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Carroll O'Donoghue

A Tale of Irish Struggles of 1886 and Recent Times

by CHRISTINE FABER

Chapter XVIII.

Carter's Insinuations.

Continued from last week

"Rise, I beg you, Miss O'Donoghue," the officer at last found voice to say, and he bent to assist her; by this time also, Father Meagher was soliciting her with his tender entreaty, and Nora was supporting her with her trembling clasp.

"Say that you will help us to one brief interview with him."

The captain was desperate; how he wished that he had resigned his commission as he had intended to do on the occasion of his last interview with Lord Heathcote,—he would not then be in this wretched strait. With an effort which sent the hot blood surging madly into his face, then caused it to recede as suddenly, leaving him white to the lips, he said in a voice that trembled painfully, despite all his efforts to make it calm:

"I am harrowed to the soul, Miss O'Donoghue; I would give my life to be able to answer as you desire me to do, but my duty, my honor, my principles forbid it. I will give you what information of your brother it is in my power to give,—the probable time and whereabouts of his trial—but to assist you to an interview with him is impossible—I must refuse to interfere." He turned sadly away.

Clare would have made another effort, but Father Meagher detained her. "Control yourself, my dear child," he whispered; "we cannot move him; and nothing remains but to obtain the information of which he speaks."

He left her and sought the captain, who stood at a little distance from the party, his head bowed, and his eyes moodily seeking the floor.

"I thank you, sir," the priest began gently, "for your evident commiseration of that poor girl, and I regret that we have put your devotion to duty to such a painful test; but perchance the information of which you speak may be some balm to our suffering and anxious hearts."

The young man, in gratitude for words which seemed to say that at least one understood him, and had divined the unhappy conflict waging within him, extended his hand to the clergyman, and with an admirable air of candor answered: "I thank you from my soul, reverend sir, for what you have said; you have taken some of the bitterness out of that cup which it is my fate constantly to drink, and you give me hope that in a more peaceful time I may be better understood and better judged by one who now regards me as the most sternhearted of my sex. With regard to the information you ask, I can say this much: it is more than probable that Mr. O'Donoghue will be detained here a month, at the end of which time, if he is not sent on to Dublin, his trial will take place here."

Father Meagher bowed and thanked him, and returned to his fair charges, both of whom were once more heavily veiled. Captain Dennier accompanied them to the limits of the officers' quarters. With a wild wish for some sign which might tell him that Clare's feelings toward him were not entirely those of aversion, he ventured to walk beside her as they neared the arched passage in which he would make his adieus; but she did not give him the slightest mark of notice. Disappointed and saddened, he still found opportunity to whisper when he had taken leave of Father Meagher and Nora: "The day may come—and I shall pray for its dawn—in which I shall be able to show you how bitterly, how cruelly you wrong me." Could he have penetrated the thickness of her veil, nay, more, could he for one instant have read the depths of her heart he would have been entirely comforted, for the latter was strangely touched—touched far more than its owner would admit to herself, and she thanked the friendly screen which concealed the sudden rush of telltale color to her face.

Tighe a Vohr, with his wonted shrewdness, was in timely waiting and to him Captain Dennier resigned his visitors for further guidance from the barracks.

"Is it success?" whispered the eager fellow, when he could ask the question without fear of being overheard.

"No, Tighe," answered Father Meagher, "it is not; we have gained nothing by our visit but the information that Carroll is to be kept here a month, and perhaps will stand his trial here."

"A month!" repeated Tighe, "be the powers!—axin' yer riverince's pardon for swearin'—but mebbe I could fix the matther. Howld awhile, an' let me conjecther—faith! I think I have it. Go back to Dhrommacohol, and kape yersel's in readiness to return any minute."

"What is it, Tighe; what have you planned?" asked the ladies in a breath.

"Don't ax me to tell, fer I haven't it quite sthraight in me own moind yet, an' mebbe I won't be succissful."

"You are plotting nothing wrong, I hope—no sinful means, Tighe?" said the priest a little anxiously, well knowing that Tighe a Vohr's affection for his young master would impel him almost to any commission for that master's benefit.

"Now, Father Meagher, can't you thrust me sometoime, an' not always be thinkin' I'm a rascal?"

He spoke with so ludicrous an air of injured innocence that, despite their heavy hearts, they were forced to smile.

Having accompanied the little party as far as his instructions warranted, Tighe took a respectful leave, and with a very thoughtful, important air turned his steps to the part to the barracks where he hoped to meet Garfield. He had rather avoided the quartermaster since the latter's refusal to allow him to indite another love-letter, and it was with no little anxiety that he determined on a meeting now. He knew not how far his deception relative to the letters might have been discovered, in case it had been discovered at all, but he resolved to trust to his natural wit should he find himself in difficulty. He came suddenly upon the quartermaster, who was standing apparently watching a group of soldiers engaged in card-playing; but his heavy face betrayed by its expression that his thoughts were not those engendered by the scene before him. His knitted brow, giving evidence of unpleasant reflections and his thick-set under-lip, gave a dogged and repulsive look to features otherwise not ill-formed.

"Could I hev a private word wid yer honor?" Tighe whispered to him.

The quartermaster scowled for a moment, but reading in the expressive sparkle of Tighe a Vohr's eyes that something of importance lay behind the request, he led the way to his own apartment. Tighe affected great secrecy, whispering with both hands to his mouth, and the latter very close to Garfield's ear:

"I understand that yer honor's in throuble be rayson o' the bet you med on Rody Crane's filly the other day."

The quartermaster seemed to be astonished.

"You see, yer honor, I heerd all about it the other day, an' I sez to mesel'; its a burnin' shame to let a rale nice spoken gintleman loike Mr. Garfield be put down an' taken clane in be such a set o' rogues as Jack Moore an' the b'ys that's wid him. So I think I can foind a way to help yer honor. If yer had another horse to inter, an' a rider for him, would it make it all right?"

"It would; but where is another horse to be had? I've scoured the county for one, but it's no use; and the rider—that is as difficulty to find in this cursed county."

Tighe gave a knowing and expressive wink. "Lave it to me, Mr. Garfield, for purvidin' you wid a horse, an' a rider, too, an' divil a betther animal in the county than the one I'll get unless I'm onsuccisful intoirely. Didn't I make good me word afore—didn't I tell you I'd write a letther for you as'd bring you an answer—an' didn't I do it—I ax yer honor, didn't I do it?"

"Yes; so far as bringing me an answer was concerned; but that is all that has come of it. The widow continues the silence and the coldness which in her letter she besought me to maintain. Really, if it was not her express wish, I should demand at once if my letter had offended her."

"Do not," said Tighe, in frantic earnestness, his very soul in terror for the possible consequences to himself of such a proceeding. "I'll tell you a bit o' a saycret; she has a scape-grace o' a brother, Jack Moore, as wild a divil as iver led in a steeplechase or danced in a fair, an' wid all his wild ways she jist thinks the loike o' him niver was seen, an' she's afeerd to displase him in one mortal thing; well, for some rayson or other, he doesn't loike you, an he'd be death on his sister if the thought she'd as much as give you one sweet look. Now I have good cause to know that the same lady does loike you, an' she loikes you better for the way you're actin' at the prisent toime; makin' yersel' agreeable to her wishes. Do you see now; do you comprehind intoirely all I'm sayin' to yyu?" asked Tighe with much the same manner and voice he might have used to Shaun.

The dazzed Englishman nodded he was too mystified to know whether he ought to be pleased, or angry, or puzzled, or all three together.

"Well, thin, this same Jack Moore wouldn't care if he desthroyed you this noight, the villian, an' it's a laughin' stock he wants to make o' you, as well as to win yer money; but if you'll abide be me directions, I think we'll defate him; the thafe o' the world: Tell me now, will you do jist as I say?"

The mystified Englishman again nodded.

"Well, promise me that you won't be obthrudin' yersel' on the widay's notice, that you won't go nixt nor nigh where she is till the race is over. Will you promise that?"

A third time the bewildered Englishman nodded.

Tighe gave a grunt of satisfaction. "Now tell me how many days afore the lists will be closed I mane whin would it be too late for you to inter the name o' a horse in the place o' Rody Crane's filly?"

"The day after to-morrow," replied the soldier, at last seeming to arouse to a correct understanding of the case.

"That's short toime," said Tighe, "but how and iver we'll thry. And now,"—changing his voice from its tone of authority to one of humble entreaty—"mebbe yer honor wouldn't refuse me a bit o' a favor. I'll not ax it till afther I've secured the horse an' the rider."

"What is it, Mr. Carmody?" asked the quartermaster.

"It's to get a pass for me, some way, that'll admit three people into tha jail to see that poor prisoner that was brought up here from Dhrommacohol the other noight. They're frinds o' his, an' two o' thim the purtiest ladies youiver laid eyes on,—me heart arched intoirely whin I seen the grief they wor in bekase they wouldn't be let to see him. Now, Mr. Garfield, I'll put it to yersel', if it was yer own case an' the Widdy Moore was breakin' her heart to see you, wouldn't you be thankful, yer honor, wouldn't the sintiminits o' yer heart rise in gratitude to the one that would bring her to visit you in yer lonely cell?"

That appeal did touch a tender spot in the quartermaster's bosom imagination pictured the fair Mistress Moore paying him such a visit, and for the bliss of that he would have been willing to endure the dreariest confinement. He was evidently softened, and he answered kindly:

"Perhaps I can manage it. One of the officials of the prison is a warm friend of mine, and if the visit be made at night, and be kept secret, I think it can be arranged. But the visit must be made at night, and be kept entirely secret."

"Any perdition at all 'll be agreed to," said Tighe, meaning condition, and gleaning from the soldier's stare that he had made an error of speech; but without attempting to correct it he continued: "An' now I'll be takin' me lave, Mr. Garfield, but you'll see me to-morrow noight, an' mebbe afore, an' I thrust it's good news I'll be bringin' you."

And before Mr. Garfield could collect his wits sufficiently to ask the numerous questions which rushed to his now thoroughly awakened mind, Tighe had disappeared.

(To be continued)

Around the Globe

Catholic News From Many Places

A special dispatch from Rome announces the death of the Rev. Joseph Kennedy, brother of Rt. Rev. Thomas F. Kennedy, rector of the American College. He was thirty years of age.

The death of Senator Mallory (Democrat), of Florida, leaves only one Catholic Senator in the United States Senate—Thomas H. Carter (Republican), of Montana. Senator Mallory's successor Senator William James Bryan, who was recently appointed by the Governor of Florida, is only thirty-two years old, and is the youngest member of the Senate, the oldest—Senator White, of Maryland—being fifty-two years his senior.

A meeting of the pastors of the city of Cincinnati, called by Archbishop Moeller to make arrangements for the meeting of the Catholic Educational Association to be held in that city July 7, 8, 9 was held in the hall of St. Peter's Cathedral on Monday, January 6. The Archbishop Rev. W. D. Hickey secretary of the school board of the archdiocese, and Rev. F. W. Howard, national secretary of the association, addressed the meeting. A committee of the pastors was appointed and the Archbishop himself, to show his personal interest in the success of the convention decided to act as president of the committee.

It is believed that the American hierarchy will not be called upon to choose a successor for the late Bishop Rooker. The Propaganda will provide an incumbent for the widowed See. This does not mean that no American will be selected for the post. It means that the Philippine Islands are canonically a strictly missionary field, and as such, directly and immediately subject to the jurisdiction of the Propaganda.

The United States Government has officially conferred the name "Mt. Junipero Serra" on the highest peak of the Santa Lucia Mountians in California in memory of Father Junipero Serra the Franciscan, who explored the territory now known as the State of California.

Former Governor J. Proctor Knott suffered a stroke of paralysis Tuesday night in his home near Lebanon, but is reported as resting easily at present. Governor Knott is advanced in years. During the A. P. A. insanity in Kentucky he stoutly opposed its principles.

At the recent Twelfth Diocesan Synod of New York Archbishop Farley announced that fifty-five churches of the archdiocese now have male choirs, and twenty churches are earnestly preparing for the same. The diocesan commission on church music will soon issue a list of Masses suited to divine service. It is likely that Gregorian chant will be taught in the parish schools next year.

A. G. Ringling, one of the seven Ringling Brothers, died in New Orleans last week of Bright's disease. Having become a Catholic shortly before his death, the funeral was from St. Joseph's church, Barboo, Wis., where the Ringlings have their homes. The solemn high mass was sung by Father Peikert of St. Joseph's college, Dubuque, an old friend of the Ringlings. Deceased leaves a wife and three daughters, a son-in-law and a grandchild, all Catholics.

News From Ireland

Carlow.

Died—December 7, 1907, at her residence, Rathrush, Ballon, County Carlow, Anne Fitzpatrick, aged 72 years, mother of Rev. J. Fitzpatrick, Omaha, Nebraska.

The "Carlow Nationalist" states that it is authoritatively informed that James Brophy, D. C. Shankill, is a candidate for the representation of the County Carlow, vacant by the death of John Hammond, M. P. Mr. Brophy is a member of North Kilkenny as well as the Carlow Executive of the U. I. L. and takes an active part in the proceedings of both bodies, as well as in those of the Kilkenny District Council and Board of Guardians.

Dublin.

Owing to the high prices put on land suitable on which to erect laborers cottages under the new scheme, the Guardians of the North Dublin Union have decided to cut down the number of cottages to be erected.

A large and influential public meeting was held in the mansion House on Dec. 10, for the purpose of appealing for funds to provide employment for the deserving unemployed during the coming winter. The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, M. P. presided, and their Excellencies the Lord Lieutenant and the Countess of Aberdeen were present. Numerous subscriptions were handed in, including one for $100 from their Excellencies.

Kildare.

The Rev. Father Purcell, O. P., St. Xavier's Church, Dublin, visited Athy recently and was a guest of the Dominican Fathers. He is at present engaged in forwarding the objects of the Association of Perpetual Rosary. On Sunday evening, Dec. 8 (the feast of the Immaculate Conception) there was a large congregation present when Father Purcell preached a most eloquent and impressive sermon on the Blessed Virgin Mary and urged the congregation to join the Association of the Perpetual Rosary, to get the beads, and to have their names enrolled in the register at Dublin. They had up to 10,000 members alone joined from Ireland, besides those that were joined in America, Canada, South Africa, Australia and elsewhere. Benediction of the Most Holy Rosary by Rev. Father Dowling, Prior, concluded the evening's services.

Kilkenny.

The Irish Classes for National Teachers that have been held on Saturdays in Callan for some time past, were discontinued until Saturday, January [illegible], 1908, when they will be again resumed. The Saturday classes in Kilkenny were resumed on January 11.

The death has occurred at the Presentation Convent, [illegible]ton, Queen's Co., of Sister Augustine, the youngest daughter of the late Michael Brennan, Crosspatrick, Johnstown, County Kilkenny and sister of the Revs. Martin and Thomas Brennan.

Kings.

The good soggarth of Kilcormac, Very Rev. Father O'Reilly, P. P., is engaged in the heavy task of renovating and improving his parish church—something the church sadly needs. The parish is not blessed with an over-abundance of riches but with something far more precious namely an abiding faith in Providence. There are many King's County men in the U. S., who need only be reminded of Father O'Reilley's undertaking to extend to him a generous helping hand in his endeavor to make the parish church of Kilcormac a temple worthy of the Most High.

Longford.

The tenants on the estate of Lieut. Col. T. J. DeBurgh's Coolco[illegible] signed their purchase agreements recently. The terms are be in the pound reduction of second term rents; interest to be 3 1-2 per cent until advance of purchase money; hanging gale to be forgiven; sporting rights to be vested in the tenants. These terms to be subject to the approval of the Irish Land Commission. The tenants thanked the Rev. [illegible]

he has brought this [illegible] satisfactory a conclusion.

Louth.

The inquiry in connection with the new Laborer's Act scheme for Dundalk Rural District will shortly be held. It proposes the erection of 548 cottages at an estimated cost of £[illegible]. What a blessing these 548 cottages will be to the rural laborers of that district and what a blessing the sweeping away of as many rookeries and pigstyes—the fruitful breeding ground of consumption and other scourges of the community.

Meath.

Mr. Ennis, Relieving Officer of the No. 2 District of [illegible] Union, has resigned his position.

On the night of December [illegible] seventeen head of cattle, the property of Mr. Barr, [illegible], were driven off. [illegible] Nutstown. Drives have taken place at Keenogue and [illegible] near Duleek on the [illegible] and on the Percival-Maxwell [illegible] and the lands of [illegible]

[illegible]