

The Catholic Journal

THE LEADING CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER

Twenty-first Year, No. 23

Baltimore, N. Y., Friday April 21, 1917

6148

A Strange Coincidence

"Sister, I'd love to be like you."
"Why, dear?"
"You are always so happy. You smile all day; and when you come along the ward, everybody else smiles, too."
"My dear—" she works refused to come to her quivering lips. Hitherto she had been strong enough to hide her sorrow deep down in her own heart, and to smile as if her life were one long uninterupted joy; but the simple talk of this dying girl had for a moment mastered her. A tear stole down the pale cheek and was carelessly brushed away.
From her seat beside the sick-bed in the free ward, Sister Clara, head nurse of the hospital, was gazing out over the roofs of the sun-parched city. She did not see them, however, for her mind was on other scenes. She was kneeling again in the little church where she first made her vow, and God had accepted the offer of her life for a brother's soul. She saw in spirit her quiet home on the hillside, and an anxious mother looking out through the long day for a wayward boy. She saw the pale face and the weary eyes as they peered up and down the dusty road. She saw her as she lay upon her death-bed, calling for her absent son, and at last she saw the black casket carried along the road to the village churchyard where her father lay buried. She saw herself kneeling once more at the altar in the little church, where she vowed her life for his soul, "O God, let him return to Thee, let him return to Thee."
Where was he, for whom she had offered her life for whom she had taken upon herself the toil and labor of a Sister of Charity, and for whom during the last ten years the martyrdom of an aching heart had been borne with cheerfulness so light that no one had so much as even suspected what pain she was undergoing? Was it all a dream, that day ten years ago? Where was he for whom the cheering walls of their modest home on the hill had been too small? Ten years of sorrow had worn away her young and useful life; ten years of anguish so intense that none could understand her deep affliction.
"Sister"—the day-dream was over—"Sister, do you think he'll come?" The pale nun started.
"Who, dear?"
"My papa. He went away and left me, Sister."
"And you too, were left alone? He went away you said? Ah, dear if you but knew—" She paused. Why should she tell it to this little way? And still there was something in the little cripple that seemed to force it from her. During the three weeks she had been in the hospital the child had shown marks of holiness seldom found in the cloister itself. She would speak of dying as though she were going on a pleasant journey. The doctors told the Sister that death was near, and for days the cripple had been talking of "going home to Jesus and mamma," who would cure her and free her from pain.
"You were left alone, you say?"
"Yes, Sister, until a man came in who wore a uniform and brought me here. You have been kind to me, Sister; you have done all you could to help me, but you could not stop the pain. They'll do it, Jesus and mamma, when I get to heaven."
"Darling, I want to ask you something," The speaker's lips were trembling with emotion.
Far down at the other end of the ward a patient moaned with pain, but the excited Sister was dead to things around her.
"What Sister?"
"When you go to heaven, I want you to ask Jesus to bring my brother back to God."
"Where is he, Sister?"
"He went away, dear, and left me all alone; he's out there somewhere out there in the world wandering from God."
The child looked up in amazement only to see that tears were

flowing down the Sister's pale cheeks, and forgetful of her own great pain, she threw her arms around the good nun's neck and wept with her.
"And you've been all this time without him, Sister?"
"Yes, dear, and lonely, too."
"Sister, what's his name?"
"Just tell the good Jesus and mamma it's my brother."
"Yes, but I'd like to know his name."
"Well, dear, it's Edward."
"Thanks," she whispered; "I'll try hard to remember, and I'll ask Jesus and mamma the first time I see them."
"But, mind, dear, not a word I'd not like others to know it."
"And wondering why she had told this child what she had never told a man or woman, the nun went on her way, smiling as usual, and spreading sunshine around her.
Poor little child! How she gazed after that woman whose life with its sorrow and sacrifice had just burst in upon her with all its meaning! She had only known the Sister as a kind, smiling face, the very expression of peace and happiness; but those streaming eyes, gazing out over the city as though in search of the wanderer had told the story of a sacrifice which child though she was, she had the delicacy of soul to understand.
An hour later her face, and the same cheerful words as she passed along. What was that she heard? The voice of a child crying as though in pain.
"Sister, what's his name? I've forgot his name. I knew I couldn't remember."
A moment and the nun was beside the cripple.
"Sister, I want to remember. Yes, I must!"
The time they had been expecting arrived. The little frame had weakened and was giving way. With a prayer on her lips the nun sped down the ward in search of the aged chaplain. Several moments later the screen was around the death-bed, the priests were there anointing the little sufferer, and the nun, while assisting the doctors, was answering the prayers for the dying.
"Go forth, Christian soul—"
"Sister, I must remember. Oh! tell me his name!"
How like an echo from earth to heaven sounded those words! Surely God would hear the prayer of such a soul, so young and so refined by suffering.
"Go forth to God—the—"
"It's Sister Clara's brother. I've forgot his name; I knew I couldn't remember. I'll tell them anyway. Jesus, mamma! It's Sister Clara's brother. She's sad, mamma; sad, though she smiles all day."
The breadth was now coming at rare intervals the head tossing to and fro. Soon a trembling of the hands, a gurgling in the throat, a motion of the lips as though she fain would speak, and all was over. Her pure soul was safe with Jesus and mamma.
That night, the nun who came on duty to relieve Sister Clara, informed her that she was wanted in the parlor. The aged chaplain was there half hidden in the gloom.
"Sister," he said, "what was it that little one was calling before she died?"
A flush, which the kindly shadows of the room concealed, stole over her face.
"Oh, Father, only a childish well, just before the delirium came on I told her something and I—I suppose it was freshest in her mind."
"But why should that cause you to start so, my child, when ever she cried?"
"Well, Father, I—I had asked her to obtain a grace for my brother, and—she seemed rather interested."
Skilled in such matters, the aged priest saw he was probing a heart wound, and asked no further.
"Very good, my child; you may go. God bless you!"
Next day Sister Clara was again summoned to the parlor.
To be continued.

Around the Globe

Rev. Brother Emory, who succeeds Rev. Brother Gerardus as provincial of St. Louis Province of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, was a boy soldier in the Civil War, enlisting from Illinois. Rev. Brother Gerardus has been appointed head of the New York Province, in the place of the late Brother Joseph.
The Knights of Columbus of San Francisco have purchased a centrally located site upon which they will erect a headquarters at a cost of at least \$150,000. The building will be five stories in height and the finest of its kind in the city.
Right Rev. John J. Nihan, Bishop-elect of the Hartford diocese will be consecrated on April 23, the feast of St. Paul of the Cross. Archbishop O'Connell will be the consecrating prelate, and he will be assisted by Right Rev. Matthew Harkins, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Providence, R. I., and Right Rev. Daniel F. Fagan, D.D., Bishop of the Fall River Diocese. The sermon of the day will be by Right Rev. Mgr. M. J. Lavigne, D.D., rector of St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York.
Brother Demitri, known to the world as Clement Papin, died at Quebec, Que., on March 18. He was born in Canada on November 1, 1832, of a family which counts one of its members on the waiting list for canonization, the Venerable Margarete Burgeois, the foundress of the Grey Nuns, being his great aunt. Young Papin entered the novitiate of the Christian Brothers in Montreal in 1848. He filled many important offices in his order.
Right Rev. John Shaw, Coadjutor Bishop-elect of San Antonio, Texas, with the right of succession to that see, was solemnly consecrated in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Mobile, Ala., on Thursday, April 14, as previously arranged by Archbishop Blewett.
A decree of the Sacred Congregation of the Index forbids the reading of three works of the Abbe Joseph Turmel, namely, "L'Histoire de la Theologie," "Tertullien" and "Saint Jerome." The decree states that the abbe has made his submission with regard to another work previously condemned.
The temporary tomb of Leo XIII, in St. Peter's is a standing memorial of the painful condition of things in Rome. Never before did the death of a public personage call forth such universal testimonies of respect and veneration as that of Leo XIII, and yet it has not been possible for the last three years to transfer his venerated remains through a few thousand yards of the Eternal City to St. John Lateran's without the risk of insult or profanation.
The Rt. Rev. Francis Silas Chatard, D. D., Bishop of Indianapolis some time ago asked the Holy See for a coadjutor. March 21, the Apostolic Delegate received a cablegram from his eminence, Cardinal Merry del Val, saying that his Holiness was pleased to grant the request, and consequently, consultants as well as the bishops of the ecclesiastical province of Cincinnati will soon hold meetings for the presentation of the names of the candidates. Naturally, the coadjutor will be "cur pure successione."
Rt. Rev. G. M. Leithian, D. D., Bishop of Auckland, New Zealand died recently in Australia after a short illness. Born in Liverpool of Irish parents, Dr. Leithian entered the New Zealand mission soon after his ordination and helped greatly to upbuild the Auckland diocese, of which he was elected bishop in 1886. At the time of his death he had fifty priests, ninety-two churches and chapels and a Catholic population of 24,000.

News from Ireland

An accident occurred on Feb. 26 to Lionel Murphy, Blessensville. He was riding down the Mall, Tralee, on a young horse which became restive, the stirrup leather broke and Mr. Murphy was thrown to the ground. He was brought to the infirmary in an unconscious condition where a wound on the head, happily not a serious nature, was dressed, and he was afterwards well enough to be removed to his residence at Blessensville.
Sir Ralph Conock, for 26 years Chairman of the Midland Great Western Railway Company, died March 3.
The stone masons in the Galway Granite and Marble works refused to resume work on March 1, the result of an indignation which had been conveyed to them that certain restrictions were to be made in their wages. The men held a meeting and decided to go on strike, and removed their tools from the premises. Some fifteen or sixteen employers were affected, and most of them come, it is stated from Newry, Liverpool, Scotland and Dublin.
On March 3 the Right Rev. Dr. Gilmarin, Bishop of Clonfert, visited St. Joseph's Diocesan College, Ballinacorney. An address was presented to his Lordship who in reply delivered an interesting speech in the course of which he referred to the importance of character.
An old man named William Carson, aged 103 years, who resided all his life in Loughgilly, Armagh, died recently at his residence there, and was buried in Loughgilly graveyard. He spent his long life in the place where he was born. He worked as a farm laborer on Loughgilly Glebe farm.
The friends and well-wishers of Mr. Gillie, Virginia, availed of the opportunity of his marriage to confer on him a badge of the high esteem in which he is held by all who know him and on Saturday night, March 5, at the Headfort Arms Hotel, Virginia, he was presented with an illuminated address and a purse of money.
Schemes for the erection of artisans' dwellings at Carlow are being pushed forward with much vigor. The Urban Council have applied for a loan of £5,000 for the erection of at least seventeen cottages in Grange.
Rev. John Daly, A.M., president of a recent meeting of the Skibbereen Branch of the U. R. L., paid a tribute to the work of the Irish Party and the leadership of John Redmond.
Rev. Brother Hilary Ryan of the Artane Industrial school, Dublin, died on March 7. Deceased entered the Order at the age of 22, at Dublin in the year 1876, later on doing duty at Limerick and Waterford, and at Nass, County Kildare, where he was superior and succeeded in building the Christian Brothers' schools.
Miss Clara Downing, who has been for some time back assistant teacher to Carrigrohane National school, has been promoted to the teachership of the Silverus Female National school.
Dr. P. Blake, assistant medical officer of the County Mayo Asylum, has resigned that position. The Asylum committee at their last meeting accepted the resignation with regret.
Justice Gibbon, at Nenagh Assizes on March 9, said the general condition of the county was satisfactory.
Miss M. Ryan, daughter of Michael Ryan, Emily, has entered St. Leo's Convent, Carlow, and assumed the name of Sister M. Albina.

Troy Alumni

The tenth annual reunion of St. Joseph's Seminary Alumni Association opened Wednesday in Rochester. This is the first time it has met here. Several bishops, missionaries and more than one hundred priests from various parts of the United States and to Rochester to take part in the two days' sessions. It is the most representative and distinguished gathering of Catholic alumni that has ever taken place in this city. The reunion was a happy occasion for the alumni to meet again and recall days gone by when they had been students of the old seminary at Troy.
An St. Joseph's Seminary has been closed for a number of years, the ranks of the alumni have become year after year. The last reunion a year ago, 1916, the members have been almost all dead, the list headed by Bishop Thomas A. Hendrick.
The reunion opened Wednesday morning in St. Patrick's Cathedral at 10 o'clock with a solemn pontifical mass which was celebrated by Bishop Colton of Buffalo, who was assisted by Monsignor Joseph Mooney, V. G., of New York City; Monsignor, Rev. J. J. O'Brien of Sandy Hill; Monsignor, Rev. Joseph Hopkins of Oswego; Monsignor, Rev. Andrew B. Mooney, D. D., of St. Bernard's Seminary, Bishop, New York, president of the Alumni Association, presided on the throne in "Cappi Magna." He was assisted by Very Rev. Dominick Curran, rector of Christ Church, St. Albans, and Rt. Rev. J. S. M. Lynch, Bishop of Albany, as assistant celebrants.
St. Rev. Henry Galvin, Bishop of Ogdensburg, together with the visiting prelates, had seats of honor in the sanctuary. The priests were seated in front rows of the Cathedral. The mass of the mass was read by 700 voices comprising the seminary students, the men and boys of the choir, and 500 school children.
Following the ceremonies in the Cathedral, the alumni held a business session in Cathedral Hall, Albany was selected as the next meeting place. Bishop Thomas A. Hendrick and the other prelates of the association were appointed by the committee to prepare plans for the golden jubilee anniversary of the construction of the Cathedral of St. Joseph, which will occur next year. The alumni decided to erect a memorial tablet to St. Joseph's Seminary and patrons of St. Joseph's Seminary the same to be placed in the cemetery attached to the seminary.
At 1 o'clock the alumni dined down to a banquet in the auditorium of the Hotel Hamilton. The interior was masterfully decorated with American and papal colors, while on the tables rested bouquets of carnations. Bishop Hickey presided. Monsignor Joseph H. Conroy of Ogdensburg acted as toastmaster.
The opening address was made by Monsignor Michael J. Lavigne, rector of St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City, who said that the reunion was a happy occasion for the alumni to meet again and recall days gone by when they had been students of the old seminary at Troy.

Reminiscences

St. Joseph's Seminary, Troy, N. Y., was founded in 1828 by the Rev. Fr. John J. O'Brien, S. J., and the Rev. Fr. John J. O'Brien, S. J., who were assisted by Monsignor Joseph Mooney, V. G., of New York City; Monsignor, Rev. J. J. O'Brien of Sandy Hill; Monsignor, Rev. Joseph Hopkins of Oswego; Monsignor, Rev. Andrew B. Mooney, D. D., of St. Bernard's Seminary, Bishop, New York, president of the Alumni Association, presided on the throne in "Cappi Magna." He was assisted by Very Rev. Dominick Curran, rector of Christ Church, St. Albans, and Rt. Rev. J. S. M. Lynch, Bishop of Albany, as assistant celebrants.
St. Rev. Henry Galvin, Bishop of Ogdensburg, together with the visiting prelates, had seats of honor in the sanctuary. The priests were seated in front rows of the Cathedral. The mass of the mass was read by 700 voices comprising the seminary students, the men and boys of the choir, and 500 school children.
Following the ceremonies in the Cathedral, the alumni held a business session in Cathedral Hall, Albany was selected as the next meeting place. Bishop Thomas A. Hendrick and the other prelates of the association were appointed by the committee to prepare plans for the golden jubilee anniversary of the construction of the Cathedral of St. Joseph, which will occur next year. The alumni decided to erect a memorial tablet to St. Joseph's Seminary and patrons of St. Joseph's Seminary the same to be placed in the cemetery attached to the seminary.
At 1 o'clock the alumni dined down to a banquet in the auditorium of the Hotel Hamilton. The interior was masterfully decorated with American and papal colors, while on the tables rested bouquets of carnations. Bishop Hickey presided. Monsignor Joseph H. Conroy of Ogdensburg acted as toastmaster.
The opening address was made by Monsignor Michael J. Lavigne, rector of St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City, who said that the reunion was a happy occasion for the alumni to meet again and recall days gone by when they had been students of the old seminary at Troy.