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A Tale of Irish Struggles of 1886 and Recent Times

by CHRISTINE [illegible] BER

Continued from last week

Chapter LIII.

Father and Son.

"You are not to fatigued to make a visit with me?" he said kindly to Nora.

"No,-my anxiety lends me strength, but surely you can tell me now where we are going."

The priest flushed slightly. "Pardon me, Nora, if even yet I must refuse to gratify you; it seems cruel to keep you in such suspense, but I am bound-I have given my word, and I cannot break it; and this affair, so mysterious and harrowing to you, is equally so to me."

There was such a quiver of sadness in his voice that the gentle girls heart was at once touched, she put her hand upon his arm with the old fond, familiar touch of their early childhood, and answered: "Forgive me, Charlie, and I shall repress my curiosity, I shall not ask a single question more, but simply do your bidding."

How the young priest quivered at her touch; how he yearned to strain her to him, and to tell her that the paternal affection which had always existed between them was theirs by right-that he was her brother! but the time had not yet come, and he turned away to meet Dennier, who had just returned from his room, where he had made a careful toilet for his visit to the castle-a visit which his impatience would not allow him to defer.

"Are you going out?" he asked "to what part of the city? perhaps it lies in my direction, and as I am rather more familiar with the streets of Dublin, I may be of some service as an escort."

The priest seemed a little nonplussed, but a moment's reflection enabled him to answer: "Mr. Dennier" it had been the young man's earnest request to affix no military title to his name, "for certain reasons I have refrained from speaking of the immediate place of our destination, but I may tell you now: it is Dublin Castle."

"Ah!" young Dennier's countenance kindled, and he seemed about to burst into some direct statement; but he evidently controlled the impulse, for the light died as suddenly out of his face, and he was silent for a moment. He was more than ever convinced of the truth of his surmise, and he had, during that instant that his face shone, burned to tell how he guessed the import of their mission, and how he would fain dissuade them, knowing that the only result would be failure and bitter humiliation; but it was so delicate a matter, and they had been so silent about it, that a second thought prompted him to restrain his speech. He said instead after that moments silence: "Permit me, then, to be your escort to the castle-being somewhat familiar with the place, perhaps I can facilitate your interview with the party whom you wish to see."

"But your own visit to the castle-our going now may interfere with or delay it," said the priest.

"No," answered Dennier, "there is sufficient time for me; I beg you to allow me to perform this service."

Father O'Connor seemed to accept gratefully, and Nora despite her promise to repress her curiosity, looked the latter feeling from her beautiful eyes. The three repaired to the castle, and there, just as they were about to enter, the priest admitted that it was Lord Heathcote he wished to see. Dennier expressed no surprise, but Nora started and she could scarcely restrain the exclamation upon her lips; yet, true to her promise, she did not question, and the young ex-officer, having accompanied them to the room in waiting, whence Father O'Connor dispatched his name to the nobleman, he took a kindly leave. The answer was almost immediately returned, that his lordship would see the Reverend Father O'Connor.

"You will not fear to wait my return here?" he whispered to Nora.

"Oh, no," she answered, striving to accompany her words with a smile, but her surprise and anxiety were too painful. She was not left alone; in a comparatively short time Father O'Connor returned:

"Lord Heathcote desires to see you, Nora,"- trying to speak quietly, but his manner betrayed more agitation than she had perceived ever before. She rose to accompany him, but her limbs trembled so that she was obliged to cling to him for support.

"Why, what is the matter?" he asked; "you have nothing to fear"

"I do not know why I should feel so," she answered; "but oh! Charlie, this dreadful mystery oppresses me."

Her looks gave evidence of the truth of her statement-her cheeks were flushed to the deepest crimson, her eyes sparkling with strange excitement, and the small chiseled mouth parted to emit the labored breathing; but all only enhanced her beauty, which, despite, the plainess of her garb, never had been more striking nor brilliant.

"Pray!" whispered the priest.

She did pray all during the ascent to Lord Heathcote's apartments, and even for the first moment after her entrance into the presence of the nobleman, her lips moved with the closing of her favorite petition, the "Hail Mary."

His lordship did not look at her at first-he sat in his invalid chair with his hand before his face; and it was only when his visitors stood fully within the room, and the usher had withdrawn, that he dropped his hand, and rising, stood before them

What strange feeling was it which came over poor bewildered Nora, as she met the earnest, unveiled gaze of those dark, stern eyes, as she looked into that worn and prematurely aged face, bent now upon her with so singularly wistful an expression to stifle her the next left her pale and faint clinging to Father O'Connor's arm? But the eyes were withdrawn from her, and a cold, careless voice was saying:

"I have heard that both of you favor the prisoner who is under sentence of death in Tralee -are you aware that this is treason upon your part to the government?"

And the stern eyes were again fixed upon Nora, as if an answer was expected from her. But she only clung the tighter to her companion. His lordship resumed, still looking at Nora:

"I have been told that you are the affianced of this young man; you then love him, I presume?" He spoke slowly, as if he took pleasure in the agony which the words seemed to cause her: "You would then suffer with him, I suppose—you would even suffer for him perhaps?"

Nora never knew by what impulse she was prompted, as the nobleman's last words passed his lips, nor could she ever explain how it had occured, but she suddenly found herself on her knees at his feet, wildly imploring Carroll's life.

"Oh, my lord!" she said, with no thought beyond the wild, uncontrollable feeling of the present moment, "if it is in your power, save him-use your influence that they may not take his young life, -spare hearts that are already wretched, and which this stroke must surely break-do this, my lord and the life-long prayers and gratitude of many shall be yours!"

"Rise, young lady; you ask of me what is not consistent with my office." He turned away, as if he would not witness the priest's efforts to raise Nora and quiet her.

"Take me away," she moaned-"I am fainting—ill!"

"Will your lordship excuse us? we must retire," Father O'Connor said, deeply agitated

The nobleman returned: "Yes; and to-morrow I would see you alone,"—speaking to the priest.

Father O'Connor bowed, and the attendant, entering in response to Lord Heathcote's summons, conducted them out. In the waiting-room, whither the young clergyman paused to allow Nora to recover, the strength of her tottering limbs, a servant entered, saying he was sent by Lord Heathcote to see that the young lady received any attention she might require; but Nora only pleaded the more eagerly to be taken back to the hotel, and there, when alone in her room, having assured the priest and Dennier, who had met them on their return from the castle, that she only needed rest, she gave free vent to the anguish which had been so cruelly renewed by the failure of her impulsive plea.

Dennier, from a feeling of delicacy, still restrained all utterance of the thoughts which burned all the more to break into speech since Nora's disturbed manner gave such vivid color to his suspicions.

Chapter LIV.

The Summons to Dublin.

Dennier had not long to wait for his interview with Lord Heathcote—almost immediately that his name was dispatched the summons came for him to repair to his lordship. He was not prepared for the altered appearance of the nobleman—the hair which he had left but sparsely streaked with gray, was now as white as if the snows of eighty winters had frosted it; the strong, stern face, bearing little mark to indicate that it had more than passed a manly prime, bore painful evidence of premature age; and his form, so erect, so firm, so full of the vigor of its best days, was now bowed and tottering. Contrary to his usual custom, he was standing when Dennier entered, and as the latter marked with painful surprise all the evidence of the mysterious decay, there came into his heart, with the strange feeling which the sight of Lord Heathcote always caused, a pity akin to filial tenderness for the nobleman.

Beyond the respectful greeting of the visitor, to which his lordship responded by a slight bow, there was not a word spoken for some seconds, and the young man was beginning to feel a painful embarrassment. But Lord Heathcote spoke at last:

"I have sent for you, Dennier, to give you a final chance. Youth is ever impetuous, and perhaps even now you regret the hasty action of your resignation; a position, wealth and in the future perchance, a title await you; there is but one condition required upon your part; the severing at once of every attachment you may have formed in this country."

"I cannot, my lord, not if a kingdom lay at my feet!" The voice was low, but unmistakably firm.

"Who is the object of this loyal attachment of yours?" Lord Heathcote asked hurriedly.

"The only sister of the prisoner who is to be excuted in Tralee two weeks from to-morrow," was the unhesitating answer.

"And there is an engagement between you?"

"Oh the contrary, my lord, no hint which might be construed into affection upon either side has ever been dropped—the esteem, the love which from the first I have borne this estimable girl, I was compelled to keep within my own breast because I was the hound upon her brother's path, becoming finally his captor; she was noble enough to resent the friendly feeling I fain would have expressed, pointing out its inconsistency with my profession. Since, however, it is no longer my duty to be her enemy, my heart rests itself in the satisfaction of being near her, to render what little service may be in my power when the blow given by her brother's excution shall have lost some of its pain, and when I shall have asserted my manhood by devoting myself to some humble toil; then, should she refuse to reciprocate my regard, I shall still remain near her to give her such protection as may be in my power."

(To be continued)

Around the Globe

Catholic News From Many Places.

The York Manufacturing Co. at Saco, Maine, has offered to contribute the sum of $25,000 toward the erection of a Catholic church in that town. There is no church there at the present time.

A recent press dispatch from Memphis, Tenn., to a Cincinnati paper, says: What is recorded as the third public apology offered in a Catholic church in Tennessee by women for having given public scandal occured at early Mass at St. Paul's Cathedral, when Mrs. P. J. Reilly and Mrs. Jas. Ryan stood in a front of pew before Rev. Father Heffernan. They were married by magistrates.

At the National Convention of the American Humane Association at New Orleans, Dr. William O. Stillman of Albany, N. Y., was re-elected president. In the list of honorary vice-presidents appear the names of Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop Ryan, D.D., and President-elect Taft.

Hon. M. J. Byrne, of Waterbury, Conn., in the recent election for probate judge, carried the three towns of Waterbury, Middleburg and Wolcott against his opponent. The new judge is a member of A. O. H., and other Irish and Catholic organizations. His popularity is shown in the fact that his opponent had been elected by handsome majorities every two years for the past sixteen.

The new home for Catholic deaf mutes, which will accommodate 250 children and cost $100,000, will be a handsome and valuable addition to the many excellent institutions of the Chicago diocese. It is being erected at Fortieth and Belmont avenues.

Visitation Academy, Washington, D. C., has been presented with a handsome chalice, the gift of the class of fifty years ago. The names of the givers, four graduates, are engraved on the base of the cup. Of those who composed the community in 1858, only one, Sister Mary Rose Mullen, is living. The chalice was consecrated by the Apostolic Delegate, Mgr. Falconio.

Marienbad, in Austria, where King Edward takes his annual "cure," is the property of the Canons Regular Premonstratensian, and the Right Rev. Abbott Gilbert Helmen, Abbott of Tepl is the proprietor of the famous springs. The Lord Abbott, who always receives King Edward on his arrival is a personal friend of his majesty who, during his stay in Marienbad visits the Abbey of Tepl regularly.

Canadian papers report that the skeletons of Jean Baptiste de la Veandrye and Father Aulneau, a Jesuit missionary, and the skulls of nineteen French Canadian voyagers, all of whom were killed by Sioux Indians on an island in the northwest and of the Lake of the Woods in June 1736, were recently discovered by a party of priests of St. Boniface's College, Winnipeg, accompanied by Judge Prudhomme.

Irish words to foreign operas attempted by the Keating branch of the Gaelic League, has proved a most gratifying success. In the Rotunda, Dublin, on Nov. 18, a big audience listened with delight to the singing in Irish of solos from "Faust." Every item had to be repeated in Irish. The words have been written by Thomas Beaslai.

Another most original work was composed by O'Brien Butler, which was also enthusiastically received by "the Soldiers' Chorus" and a number of the audience which included Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, who was received by Dr. Coffee, vice president of the Keating branch and president of the Dublin College in the new University.

News From Ireland

Down.

Much regret was felt in Newry by the announcement of the death of Mr. T. O'Kelly, who passed away at his residence, on the Rathfriland road, immediately outside Newry, Dec. 2. The deceased retired from the Provincial Bank in July last, after a service of fifty years, the last twenty-seven of which were spent in Newry, as manager of the local branch of the bank.

Fermanagh.

At their meeting on Dec. 5, Lisnaskea District Council appointed a fitter in the employment of the Sunbeam Anstyle Gas Company, Belfast, to superintend the plant and street lamp installation of Brookeboro at a remuneration of £6 per annum.

Galway.

Died-Dec. 7, Mrs. Whitty, Geraghty, Old Road, Tuam, at an advanced age. Nov. 30, Mrs. Sarah Keane, Cappagrove, aged 80 years. Dec. 2, John Madigan, Forster street, Galway, at an advanced age.

An address to the very Rev. Father Nestor, P. P., Moycullen, Gort, subscribed for by the citizens of Galway, was presented to the very reverend gentleman on the occasion of his departure from his native city to take up the pastoral charge of Moycullen.

Leitrim.

An alarming increase has taken place in the outbreak of typhoid fever raging in Glenfarne district, near Manorhamilton. Up to Dec. 5 the number of patients admitted to the fever hospital had reached 37 and on Sunday morning Dec. 6, ten more were dressed to be brought in, making a total of 47. The fever hospital is full, several of those admitted on Saturday and Sunday having to be put in the infirmary, a portion of which has been fitted up for their temporarily accommodation. The first to succumb to the present outbreak is Mr. Joseph Gilmartin, of Manorhamilton, a farmer well known in the district. He died at the hospital on Dec. 1, leaving a wife and small family for whom much sympathy is felt.

Mayo.

Died-Dec. 2, Mrs. Bridget Mullen, Ballyhaunis. Dec. 16, Patrick Conway, Thomas Gibbons, Castlebar, aged 87 years.

An elderly man named Patrick Cunnane, of Cloontumpher, County Mayo was on Dec. 3 fatally injured by a train while he was walking on the railway between Ballyhaunis and Claremorris. His legs and head having been severed from the body.

Mr. T. McHale, Inspector Balla, branch of the Midland Great Western Railway, who has been stationed at Ballina for the last three years, has been transferred to Longford on the Ballyhaunis, and his departure from Ballina is much regretted.

Roscommon.

Died-Dec. 1, [illegible], Ballygarden, aged 81 years, recently. Mrs. P. Goodman, Castlerea, aged seven.

St. Peter's parish branch U. I. L., Athlone, have subscribed the sum of £25 to the Parnell memorial Fund. This certainly speaks well of the confidence and the faith people have in their representative in the English Commons.

Sligo.

An interesting function took place at the Provincial Bank, Sligo, on Dec. 7, when Mr. P. Hannay was called forward and presented, on an address and purse of sovereigns on the occasion of his recent marriage.

Rev. Francis Gilmartin, C.S.S.R., son of the late James Gilmartin, Castlebar, Sligo, has left Ireland. The reverend gentleman, who during the past two years was Master of Novices at Dundalk, left on the 7th inst. for London, whence he is to sail on Friday for New Zealand, where he will take up missionary duties for some years.

The following deaths have occured in County Sligo: Dec. 1, Miss Alice McLoghry, The Mall, Sligo, aged 24 years. Dec. 2, Mrs. Thomas Anne Quinn, St. Sligo, aged 51 years.