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My Choice

By Jerome Raymond Whitman.

Continued from last week

A group had gathered around them, but as they were friends of Taylor and rather afraid of him, no one interfered. Howard and Miller, arriving on the scene and seeing at a glance how unequal they were, parted them.

"Taylor, you ought to be ashamed to bully young Jones that way," Miller exclaimed indignantly.

"What's that to you, you little sneak?" retorted Taylor in a rage, you are interfering in my business."

Now Miller was a manly boy and if there was anything he resented it was to be called a cheater or a sneak. Howard, too, felt the insinuation seeing he was the captain of the "cheating" team. Either of them would have been more than a match for Harry and they knew it. So on hearing this insult Miller would have given it to Taylor had he not been deterred by Howard's restraining hand on his shoulder and his admonition, "Remember your promise." This reminder had the desired effect and choking down his anger Miller said: "I see you are badly broken up at the defeat this morning or you would not say that, but I promised not to fight today and I am not going to."

"You are afraid," sneered Taylor and his cronies gave a loud guffaw and yelled, "Coward!"

"I hope to prove to you some day that I am neither a cheater nor a coward," Miller said as he started to leave. Miller's friends had not arrived on the scene and it was only a few of Taylor's cronies who were shouting for him.

Miller's chance for proving his assertion presented itself sooner than he expected.

The crowd were going through a large field when suddenly a loud cry of alarm arose from those in the rear as they came running terror-stricken; there was reason for it, for at no greater distance than an eighth of a mile a furious bull which had jumped his enclosure came tearing down on them. It was more than a quarter of a mile to the closest fence, and it was obvious that they could not reach that. Both Howard and Miller with their usual self possession and heroic courage took in the situation at a glance and Howard shouted to the boys: "Run for your lives! I will detain him!"

All obeyed except Miller, "Not you but me. Remember your mother," he gasped and ran toward the bull waving his red cap to divert his attention from the others. The infuriated animal turned on him and it looked as if Miller must be crushed to death. "Saint Joseph, protect me," he ejaculated and gave a bound sideways, just in time to escape the onslaught, and the bull sped onward several yards before he could stop. Then turning on the boy the frenzied beast with a snort of rage tried again, this time more cautiously to crush his victim. It was all Joseph could do to dodge him again, but he just succeeded in clearing him and after the bull had passed caught hold of his tail and hung on for dear life. It was his only chance for he could not have dodged him any more. This was a new surprise for the bull and as soon as he could stop he again tried to get at this tormentor with his head, but Miller hung on tenaciously and managed to keep out of the way of the enraged animal's horns. Meanwhile the others had reached the fence in safety and were watching the proceedings with the greatest anxiety. Howard could hardly be restrained from going to help his best friend, and Taylor was as pale as death with fear and remorse.

"Can Miller hold out?" they asked themselves. Joseph was feeling faint and exhausted and feared every moment that the bull would get the better of him

and gore him to death; but at this juncture two men preceded by a large shepherd dog were seen hastening toward the encounter. The bull on seeing the dog made for him but the dog grabbed him tightly by the nose, swung on, which pulled the bull's head so low that he nearly turned a somersault. It was astonishing to see how the beast covered beneath this assault. The dog was now complete master and the men had no trouble in getting the bull under control. Then they gave their attention to Miller, who besides being badly shaken up had a severely sprained ankle.

"Say, boy, yer the right stuff and no mistake!" they remarked in their rural way, their faces expressing their admiration. "I never loved yer city chaps had so much grit. We'll take yer to the house and you'll be treated like a Guvnor."

Just then however the other boys came running breathlessly with Howard and Taylor in the lead.

"Thank God you are safe," exclaimed Howard fervently. "I thought you would be gored to death."

"Joe, you are the hero and I am the coward. Forgive me for my mean remarks," Taylor said, his voice quavering with emotion.

"Forget it, Harry. Let's be friends," returned Joseph grasping his hand and shaking it warmly. The other boys pressed him and inquired if he were hurt. Seeing he was hardly able to walk they insisted on carrying him, two at a time, the whole way to the grove.

On arriving there they related their hairbreadth escape and described the heroism of Miller in glowing colors. It is needless to say how grateful they were that all had returned to safety; and Joseph, much to his embarrassment, found himself the lion of the hour, but it did not turn his head.

"You are forgetting Howard," he said. "He wanted to entertain the bull, but I besought him for his mother's sake to save himself."

The crowd that went home that night was a much better one than that which went out in the morning. They had learned a lesson of sacrifice which they never forgot.

One morning Mr. Russel asked me how I was succeeding in my undertaking. I answered: "The trouble is there are two and I am unable to choose the more worthy one" and went over my experience in detail. When I had finished he exclaimed: "Take them both. Do not let such worthy boys escape us."

III.

That evening as I was making my customary visit to the Blessed Sacrament, I chanced to sit in the shadow of a pillar so that I could hardly be seen. I was not there long when in came Francis Howard, who after making a short visit to the Blessed Sacrament knelt directly at the feet of the statue of Saint Joseph.

After praying fervently for about ten minutes he seemed to forget himself and began to pray audibly:

"O, dear Saint Joseph! I trust in you to help us. Mother is sick and we are so poor. Make my mother well and help me to get a position so I can make her and Mary happy. Dear Saint Joseph grant me these favors and I will consecrate them all to you. Tomorrow is the day. O Saint Joseph, you will help us, I know you will."

He could go no farther but broke into sobs. I felt tempted to fold him in my arms and tell him Saint Joseph had sent me to fulfill his request, but decided to wait till that "tomorrow" of which he had spoken. Having prayed and sobbed for some moments he went out not noticing me.

He was not more than well gone when in came another boy. It seemed to be the design of Providence, for the newcomer was Joseph Miller. He likewise made a short visit to the Blessed Sacrament then knelt at the feet of his great patron's statue, and prayed earnestly, it seemed to me in an agitated manner, but seen

he became calm and at last began to weep softly.

To be continued

Bishop Hickey Visits Auburn

Auburn, Aug. 18.—Bishop Thomas F. Hickey of Rochester was the guest of honor and officiated in the ceremonies connected with the celebration of the Feast of the Church by the congregation of St. Mary's church in this city last Sunday. Bishop Hickey officiated at the 7:30 o'clock mass and delivered the sermon at the 10 o'clock service. Many priests from other churches in this locality were present and were entertained at dinner, together with Bishop Hickey, by the Rev. Wm. Mulhern, pastor of the church at the parochial residence.

Aside from the presence of Bishop Hickey, chief interest centered in the new decorations of the interior of the church, which were unveiled for the first time. The decorations have been in progress for several months by a corps of expert painters from New York City and the edifice is now one of the most attractive in the diocese of Rochester.

St. Mary's church was organized in 1868 and an extraordinary coincidence in connection with the three pastors who have ministered to the congregation since that time is that each received his appointment on the same day of the year, August 15th, the Feast of the Assumption. The first pastor was Rev. Thomas Mahar, appointed Aug. 15, 1868. Rev. Wm. Mulhern, the present venerable pastor of the church was appointed on the same date in 1877 and has officiated faithfully and well since that time. Although advanced in years, Father Mulhern still insists in taking charge of the vast amount of details connected with the management of the church affairs.

In the afternoon Bishop Hickey officiated at the services in connection with the blessing of the bell recently purchased by the congregation of the Italian Catholic Church of St. Francis di Assisi in Clark street. The ceremonies were largely attended by the Italian Catholics of Auburn.

Weekly Church Calendar

13 Sunday after Pentecost

G. The Ten Lepers, Luke 17

25 S—Heart of Mary
26 M—St. Victor
27 T—St. Rufus
28 W—St. Augustine
29 T—St. Sabina
30 F—St. Rose of Lima
31 S—St. Raymond

Cardinal Condemas Race Suicide

Cardinal Gibbons, who is at Southampton, L. I., regards race suicide as comparable with the slaughter of the innocents by King Herod and thoroughly indorses Col. Theodore Roosevelt's position on the subject.

Race suicide is a most inhuman practice," said the Cardinal last week, "and one which wantonly sacrifices the human race. It is a violation of the laws of nature and of nature's God and defeats the ends and aims of divine providence. A man is obliged to serve the natural law of which this is a violation and no one can do this with impunity."

"It is bad enough to see a nation's sons depleted by war, but it is much more melancholy to contemplate a nation voluntarily destroying its own progeny."

The cause of Catholic education in Ireland and England will ultimately benefit to the extent of \$75,000 by the will of the late Miss I. Phipps, of London.

In Trinicol, India, Father Paisandier, S. J., is educating fifteen natives for the priesthood.

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Catholic Summer School

The (two week) at Champlain Assembly was made notable at its close by a stirring and eloquent sermon delivered on Sunday evening last by the Rt. Rev. Jean-B. Conroy, Auxiliary Bishop of Ogdensburg. It was the first appearance of Bishop Conroy before a Summer School gathering since his elevation to the see and the presence of more than one thousand guests insured a reception of such enthusiastic dimensions that it will not soon be forgotten at the assembly. The Bishop's sermon was delivered in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Lake prior to solemn benediction, which preceded the family gathering with the aid of the edifice crowded Bishop Conroy's warm and eloquent homily found his hearers in rapt silence as he told of the destiny of man from the arrangements of the various feasts of the Church in assisting him to the heavenly goal and incessantly urging him to salvation.

The Rev. Dr. John A. Ryan, the noted economist from St. Paul's Seminary, who has just closed a series of lectures on Industrial Evolution, was also the preacher at high mass on Sunday morning, when he took from the parable of the Good Samaritan a lesson concerning the corporal works of mercy and outlined the good to be accomplished along lines of social and industrial development precipitated a week-long discussion on the question of Women in the world today. At a round table talk which he was asked to give at the Boston Cottage, the lecturer took up the question of women in the industrial sphere. This was followed by a similar conference under the direction of Miss Gertrude N. O'Reilly, another lecturer, on the position of women in Ireland. Present day political tendencies found their way into the general discussion and formed subjects of interest and comment for several days.

The lecturer of the week just closed was Charles Hallam McCarthy, Ph. D., of Catholic University, who developed a series of morning talks on American History. The lectures began with the Territorial Expansion of the United States and concluded with Controversial Points in the career of Columbus, making up a list of topics handled in a masterful and scholarly manner. The evening course was delivered by the Rev. Walter J. Shanley, of Danbury, Conn., who spoke on the Educational Mission of the Catholic Church. The series concluded with education in the parochial school question in general.

For the ensuing week the morning lecturer is to be Denis R. O'Brien, A. M., LL. B., on The Philosophy of Education. The evening course will be given by the Rev. Paschal Robinson, O. F. M., on "The Early Franciscan Poets" beginning with St. Francis of Assisi and concluding with "The Franciscan sources of Divine Comedy."

The Lady Day fete on Thursday with a procession of nearly one thousand guests was one of the most attractive celebrations in the history of the assembly. A rosary chain of little girls in white with distinctive sashes headed the line of march from the Chapel to the grove near the lake. The Rt. Rev. Mgr. M. J. Lavelle, V. G., of New York City, was the preacher. The games for Children's Day were conducted in the afternoon with more than one hundred participants. The ball throwing contest for girls was the feature of the program. Silver and bronze medals were awarded the winners.

The boys golf tournament for the George J. Gillespie cup is in session during the present week with nearly a score of entrants. The contest is proving exciting throughout.

The concluding minstrel show and entertainment of the College Camp was given on Thursday evening in the Auditorium before a capacity audience. The program included a repertoire of catchy

Catholic News Notes

A Junior Home for the inmates of the Connecticut State Hospital, Holy Cross, New Britain, will be established at Westport, Conn.

St. Paul, Minn., will probably have a new St. Columba's College, costing \$125,000.

Bishop McGovern of Cleveland is preparing for a visit to Rome.

The Holy Father has appointed Rt. Rev. Mgr. Thomas J. Conroy, D. D., rector of the American College, Rome, an auxiliary bishop to the papal throne in honor of the silver jubilee of his ordination.

Rev. Adrian Swartz, S. J., aged 72 years, for twenty years an active missionary in the Northwest, died recently at St. Vincent's Hospital, Portland, Ore., following an illness of many months.

An electrician is installing wireless telegraph stations on the roof of St. James' Episcopal building, Haverhill, Mass. The apparatus will be complete within working order in September when the school term opens.

The centennial of the American confraternity of St. Augustin and St. Monica's parishes, Philadelphia, will be observed on September 1. The closing of the high school this term marked the hundredth anniversary of the first graduation.

The very fine new Holy Cross St. Vincent, built by the Society of Charity, at Indianapolis, and costing about \$200,000, will be opened in a few weeks. It is a superb edifice.

Rev. Francis X. Busch, S. J., was recently ordained priest by his brother, the Bishop of Louisiana, at St. Paul, Minn. Another brother is preparing for the priesthood at Louvain.

A memorial tablet to Dr. John Gilmary Shea, historian of the Church in the United States, will be erected at the Cathedral of Newark, N. J., on October 12. The University of Notre Dame possesses his library.

Rev. J. M. Geary, pastor of the Church of the Incarnation, Minneapolis, has quietly celebrated the fortieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

The death of Dr. Thomas James Doherty, a brilliant Irish priest and historian of the Church, is announced. He was the only priest to have been a member of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

Miss Emma, a young nurse of Boston, died at a hospital, and was buried in the city of Boston, Mass., on August 17, 1923, at the age of 22 years.

Andrew Corbett, a young man of 21, was killed by a falling beam of a public house in Charleston.

Dr. George A. Francis, a young man, has been appointed as an officer of the Marine Corps.

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