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The Eleventh Hour

It was an ordinary tenement house in the poorest class, exactly like its neighbors, which lined both sides of the dingy street. The door was always open, more than half the time hanging by one hinge, the stairways were dark and crooked, the room small and dirty. In a back kitchen on the topmost floor, a man sat, or rather huddled, in a chair drawn close to the stove. His eyes were closed and his head drooped wearily against the back of the chair. That last spell of coughing had been unusually severe and had left him weak and breathless. A plague on the cough, anyway. Why was it he could not get rid of it? The doctor from the dispensary, the district nurse, even Maggie, had assured him that with the coming of summer this cold of his would be better. Summer was here, though you would not think so today with this raw East wind and drizzling rain, and instead of being better he was worse, decidedly worse. Could it be that they were all wrong and Nancy alone was in the right? Nancy, who, of all that approached him, was the only one who dared to tell him the truth. The truth? No it was a lie, he was not dying, he was going to be well and strong again as soon as he could shake this cold that had settled upon him. Nancy was a meddlesome old woman. He had days, wherever he might turn, after being harsh to her and rude, and after all she was old and had probably meant to do him kindness. But then, he was not sorry; she'd not come bothering him any more now with her dismal croakings of death and eternity. Death? He defied it. Eternity? Time enough to think of that.

He opened his eyes and they rested upon the chair which Nancy had occupied one hour ago, which she had occupied so frequently during the past few months. She had been almost a daily visitor since he and Maggie had been living in these wretched lodgings in "Nancy's Alley," green lawn and box-bordered gravel paths. Once upon a time the old women seemed to think that property and that she was responsible for the welfare of all the dwellers thereon. Well, he guessed he had taught her not to meddle in his affairs. He had any way. Dying? The idea of such a thing; how dared she and dainty ways. All that had tell him he was dying when everyone else fled him with the hope that he would be better tomorrow, next week, next month. Ah! yes, but tomorrow never came, or rather when it did come, it was no longer tomorrow; it was its promise of renewed health. It was today, with the same disappointments, the same pains, the same racking cough, which had endured on so many other days that had come and gone there before it.

Watching the chair she had so lately occupied, he could see once more the figure of Nancy, her bright eyes and cheery smile, and hear the nimble tongue which so gently accorded to the needs of her listener. He could see the little, stooped figure in its ragged gown, the work-worn hands, the smooth gray hair. He would miss her visits; yes, indeed, he would miss them sorely. But what right had she to die? Still, she was old, she had been kind to him, and he had driven her away in anger. He had called her a meddlesome busy body who went about poking and prying into other people's affairs and had ordered her to leave the house and never enter it again. "Pokin' an' pryin' is it?" she had answered quietly as she made her way towards the door. He remembered now how difficult it had been for her to climb those three long flights of stairs as she had been doing every day for these months past. "Pokin' broken mother had followed them an' pryin' is it? Maybe so, may-to-the grave within a few weeks, be so. But Nancy didn't mean that way, no, indeed, she didn't. Nancy was thinkin' of her own ward until now he found himself boy lyin' at rest out yonder with the green grass growin' over him for his own boy that went the same way you're a goin' now. He'd be about the same age as you, too, an' there's the look on your face

that I seen on him so often, the desperate, dasparin' look that breaks my heart to see. I figured that if you was my boy, I'd be glad for some one to tell you the truth an' try to bring you back to God before it's too late. I'd figured, too, that most likely you had a mother somewhere. She may be still on the earth prayin' for you an' longin' for you, same as I prayed an' longed for my Danny for so many years. She may be in heaven lookin' down on us now, but wherever she is she'll be glad to know that I tried to bring you back. It's for her sake that I'm doing this for the sake of your mother wherever she may be. His mother! What memories that name conjured up! His mother who had kissed and blessed and ever so many, many years ago. He was still looking at the chair which Nancy had occupied but he saw it not. He was a boy once more standing by his mother's bedside, her soft, white hand in his, was promising her how many promises he had made holding that dear hand for the last time, and how readily he had broken those promises, every one!

His mind wandered on and he saw himself a boy at school, a well and strong again as soon youth at college, a grown man as he could shake this cold that filled a position of trust in a had settled upon him. Nancy was a meddlesome old woman. He had days, wherever he might turn, after being harsh to her and rude, and after all she was old and had probably meant to do him kindness. But then, he was not sorry; she'd not come bothering him any more now with her dismal croakings of death and eternity. Death? He defied it. Eternity? Time enough to think of that.

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To be continued.

News From Ireland

Antrim.
The death occurred on Sept. 26 at his residence, "Merlin," Deramore Park, of Alexander Thompson, of the catering firm of Thompson and Son, Belfast. The deceased had been ailing for some weeks, and succumbed to appendicitis at the age of fifty years.

Armagh.
As a result of the recent riots in Orange Portadown, Catholics of both sexes employed by the Tavanagh Weaving Co., are doing this for the sake of your being laid off owing to the ruffian conduct of the other employees in sympathy with the Orange rabble.

Cavan.
Captain O'Meagher Condon and Mr. John O'Callaghan visited Armagh on Sept. 30, and were accorded a warm welcome. Addresses were presented to the distinguished visitors and a great demonstration was held at which speeches were delivered by Captain Condon, Mr. O'Callaghan, and others.

Down.
Right Rev. Dr. Duhig, Bishop of Rockhampton, Queensland, in an address at Bawnboy, spoke with enthusiastic approval of the work of the Irish Party. He said they had his blessing on their labors and he was confident they were not far from winning Home rule.

Donegal.
J. Williamson, Billis, near Virginia, was engaged on Sept. 30, in quarrying stones for a laborer's cottage when suddenly the rock gave way and Mr. Williamson was thrown a distance of 100 feet. He was removed to the Bailieborough Infirmary, where on examination he was found to be suffering from a broken leg.

Derry.
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gordon, of the Diamond, Derry, celebrated their diamond wedding on Sept. 26—a privilege given to a very few in any rank of life—and received many congratulations by letter and personal visit on reaching their sixty years of married life. Mr. Gordon is eighty-nine years of age, and with one exception, is the oldest resident in the city. Mrs. Gordon is seventy-nine and also bright and cheerful.

Donegal.
Dr. O'Callaghan, Carndonagh, who had been in the U.S. on a holiday was given an enthusiastic welcome home on Sept. 28.

Down.
Rev. A. Gallagher, for fourteen years curate of Gweedore has been transferred on promotion to the pastorate of Glenfin. Father Gallagher and the late Father McFadden of Gweedore were two of the most beloved priests in this part of Donegal.

Down.
Rev. John Rooney, P. P. Banbridge, intends to publish a book dealing with his experiences in the U.S.

Kildare.
At the convent of the Sisters of Mercy, Waterford, recently the profession took place of Miss Jane O'Haire (in religion Sister Mary Conleth), daughter of Mr. Thomas O'Haire, Kildare, Enfield, Co. Kildare, and sister of the Rev. Patrick O'Haire, of the diocese of Kildare.

Kilkenny.
Rev. P. Hipwell, C. C., who was stationed in Goresbridge for some years, has been translated to Naas.

Kings.
Messrs McDermott and Sons of Enniscorthy, Wexford, secured from the Board of Works, the contract for fitting up the new post office in Tullamore.

Longford.
Patrick Begley R.I.C., married Miss Nulty in St. Mel's Cathedral, Longford, on Sept. 22.

Monaghan.

A public conference was held at Monaghan on Sept. 27, for the purpose of considering the best means of establishing industries in the country. Lord Rossmore presided over a representative gathering, and after several suggestions had been put forward, a committee was appointed to draw up a report.

Around the Globe

Texas.
The Earl of Ranfurly, in opening a bazaar recently, in aid of the building fund of the new parochial school in Dungannon, said the buildings had been erected on an historic site, for on the hill overshadowing them stood the residence of the O'Neills, from which, in 1329, Donald O'Neil wrote to Pope John, styling himself "King of Ulster," and "true heir of the whole Dominion of Ireland."

Cork.
About twenty-five head of cattle belonging to a Mr. Murrain were driven off the lands at Teeknagh, in the Glencolumbkille district, recently. They were recovered the following day.

Cork.
An important development in Irish missionary enterprise has taken place in the opening of Blackrock Road, Cork, of a Theological Seminary for Irish students destined for the African missions. The new Seminary will be supplied with students from St. Joseph's, Wilton, and the Sacred Heart College, Castlebar, Mayo, who will in the future be able to secure their missionary training in their native land, instead of having, as heretofore, to finish their studies in France and Belgium.

Limerick.
Most Rev. David Fleming, ex-General of the Franciscan Order and Consul of the Franciscan Order and Consul of the congregation of the Holy Office, Rome, has been on a visit to his native home, Killarney.

Limerick.
The profession of Miss Annie Thomhill (in religion Sister M. de Paul), daughter of Mr. Wm. Thorhill, Effin, took place recently at the Dominican Convent, St. Mary's Cabro, Dublin.

Tipperary.
While Patrick Barrett, farmer, Ruffane, was driving to the Cahill Railway Station on Sept. 24, portion of the tackling of the pony, smashed, and the animal bolted when passing through the Square. Mr. Barrett was thrown heavily to the road, his head receiving some nasty injuries, which rendered him unconscious for some time. He was subsequently removed home, and is recovering.

Waterford.
The degree of Doctor of Divinity has been conferred by Rev. Dr. Murphy, ex-Provincial O. S. A. at the church of St. John the Baptist, Dublin, on Very Rev. P. F. Coakley, Prior of the Dunraven Augustinians.

Carlow.
On the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, Sept. 28, Most Rev. Dr. Foley, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, assisted by the Rev. L. Brophy, S. T. L., Vice-President of Carlow College, ordained to the priesthood the Rev. M. Doyle, diocese of Kildare and Leighlin.

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Month.

The departure from Trim of the Rev. Christopher Keane, who for fourteen years ministered as senior curate in the town, and has now been promoted to the Administration of Lobinstown was availed of by the parishioners of Trim and Boardmill to present an illuminated address expressive of their regret at his departure and best wishes for his future.

Five Minute Services

The Coin of Tribute.
He said to them: "Render therefore to Caesar things that are Caesar's, and to God things that are God's."
Today's Gospel tells how the Pharisees tried to ensnare Jesus in His speech. The question was this: Is it lawful for the Jews to pay tribute to Caesar? To this the Hebrews were very much opposed, because a great part of them submitted unwillingly to the law imposing the tribute; and still more, following the teachings of a certain Gaulonith, were of the opinion that it was not lawful for the Hebrew nation to pay tribute to the Gentiles, and that to do so was for them a sin. Therefore we should learn in the first place not to try to deceive our neighbor by feigned praise and adulation, as in our day is done by many. We should not put our trust in the many praises of men. We should not give our opinion rashly; not offend the opinion of others and enforce our own; and lastly, to show ourselves obedient subjects of authority and sincere worshippers of our God.

Brother Clementain of Belgium.
The Christian Brothers, is making a tour of inspection of the various houses of the order in the United States. He is a native of Baltimore, but for the past 24 years has lived abroad.

On Sept. 10th the rather unusual ceremony of blessing a newspaper plant was performed by Bishop J. A. Forest, D. D., of San Antonio, Tex. The plant so blessed is that of the Southern Messenger, a paper which has done good work for the Catholic cause.

Last Sunday Sacred Heart parish, Lowell, Mass., celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its founding. It is in charge of the Oblate Fathers, with Rev. T. W. Smith, O. M. L., formerly of St. Joseph's, Lowell, and Very Rev. F. Fallon, O. M. L., D. D., provincial, was celebrant of the jubilee mass.

The congregation of Sisters of the Cenacle, founded in 1828 at La Louvesse, near the tomb of St. John Francis Regis, by Rev. Jean Pierre Etienne Terme and Marie Victore Theresa Coudere, with the permission of Archbishop O'Connell, are soon to begin their first foundation in the diocese of Boston.

The Catholic Chinese of Boston and vicinity resumed on Sunday, Sept. 19th, their regular classes in Christian doctrine and English. Mgr. McQuaid, in whose parish the class assembled, was present with the director of the Propagation of the Faith, and after talking with individual members, addressed the little gathering.

Rev. P. R. McDevitt, superintendent of Philadelphia parish schools, has just issued his annual report. It shows an average attendance at the parochial schools during the year 1908-09 of 56,476. The number of pupils at the beginning of the year was 60,466, and at the end of the year 61,370. The enrollment was 66,040 and the total increase in attendance over 1907-08 was 8,719. New parish schools, the report shows were opened during the year in eleven parishes. The aggregate attendance in these schools was 2,590.

Rev. Dr. Herbert Vaughan, one of last year's graduates at the Apostolic Mission House, Washington, since his return home in England has been appointed superior of the apostolate band in the diocese of Westminster.

Rev. Jerome Ricard, S. J., of the Meteorological Observatory at Santa Clara College, California, has been elected an honorary member of the Astronomical Society of Mexico. This honor, which came as a complete surprise, is well deserved by Father Ricard, whose excellent work has been recognized in distant parts.

Among the students of the Propaganda recently ordained to priesthood in Rome, was a young Zulu, whose father, a prominent chief, is still a pagan. This young priest made a brilliant course in theology, and speaks fluently, besides his own language, French, Italian and English—the last, however, with a pronounced southern drawl. He will work among his own people in South Africa. He is the fourth one of his tribe to be elevated to the priesthood in the past seven years. Ordained with him were three Chinamen, who also speak English.

Weekly Church Calendar

Sunday, Oct. 31—St. Wolfgang, bishop and confessor.
Monday, Nov. 1—Feast of All Saints.
Tues. 2—All Souls Day.
Wed. 3—St. Malachy, bishop confessor.
Thurs. 4—St. Charles Borromeo, archbishop confessor.
Fri. 5—St. Zachary.
Sat. 6—St. Leonard, B.
Cook Opera House.
Comedy will dominate the bill of J. H. Moore's vaudeville at the Cook Opera House this week, opening with a "matinee Monday." The first will be furnished by Will E. Murphy and William Nichols. It is called "The Science of Acting." Next will be William Sims, Edith Conard and Eugene Robinson in comedy absurdity called "Pindars Furnished Part." There is but one strenuous act on the bill, furnished by the Foot Lukens who have come to be looked upon as the greatest vocal gymnasts in the business. "Foxy," the comedy conjurer and deceptionsist, who returns to Rochester after a long absence, will be found in his latest problem "Arah," a lady defying the laws of gravitation. Lyons, the harpist and the singer Hermann's Airship cats and dogs, the Musical Fredericks, also producing comedy; the Carters, terpichorean stappers in vaudeville; and the Moorscope pictures, will add to the general gaiety of the week.

Baker Theater.

For the inauguration of his twenty-first successful week at the Baker Theater, Bert Lytal has chosen for presentation one of the late Clyde Fitch's best known plays, "The Girl and the Judge." It is what one may term a study in kleptomaniac. It is a play of intense interest containing a wealth of dramatic material; with a comedy element for relief and a psychological "motif" serving to vitalize the plot. Mr. Lytal will be seen in the role of Judge Charteris, originally played by Orrin Johnson, and Miss Adair will play the part created by Miss Annie Russell. "The Girl and the Judge" will be seen all week with the usual matinees on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. There will be no matinee on Tuesday, Election Day.

Macaroni Instead of Meat.

With the price of meat so high and still soaring, it is wise to consider some foods that will take their place. Woodcock Macaroni made from Arget-wheat granules contains four-fifths of the elements necessary to life and health—twice as much nourishment as meats at one-third the cost. More easily digested, it is not only a stute, because of the many appetizing ways in which Woodcock Macaroni can be prepared. Order a package to-day. 15c at all grocers.