more about it before she gets through. I knew just how it would be, that the nuns would not keep her and give her a home when her mother had disowned her and she was left without a cent. How I wish her lady mother could see her now; but no I don't either, for Mrs. Snow is a true lady and has done her duty as best she could by her daughter. Poor Mrs. Snow, she has already seen trouble enough with that girl and I would not have another drop of bitterness added to her cup by such a sight as this."

(To be continued.)

CLERICAL TRAINING

ANNUAL MESSAGE OF BISHOP McQUAID READ IN ALL CHURCHES SUNDAY.

Bishop McQuaid's annual letter to the priests and laity of the diocese was read in all the churches of the diocese Sunday. After dealing with the necessity of clerical training in the church in every way, the bishop said:

"In this year's pastoral letter we propose to dwell at length on the work of the preparatory seminary. The thoughts in this letter, thoughts often expressed on other occasions, will bear repetition until they become in a degree the thoughts of all in the diocese."

"Many bishops, like the bishop of Rochester, are coming to the conclusion that it is in the elementary or preparatory seminary that the foundation of the clerical life should be laid. Some hold that this should be in boarding schools, and others that the boy should not be removed too soon from family influences, provided that the family is truly Christian, and keep a home in which God is lovingly known and revered. An experience of thirty-three years has convinced me that the latter system is the better."

"A vocation to the priesthood begins in a Christian family, is fostered in a Christian school, and is watched, encouraged and directed by a devout and zealous priest. Its first developments seen in a Christian family, and in the family it has its natural home and surroundings."

"The first idea of the young aspirant to the priesthood may be one of piety, and a desire to lead a holy life. In time this may grow into a noble and pure of generosity toward God, whom he has learned to love, and to whom he now desires to consecrate all the powers of his mind and body. This desire will save him from worldly ambitions for himself, or for his family. His vocation is lost once he permits greed of gain, or love of his own ease and comfort, to enter his soul. Naturally the young are warm-hearted and generous. It is the breath of suspicion, of selfishness, of cautious calculations and suggestions, emanating too often from his own family, which sully and finally prevent the honest and lofty cravings of a true boy's heart."

"Hence the vigilance and thoughtful-ness that should be found in a family where there is a candidate for the priesthood. Their thoughts, like his own, should be high and noble; their ambition should be for God and not for self. They should be sympathetic and helpful in his heroic consecration to God's service. A boy thus guided and encouraged only needs to see a possible way of reaching the priesthood, and he will in time safely report to the call of God's voice, and attain the fulfillment of his soul's most ardent aspirations."

"In his home his ears should never hear aught that is low, vulgar, impure, or the foul language of the unclean-minded. There should be exactness in religious duties on the part of all, charitableness of speech and a refraining from needless criticism of ecclesiastical and their work. Much of this carrying out proceeds from ignorance of correct facts and under all circumstances, is harmful. In the artless mind of the young it breeds suspicion and distrust. "It is in the unworthy and selfish home that is bred the foolish and wicked thought of the priesthood for self and profit. The devil will suggest such notions, without the aid of deceived or designing parents."

"From the above it will be noticed how great is the importance attached to home training in the family. It is hard for a boy to become a worthy priest who has not led the normal life of those among whom he will have to live; often sharing in their sorrows and trials, with a soul of sympathy for the poverty of many, and a word of encouragement for all."

"The life in a seminary is an abnormal one, and it is often continued for long years in a boarding school, and then for six years more in a higher school for studies in philosophy and theology. The strain becomes in many cases unbearable, and some break down. The life in the preparatory seminary is still a life in the family with one's parents, or in a boarding house approved by the superiors of the seminary. In either case it is still a life among the people—the people with whom he will have to live and whose burdens he will have to share."

"In St. Andrew's Preparatory Seminary, as a day school, and not as a boarding school, the conditions and experience of the family life are found. A boy who has not a true vocation to a life of sacrifice and privations, soon discovers what he lacks and chooses another career."

"True vocations abound in this diocese, and from the large number a selection of the best can be made. To secure them we need the co-operation of pastors and parents, not only before these candidates enter the seminary, but year after year, through the whole course in the lower and upper grades of the seminary, and in vacation time, especially

are vigilance and observation needed. Each student has had a long school term, instruction and training; he has had prayer and meditation, spiritual conferences and counsel; his daily mass and frequent communions have kept him to be consecrated. Such a boy must necessarily be unhappy and cheerless, while always happy and cheerful, in the consciousness of living in the presence of God, there should be a sweetness of demeanor, self-control and gentleness of manner, at home and among strangers. Much that might be proper, and not deserving of censure, in boys destined to follow worldly professions and pursuits, would be very improper in candidates for the ecclesiastical calling. The young student who can make no sacrifice for God and His cause is not called to the priesthood. Pastors and parents have a safe rule for their guidance. What is demanded of a young lad preparing for the priestly life is clearly laid down in the Tridentine Council, in Encyclicals of Pius IX., and in the decrees of the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore.

"The Council of Trent traced much of the misfortune and many of the evils, that befall the church at the time of the great schism in the sixteenth century, to neglect in the selection and training of the clergy. Many were filled with the spirit of the world, and entered the clerical career as a means to a living, and in the furtherance of ambitious and selfish views. What happened then may happen again. Against such a danger the council and others in authority, guided and governed by its spirit and teachings, insist on due selection of candidates still too young to come under the world's seductions, whose hearts have not yielded to the allurements and dangerous pleasures of a loose and self-indulgent civilization, more pagan than Christian."

"The above thoughts are presented to the serious consideration of our diocesan laity and clergy, to impress on their minds and hearts the duty of joining with superiors in rendering faithful representation with regard to the conduct of students while at home during vacation time. It is true some justify concealment on the score of privacy, forgetting charity toward God's church, and the many souls of the faithful that will be lost through the criminal ministrations of an unworthy priest, who might have been debarred entrance into the sanctuary had not ill-advised sentiments of charity, or fear of offending, kept from the knowledge of lawful superiors the faults and shortcomings of unfit candidates for the priesthood."

"There have been instances in the past when Catholics had to blush and their hearts bleed over the misdeeds of unfortunate priests, who might have been kept away from God's altar had not mistaken notions of charity withheld knowledge of their early history. There is charity in silence when speech is not an obligation to protect the church and souls."

"We have dwelt at length on this branch of the subject because of its importance, and because it is no longer required to condole light offenses and defects owing to the urgent demand for priests, even if not up to the highest standard of character and intellectual attainments. There is no longer need to accept the doubtful or hurry through the half-prepared for the awful responsibility of the spiritual care of immortal souls."

"Hitherto the scholastic course of studies at St. Andrew's Preparatory Seminary has been limited to four years, beginning with September of this year it will be extended to five years. There were at one time last year no less than eighty-two students in St. Andrew's; many more than the diocese of Rochester ever required for its work. Of these ten left for want of preparation for reasons of health, or for inability to keep up with class work. The supply will now be superabundant while our Catholic schools flourish and our churches are ruled by deserving ministers of religion."

"The standard of studies at St. Bernard's is now so high and so exacting that St. Andrew's is called on to send to the higher seminary fully equipped entrance students. Insufficiently prepared young men suffer lamentably and are a hindrance to other members of their class."

"St. Bernard's roll of students for the scholastic year 1902-3 was very large and up to the capacity of its accommodations. Of these, twenty-two received the priesthood during the year."

"At the close of four years of theological studies, three members of the graduating class, after a written examination and an oral one before an examining board of ten examiners, received the degree of Bachelor of Theology. Three others having finished the philosophical curriculum, received, under like conditions, the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy."

"We are deeply grateful to God for the general good health of our students during the year, and for many other blessings, graciously vouchsafed to St. Bernard's."

and full facilities for the completion of their religious education. "Much of the success of the scholastic course depends on the wise selection of students and the successful management of the work. Success is more to be followed by the fidelity of many of the students, who, feeling annually leaders on the horizon, with them it is a matter of discipline and an occasional rebuff is accepted as a sacrifice for Christ's sake. It is with special pleasure that we offer the diocese more than one in the number of those who have been successful in their studies and in their conduct."

"Theological education is called for by the diocese, and the diocese is in the process of raising a new fund, has been started by the diocesan Library Fund. The idea was suggested by one of the priests of the diocese, who kindly sent a check for \$100 to be used for the purchase of books. A summary of the diocesan library fund, a large library of books, such as professional books for students, what we ask is money with which to buy the publications in demand. The more filling up of the shelves with books not adapted to our use would be of little avail. What we desire is the creation of a fund, the interest of which will enable the superiors of the seminary to buy each year works of study needed for high studies, as well as for ordinary class use."

"We repeat these usual directions for the raising of this collection. It is free to depart from these directions without express permission obtained from the bishop."

"We send the annual report for 1902, in packages, directed to the collectors, hoping that they will kindly distribute the copies to the subscribers, whose names they will find written on them."

"You will hear, dear Mr. read, later to your congregation on the first Sunday after its completion, with a little delay as possible, distribute the subscription books among the most zealous and the best disposed of your flock."

"This letter will again be read on the first Sunday in October, on which day you will take up a collection in the church to afford an opportunity to all who may not have been reached by the collectors on hand in their offerings."

"It is to be hoped that to Catholics in the diocese will be given \$1 for the maintenance of the diocesan library, and will contribute their generosity to the diocese, as an adequate offering on their part."

"We need not say, Rev. Dear Sir, that the continued success of this scholastic collection depends in a great measure on the interest you take in it. We mean, in which you bring the subject before your congregation, and on your compliance with the regulations laid down in this letter. Thank you for your kind attention, and I am, dear Sir, very truly and respectfully, your obedient servant, J. McQuaid, Bishop of Rochester."

National Theatre.

"A Pair of Pinks." With such a Vokes' new piece will be seen at the National Theatre all of next week. These popular comedians are said to have found a piece which is even brighter and better than that of two years ago. It is guaranteed to be a party of fifty-five people, which includes a chorus of forty-two. The specialties are introduced, each one of which requires a change of costume for the chorus, thus the costumes for the play is no small matter.

BAKER THEATRE.

Hall Cain's stirring melodrama, "The Christian," will be revived next week at the Baker Theatre, three days starting Monday matinee, Sept. 7th, matinee daily, where the management promises it will be presented with the original New York scenery and effects as presented by Miss Viola Allen. The announcement is made that the big musical comedy, "Shooting the Chorus" will play in engagement at the Baker Theatre, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, September 10, 11 and 12, bargain matinee daily.

COOK OPERA HOUSE.

Starting with the matinee on Monday, Sept. 7th, the Cook Opera House will commence its regular vaudeville season. The big attraction for the first week will be the Musical Troupe Art Studies. Keened and Boney will furnish music and comedy. E. E. Bernard will entertain in a grand little talk. "Fix is a Fix" is the name of the piece given by Charles H. Bradshaw & Co. Zsasz and Vernon are clever horizontal bar artists. Margaret Webb is a vocalist of ability. A novelty in vaudeville singing and dancing is given by Clifford and Burke and The Three Kellys give a package of bright songs. Each act is a real treat and are given every day at matinee, season and Joseph Mark will be the fine orchestra.

THEATRE OPERA HOUSE.

Starting with the matinee on Monday, Sept. 7th, the Theatre Opera House will commence its regular vaudeville season. The big attraction for the first week will be the Musical Troupe Art Studies. Keened and Boney will furnish music and comedy. E. E. Bernard will entertain in a grand little talk. "Fix is a Fix" is the name of the piece given by Charles H. Bradshaw & Co. Zsasz and Vernon are clever horizontal bar artists. Margaret Webb is a vocalist of ability. A novelty in vaudeville singing and dancing is given by Clifford and Burke and The Three Kellys give a package of bright songs. Each act is a real treat and are given every day at matinee, season and Joseph Mark will be the fine orchestra.