The Catholic Journal.

—THE LEADING DIOCESAN NEWSPAPER—

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From World to Ward

(Concluded From Last Week)

"It was a cold night in the March of 1882. The desperate, fitful gusts of driven rain rattled and buzzed around the spacious windows and retreated with long-drawn sighs of baffled fury. I sat by the bedside of a dying patient. He was an Irishman and a Catholic. I had always taken an account-able interest in the poor fellow; there was something in him that attracted and pleased me, and somehow I felt more inclined to favor him than any other of my patients. He was quick to notice every little kindness and was profuse in his gratitude.

"I was sitting near his bed. He was very low and breathing in a labored manner; he must have felt my presence near, though he could not see me, for he suddenly raised himself a little in the bed and whispered, 'Nurse!'

" 'Yes, Dan,' said I—Dan Kelly was his name—and, thinking it was a drink he required, I poured him out a little tonic and held it to his lips. He drank a very little and as I retreated to the side-table with the phial and glass, he cried as if he feared I was going. 'Nurse, dear—will you do—me—a favor?'"

"Certainly, Dan, if there is anything that I can do for you, I will gladly do it,' I replied.

"He now sat fully up, with my assistance, and taking a deep breath he continued.

"Nurse, dear, I have but one request to make. It is the last request of a dying man. Will you promise to grant it, if I give you a return—a great, invaluable return?'

"The wistful look in the old man's eyes hypnotized me with sympathy, and I would have promised him anything it was in my power to give at that moment. I thought the request was a strange one, and romantic visions of unhoped for developments blended for an instant with dreams of hoarded fortune, and immediately I replied:

"Anything I can do for you, Dan, I will do gladly. What is your trouble—or your request?"

" 'Tis a request you won't like, nurse, but 'tis dearer to me than all the world besides. I would give all the money I ever earned—all the world—if I could only see a priest. I know ye do not send for them here, but, nurse, dear, you have such a kind face, and such a kind heart that you won't refuse my dying request if you can help it. You can do it more easily than any of the others. And, nurse agra, I find I'm going home tonight—my hour is nearly spent. Oh, for God's sake, try to get me a priest, and I promise you, as sure as I am Dan Kelly, that your reward will be a wonderful one—a wonderful one!"

"I wondered whether the old man was raving when he spoke of this wonderful reward. Where could he have put it or where could I find it? My curiosity was pricked.

"What reward will you give me?' I inquired.

"Nurse agra, go and—get the priest—please—and then I'll tell—I'll tell you.'

"The poor fellow was sinking again. How could I prolong his anguish or punish him with my questions. Mesmerized by his earnestness and buoyed along by the hope of some godsend in some shape or other, I was soon dressing for the storm. Five minutes later I was in the street, walking, head bent forward and hands in muff, against the driving blizzard that swept up the street from the direction of Father O'Connell's house, for which I was steering.

"The good priest did look surprised when I told him a Catholic patient who was dying wished to see him at the hospital. He thanked me with an earnestness that left no room for doubting his sincerity, and in a few moments he was in the street, protecting me from the blizzard with his huge umbrella and walking at a rapid rate for the hospital. At the door of the room where lay the dying Irishman's bedside. The priest had a regret for bringing me out such a night, and many thanks bade me good evening. He went to attend Dan Kelly and I to my other duties.

"An hour later I returned to the Irishman's bedside. The priest has left, and I was astounded to see the change the administration of the sacraments had wrought in him. His whole face beamed with joy and he seemed as happy as a little child. He saw me as soon as I entered the room and made a futile effort to rise to thank me. I ran to his assistance and besought him to remain as he lay. Then the poor fellow stretched out his wasted hand and held mine in a vice-like grip, shaking it in a tremulous manner, while joyous gratitude beamed out from his kindly blue eyes as he gazed into mine.

" 'Nurse agra,' he said at last, 'you've behaved like a little angel; you'll have my prayers forever.'

" 'Oh Dan,' said I, half playfully, though wholly in earnest, 'is that all? What of that great reward?'

" 'My reward shall be great,' said he solemnly, 'and it is this. I shall obtain for you the grace of conversion. You will become a Catholic before you die. You will become a nun—and God bless you forever!'

"Then he shuffled for a moment, and taking an old rusty rosary from around his neck, he kissed it and handed it to me with the words:

" 'It was my father's. He was killed in '98. Keep it my little angel. You will love it yet!'

"I was disappointed and frightened at this sequel to my night's adventure; disappointed, because I expected some more precious relic or treasure than this old rosary, with the blood of an Irish croppy rusting on it; frightened, because somehow the old man seemed to be speaking like a seer and communing with the spirits he was soon to join. The prophecy that I was to become a Catholic and a nun made my blood run chill, for I disliked Catholics generally, and I detested nuns. Still I took the proffered beads, for all that; for it would not do to reject the poor fellows gift, seeing it was the most precious he could give.

" 'Thank you Dan,' said I. 'I shall be glad to have your prayers.' But as I spoke, the reconciled spirit of the Irishman had fled and only his stiffening body was left, still beaming gratitude upon me.

"Time passed, and I had almost forgotten the incident when a little book entitled 'A Sure Way to Find Out the True Religion' came somehow into my possession and recalled the Irishman's dying words.

"The little book took the form of a conversation between father and son, and answered for me many questions I would have liked to asked. The reading of this book aroused my curiosity and I now began to read both sides of the question and weigh the evidence, with a view of finding which was the impostor.

"I may tell you that I would have preferred to find the religion of my parents to be the true one, for I looked on the prophecy regarding my future as more or less the result of a kind intention to bring me what he deemed the right fold.

"Day by day I began to see that the Catholic religion was not what I had been taught it was. I had belived that the Catholic Church was a bigoted, priest-ridden, poor-spirited institution, that most of its members were ignorant and cowardly creatures who had not even spirit enough to interpret the Bible, and who believed everything on mere hearsay. I had been taught that the Anglican Church was the only broad-minded, indendent church—one where every one had leave to think as he wished and no tyrants reigned. With these sentiments instilled into my youthful mind you can imagine my surprise and vextation when I found that the Catholic Church was, after all, the better of the two, and that the bigotry and the rest were mostly marks of the Anglican, not of the Roman Church.

"Some time after I came across Father Damien's sermon on 'The Church and the Bible' and this one discourse threw a flood of light on my doubtful mind. During all this time the croppy's rosary lay unheeded in my toilette drawer. Here my eyes sometimes caught the figures embossed on the medals attached, and in time I grew curious to know what the beads meant, or what they were really intended for.

"One day passing by a stationery-shop I saw in the window a little blue-covered book entitled 'The Rosary.' Immediately I pounced upon it and read it from cover to cover that evening. The result was that I began to attempt to say the Rosary as directed. Four months from that time I began saying the Rosary I was admitted to the Catholic Church and the rest is easy to tell. The old Irishman was a seer after all and in time I became a nun.

"I saw the vocation to which God had called me. I was the good Samartian who would bind up the wounds of his bruised sheep and lambs. And so you see, Doctor, here I am, at last a full blown Sister of Charity, supremely happy and grateful for the honor of wearing the livery of love. Dan Kelly did not forget his promise to pray for my conversion and the rosary obtained for me the gift of a religious vocation."

"Well," I remarked, overcome with the story, "the Providence of God is truly wonderful." The gong sounded and Sister Angela was off to answer it, but going, she called back to me: 'Yes, and the power of the Rosary is limitless.'"—P. A. Sharkey, in The Rosary Magazine.

Around The Globe

In Roxbury, Boston, on July 8 Archbishop O'Connell blessed a chime of bells weighing ten tons and estimated to be worth $10,000. They will be placed in the towers of the great Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

A beautiful granite cross of Celtic design has been erected in Holy Cross cemetery, Malden, Mass., to the memory of the deceased Archbishops and Bishops of Boston.

Bishop Heatin, of Natchez, is reported to be rapidly recovering from his recent sudden and alarming illness.

In St. Mary's College, Oakland Cal., on July 11, Brother Hosea celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of his entrance into the order of Christian Brothers.

His Eminence Cardinal Vincenzo Vannutelli, who has been nominated by the Holy Father to preside over the Montreal Eucharistic Congress as Pontifical Delegate will be accompanied by Mgr. Ferdinand De Croij, Protonotary Apostolic and dean of Mons, Belgium; Mgr. Sante Tampieri, minutante of the Secretariate of State and by Mr. Thomas H. Kelly Private Chamberlain of Sword and Cape.

The fortieth pilgrimage to the Holy Land is being organized by the General Council for Pilgrimages, founded in Paris by the Assumptionist Fathers. The voyage will be made on the Etoile, a boat specially fitted up for the pilgrimages. On board will be a chapel with the Blessed Sacrament reserved. Lantern lectures will be delivered on the places visited, as well as on those passed during the voyage. The boat will set sail from Marseilles on the 19 of August and will return to Marseilles on the 30th of September.

The fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the Pontifical Zouaves by Pius IX., for the defense of the temporal power of the Pope was recently celebrated with the pomp in the church of the Sacred Heart at Montmartre, Paris.

News From Ireland

Cavan.

Owing to the fact that insufficient replies have been received the projected "Cavan Week" in connection with the American invasion has been abandoned. This decision was arrived at by the "Invasion" committee when the chairman, Mr. L.C. Smith, solicitor, said none of the letters received gave definite particulars to the date of arrival, but he thought the advertisement given to the town would eventually do good.

Clare.

The impressive ceremony of profession took place at the chapel attached to the convent, Kingstown, Dublin, on June 23, when Miss Kathleen Mary McMahon (in religion Sister Mary Albertus Joseph), daughter of the late Thomas J. McMahon and Mrs. McMahon, O'Connell Square, Ennis, made her final vows.

Derry.

White gloves were presented to Judge Overend at Coleraine Quarter Sessions on June 28, there being no criminal business to transact.

Down.

After fourteen years' residence at Warrenpoint the death is announced of John Dale proprietor of the Crown Hotel. A Manchester man by birth he became deservedly popular during his stay in Ireland.

Galway.

On returning to his home in Tuam after ordination at Maynooth, Rev. Malachy Concannon, son of M. Concannon, met with a cordial reception from his townspeople; and at the square a great assemblage was addressed by M. Shrine, T. C., who conveyed congratulations to the young priest.

Judge Anderson awarded the O'Connor Don and James F. Hope £30 compensation at the Galway Quarter Sessions last week, for the malicious burning of a game cover at Ballymoe.

Kerry.

In the recent concursus at St. Brendan's Seminary, Killarney, thirteen candidates competed for 5 places, the result being in the following order: James Kennedy, Dingle; David O'Connor, Sneem; Hugh Keans, Knockgoshle; John Quinlan, Killarney; and Jermiah Murphy, Boherbee.

Kildare.

Married:—June 15, in the church of the Assumption, Castledermot, with nuptial mass by Rev. L. McDonnell C. C., cousin of the bride, assisted by Rev. M. Walsh, P. P., and Rev. J. Kelly, C.C., James Fleming, stationmaster Harristown, to Mary, eldest daughter of Mrs. Byrne, Plunketown, Castledermot.

Mayo.

The Earl of Yuccan has offered for sale to the Congested Districts Board the entire town of Castlebar and the residue of his estate surrounding it, and this being mostly all grassing land, there is every prospect that every householder in the town will get an allotment.

Tipperary.

At St. Mary's Dominican Convent, Kingstown, on Thursday, June 23rd, Miss K. Walsh (in religion Sister Mary Raphael), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Walsh, Abbey street, Cahir, received the habit of the order.

Waterford.

Died:—June 30, in Dublin, Francis Newport, Larkfield House Waterford.—June 24, Michael Flangan, The Glen, Waterford.

Wexford

From the results of recent Trinity College examinations, Dublin we find the name of Master John McCullagh, son of John McCullagh, merchant, Main St. Arklow; as passing in high marks in chemistry and physics.

Wicklow.

Died:—June 28, at the parochial Hall, Enniskerry, Mary, widow of the late P. Burroughs, aged 62 years.—June 22 at his residence, Fair View House, Rathdrum, James Blake, aged 49 years.

Emmet Guards

The 27th annual reunion of the company was held at Island Cottage Sunday, July 31st. It was one of the most successful picnics ever held by the company.

The weather was very favorable and by 9 o'clock a crowd had begun to gather at A. O. H. hall. Quite a large number had collected by 10.30 o'clock when the start was made.

Special cars took the picnicers to Charlotte, where there were special cars awaiting them on the Manitou Beach line, to convey them to the grounds. The Guards were accompanied by O'Connell's own Band, and a fine selection of Irish and American airs were given. After dinner was served the athletic program was begun.

The following is the program of events.

One hundred yd. dash, Dan Culhane

Fifty yd. dash for women, Margaret Walsh

Three legged race, G. Cook and M. Sullivan.

Fat man's race, John Casey.

Backward race J. Sullivan, Irish jig, Patrick Kavanaugh.

The base-ball game, between the married and single men was won by the former by a score of 8 to 2.

The football game between the Emmet Guards and Harp Football team was won by the Harps by a score of 7 to 2.

One of the main features of the day was the Irish fig dancing. This was watched by a large and enthusiastic crowd. The contestants were well matched and their efforts were much appreciated. It is hardly necessary to say they all learned their steps in the Emerald Isle.

Dancing was enjoyed during the afternoon and evening in the spacious pavilion in the grove.

At 8 o'clock the band struck up Home, Sweet Home. It was a tired but happy crowd marched to the cars that were waiting to bring them to their Rochester homes.

The following are some of the firms who donated prizes for the athletic events: T. Madden, M. Brennan, T. Mason, H. Holstein, J. Cashman, Jeff Quinn, P. Hutchinson. The company wish to thank the above for the donations received.

The committee in charge of the picnic were: F. P. Murray, M. T. Ryan, John Cotter, Wm. Manning and Joe Dolan.

Annual Retreat for Priests

August 22

The clergy of the Diocese of Rochester have been notified by Bishop Thomas F. Hickey that the annual retreat for the priests will be held in St. Bernard's Seminary, beginning Monday evening August 22, will be conducted by a well known missionary preacher. It is a binding rule that all priests of the diocese must attend the spiritual exercises of the annual retreat.

Weekly Church Calendar

Sunday Aug. 7—St. Albert
Monday 8—St. Largus
Tuesday 9—St. Romanus martyr
Wednesday 10—St. Lawrence
Thursday 11—St. Susanna
Friday 12—St. Clare
Saturday 13—St. John Berchmans FAST

A Request to Our City Subscribers

There is but a very small margin of profit in our subscription price of $1.00 a year. (Nearly all other Catholic weeklies charge $2.00, $2.50 and $3.00 a year.) For this reason we request you to pay your subscription to the collectors promptly when they call.

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Wexford.

Among the law students who were called to the bar on June 8 was William Archer Redmond B. A. Royal University, only son of John E. Redmond M.P.

Catholic Summer School

The attendance here has been large, the weather most ideal this week, and everything points to a fine August crowd, and by reason of the Eucharistic Congress at Montreal an unusual number will enjoy the beautiful September days.

Rev. J. H. O'Rourke, S. J., preacher at the mass Sunday said in part:

"St. Ignatius was a Spanish nobleman and a soldier. During the siege of Pampaluna he was hit by a cannon ball and was seriously wounded. This had much to do with his conversion, which in its many details resembled that of St. Paul. During the time of convalescence from the injury, the solitude of the sick room, desiring to while away time by reading, he asked to be given some romances and other books. It happened that in the castle there were no books save the lives of the saints, which in a spirit of inquiry he began to read and then eagerly devoured. Being inspired by the wonderful example of these martyrs, and moved by their self-sacrifice spirit, he resolved to change the tenure of his life. Henceforth the robes of nobility and the uniform of the soldier were to be exchanged for the garb of poverty. Buckling his sword, he laid it at the feet of that Mother of God who were to be hence her knight. Now at the age of 33, with all humility he began to prepare himself for his great mission, and eventually completed his education in the University of Paris, where he gathered about him his first companions, among whom was Francis Xavier, the apostle of India." After the history of the foundation of the Society of Jesus, Father O'Rourke graphically and beautifully described St. Ignatius' life, the subsequent and wonderful growth of his society, and afterwards its suppression by Pope Paul III, and finally its restoration by Pope Pius VII. This suppression and re-instatement he spoke of as being typical of the death and resurrection of Christ. In concluding, Father O'Rourke said the basis of missionary work is love. Plain solid duty could never have had such results. The spirit of love alone is creative of any masterpiece. This was the spirit of St. Ignatius, and this is the spirit of the Catholic Church today—love of all. The Church is all her work.

The family gathering last Saturday evening was quite the most interesting of the season. Dr. [illegible] E. Wasmuth of New York presided and a most capital presiding officer he proved. The program consisted of speeches by Rev. J. H. O'Rourke, S. J., Rev. Wm. Turner, D.D., and Bishop Hickey. The program was varied with musical selections, the performances of Mrs. Geo. [illegible], Mr. Jordan of [illegible] and Miss N. E. [illegible] were fine.

The excellent music given by the professors of the Catholic University contained in addition to other attractions and entertainments Wm. Turner, D.D., [illegible] History of [illegible] has been a most interesting feature of the lectures. Rev. [illegible], Florida, Fla., [illegible] Catholic University, will begin his series of lectures on Monday, his subject being "Psychology and Religion." Tuesday he will lecture on "The Church the Religion of the Republic" and Friday the course delivered by the Rev. J. H. O'Rourke, S. J., at 8 o'clock hour. Father O'Rourke's lectures have been surpassingly beautiful and most interesting. The topics are "The Social Ideal" and "Irish Wit and Oratory" are the subjects taken by Hon. [illegible] Wilkinson of Albany in his two excellent lectures on Monday and Tuesday evenings. The song recitals by Miss Berthe Clary of New York were given on Thursday and Friday and were most cordially received.

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