

The Catholic Journal.

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The Unbroken Seal

The priest ran right into a mob of strikers as he turned the corner of the road leading from the bridge over the shallow, refuse-filled Mud Run, and touched foot to the one filthy, slimy street of the town. He was coming from the camp of the militia, where he had been called to administer the last sacraments to a lieutenant, whom the strikers had shot down the night before.

Slevski was haranguing the mob and his eye caught that of the priest while he was in the midst of an impassioned period, but a look of hate alone showed that he had seen him. Only a few of the people in the rear of the crowd noticed the priest's presence at all. He was glad enough for that, for suspicion was in the air and he knew it. Right in his way was Calvalho, who had been one of his trustees and his very best friend when first he had come to the parish. It looked now as if he had no longer a friend in the mud-spattered, bare and coal-grimed town. Calvalho returned his salute with a curt nod.

The priest caught a few words of Slevski's burning appeal to hatred and walked faster, with that peculiar nervous feeling of danger behind him. He quickened his steps even more for it.

"Company—Oppressors of the poor—traitors... even these few words, which followed him, gave the priest the gist of the whole tirade.

The women were in the crowd or hanging about the edges of it. A crash of glass behind him made the priest turn for an instant, and he saw that Maria Al-liah had flung a stone through the bank window. She had a shawl quite filled with large stones. With the crash came a cheer from the crowd around Slevski, who could see the bank from their position in front of the livery stable.

A soldier almost bumped into the priest as he came running down the street, gun in hand, followed by half a dozen others. One of them saluted.

"Bad business, Father," he said. "Will the lieutenant live?"

"I am afraid he will not," answered the priest.

"They will surely burn down the company's building," said the soldier. "God! There they go now." And the soldier hurried on.

Later the priest watched the red glow from his window. It reminded him of blood, and he shuddered.

His old housekeeper called him to his frugal supper.

"I cannot go out much now," he said to her. "I am a Pole. What could a Pole do with these Huns who have no sympathy with him, or the Italians whose language he cannot speak?"

He wondered if he were a coward. Why should he discuss this with his servant?

"Slevski," she said, "makes the people do what he wants to. He cursed me on the street this morning."

"Yes," said the priest, "he speaks in curses. He has never tried to speak to God, so he has never learned any other language; and these men are his property now."

"There will be no one at Mass next Sunday," said the old housekeeper. "Even the women won't come. They think you are in league with the soldiers."

"Never mind, Judith," said the priest, "at heart they are good people, and this will pass away. The women fear God."

"They fear God sometimes," said Judith, "but now they fear Slevski always."

The priest said nothing in reply. He was here the patient Church which could wait and does not grow old.

After his meal, he again stood at the window to watch the red glow of the burning buildings. He heard shots, but he knew that it was useless to interfere. He waited for some one to come and call him to the dying; for he was sure people had been killed; else why the shots?

A knock sounded at the door. He opened it, and a woman entered. The priest knew her well, by sight, and wondered, for she was Slevski's wife. She was not of these people by race, nor of his own. She was English-speaking, and did not come to church. Slevski had married her three years before in Pittsburg. She looked frightened. He waited for her to speak.

"Tell me," she began, speaking rapidly, "is it true that no single word of a confession may ever be revealed by the priest?"

"It is true," he answered.

"Even if he were to die for it?" she urged.

"Even if he were to die,"

The priest's eyes wore a puzzled expression, but she went on: "May he even not betray it by an action?"

"Not even by an action."

"Even if he died for it?" Her voice was full of anxiety.

"Even then."

"I wish to confess," she said. "May I do it here? I will kneel afterward, if necessary, but I can tell it better here—and I must do it quickly."

"It will take only a minute, if we go to the church," he answered. "It is irregular to hear your confession outside of the proper place, unless in case of illness."

"Then let us go," she said, "and hurry."

They entered the church, and she knelt on the penitent's side of the confessional. Later she told all that happened.

"What troubles you?" said the priest. "Have you been to confession of late?"

"Three years ago," and she shuddered. "I was to confession, it was before I married him, and I never since. Yes, yes, I ought to be known to you. Listen now, for there isn't very much time." He bent his head and said: "I am listening."

She went on without taking breath. "They are going to murder you I heard it for I was in the secret. I consented to summon you, but I could not. They charged that you were in the company's pay and working against the men. One of them will come tonight and ask you to shoot you at the bridge over Mud Run. I had to warn you to prepare I could not see you killed without—without a prayer. It is too cruel. Do what you can for yourself. That's all I can say."

"It is very simple," said the priest. "I need not go."

"Then they will know that I told you," she answered breathlessly. Her eyes showed her fright.

"You are right," said the priest. "I fear that it would violate the Seal if I refused to go."

"Yes," she said, "and he would know at once that I had told, and he—he suspects me already. He may have followed me, for I refused to call you. If he knows I am here he will be sure I confessed to you. I am not ready to die but he would kill me."

"Then do not trouble your mind about it any more. God will take care of me," said the priest. "Finish your confession."

In ten minutes she had left. The priest was alone with himself, and his duty. Through the open door of the church he saw Slevski—and he knew that the woman had been followed.

He sat for a long time where he was, staring straight ahead with wide open eyes, the lashes of which never once stirred. Then he went back to the house and mechanically, almost, picked up his breviary and finished his daily office. He laid the book down on the arm of his chair, went to his desk and wrote a few lines, sealed them in an envelope and left it addressed on the blotter. He was outwardly calm, but his face was gray as ashes. His eyes fell upon the crucifix above his desk and he gave way in an instant, dropping on his knees before it. The prayer that came out of his white lips was hoarse and whispering:

"Oh, Crucified Lord, I can not, I cannot do it. I am young. Have

pity on me. I am not strong enough to be so like You."

Then he began to doubt if the Seal would really be broken if he did not go. Perhaps Slevski had not suspected his wife at all—but had the priest not seen him outside church?

The sweat was over his face and he walked to the door to get a breath of air. The priest knew there was no longer even a lingering doubt as to what he should do. He went back to the church, and, before the altar awaited his call.

It was not long in coming. The old housekeeper appeared in half an hour to summon him.

"Kendis is in the house. He lives on the other side of the Run. It is for his wife, who is sick, that he comes. She is bad."

The priest looked at his few books and lovingly touched some of his favorites. His reading chair was near. His eyes filled as he looked at it, with the familiar breviary on its wide arm. The Crucified Christ gazed down from His Cross at him and seemed to smile; but the priest's eyes swam with tears, and a great sobstirred from him. He opened the door but lingered on the threshold. When he passed out, his walk was slow on the street; his lips moving, as he went along with the step of a man very weary and bending beneath the weight of a great something.

The people did not know then that their one dark and muddy street that night a via Dolorosa; that along it a man who loved them dragged a heavy cross for their sake, that it ended for him, as had another sorrowful walk ended for His Master, in a cruel Calvary.

Slevski told the whole story before the trap of the gallows, was sprung.—Francis Clement Kelley in Extension Magazine.

Father FitzSimons at St. Mary's Church

Rev. Simon FitzSimons, who was recently appointed irremovable rector of St. Mary's Church in South street, took up his new duties Sunday morning. The new rector was greeted by a large congregation.

Father FitzSimons preached on the gospel of the day and then spoke briefly regarding his appointment. He said in part:

"It has pleased Bishop Hickey to appoint me as pastor of this parish, and in assuming the charge I thank the priests of the diocese for their kind words in connection with my appointment, and I also thank the press of Rochester, both Catholic and secular, for courteous treatment. I thank the priests for their cordial and friendly greeting and I thank Bishop Hickey, not so much for the appointment, as for the manner in which it was given to me. There are ways in which an appointment can be given, which enhance its value greatly, and Bishop Hickey's manner enhanced the value of this appointment a thousand fold."

"In entering on this charge I am greatly encouraged by the condition of the church and the schools. I believe that as this is one of the oldest parishes in the city, its history is interwoven with the history of this great and growing city and that it is a large and potent factor for the moral well being of the city."

"In this country and age we have to confront new evils. The great Catholic bulwarks against evil are the home, the school and the church. These bulwarks are menaced at the present time. The home is menaced by lax notions about the sacredness of the marriage tie. The school is menaced by false scientific notions about the origin of a man and kindred subjects. The church itself is threatened with a new danger from what are falsely called advanced ideas concerning the divinity of Christ. These are the evils which you and I and all of us have to meet, and I hope we shall work together successfully."

Rev. Simon FitzSimons was made irremovable rector at Lima in 1884. After a concursus, at which a number of priests were examined, he was appointed rector at St. Mary's. His preparatory studies were pursued in Dubuque, Iowa, and St. Joseph's Seminary, Troy.

On Friday the congregation of St. Rose's Church, Lima, gave a public farewell to Father FitzSimons and presented him with a purse of \$1,000 in gold. The presentation was made by Bishop Thomas F. Hickey. Great regret was expressed by the Lima Catholics on losing their priest.

Catholic News Notes

Rt. Rev. Bishop Alerding, of Fort Wayne, has dedicated an imposing parochial school at Monroeville, Ind.

Rt. Rev. Maes, Bishop of Covington, sailed from Antwerp on the 21st inst., and will arrive home about the 3rd prox.

Rev. D. L. Crowe, pastor at Kewanee, Ill., died in Rome, Italy, on the 30th ult.

Cardinal O'Connell has returned from Europe in good health. Last week he was with his priests in retreat at Brighton Seminary.

At Syracuse, N. Y., on the 15th, Bishop Grimes blessed the new St. Mary Cemetery, and Mgr. J. S. M. Lynch, delivered the discourse. This cemetery is the gift of the late, Bishop Ludden of that city.

Rev. J. Havens Richards, S. J., is engaged in writing the life of his father, the late Dr. Henry Livingston Richards, one of the first Episcopal clergymen to enter the Church in Ohio. Dr. Richards was a splendid type of an American Catholic layman.

The centenary of the fine Cathedral of Trondjem, in Norway, will be celebrated in 1914. The Norwegians of Minnesota and elsewhere in the United States have undertaken to raise one million dollars for that centenary and the restoration of the Cathedral, which is the finest in Norway.

At the funeral of Mrs. Cecilia P. Plamondon, a prominent Catholic lady of Chicago, Archbishop Quigley, three Bishops and 50 priests assisted.

Sister M. Boromeo, a Dominican religious, died at Sinsinawa, Wis., in the 43rd year of her religious profession. She was a Presbyterian in early life, and was a noted teacher and author.

With great enthusiasm, the convention of the Central Verein at Toledo, last week, subscribed \$17,000 for the erection of a house of studies. Bishop Schrembs gave \$500 cash; President Frey, \$1,000.

The Bishop of Altoona, Pa., has opened a diocesan seminary at Loreto, with Very Rev. John P. Doyle as rector.

St. Mary's Hospital at Madison, Wis., 150x56 feet, Sisters of Mercy in charge, and costing \$150,000, has been dedicated. Archbishop Messmer delivered the sermon.

The Bishop and priests of the diocese of Springfield, Mass., as a collective body, presented Holy Cross College, Worcester, one hundred thousand dollars for a "Heaven Hall," whose cornerstone was laid Sept. 4th.

The Bishops of Scranton, Pittsburg, Altoona, Newark, Wilmington, Rochester, Nueva Segovia and Mgr. Ortynsky, attended the consecration of Bishop Auxiliary-elect of Philadelphia and the Bishops of Harrisburg and Erie were the consecrators.

Pius X. as Father Sarto, had his first audience with Leo XIII whom he succeeded, in 1881.

Rt. Rev. Dr. De Becker, rector of the American College, Louvain, will visit the United States in November.

In Jerusalem, on the slope of the Ophel Temple hill ancient relics, pottery, etc., dating from about 3000 B.C., were unearthed.

Statistics show that while the Catholic Church in England is increasing, Anglicanism and all other forms of religion are decreasing.

News From Ireland

A shark measuring about five feet, and said to be of the Greenland species, was caught recently in the Lough off Carrickfergus.

Married.—August 21, at the Church of St. Tarafa, Glen road, Belfast, by the Very Rev. P. Convery, St. Paul's, Thomas, son of the late John McCann, to Alice, daughter of Hugh McQuillan, Alameda Terrace Belfast.

Carlow.

The death took place on August 22 of Mrs. Elizabeth Kane, Ticknock, Carlow.

Rev. Brother J. D. O'Donoghue, for the past nine years superior of the Christian schools in Carlow, has been transferred to Dublin.

Cork.

The oldest age pensioner in Cork has just passed away in the person of Timothy Hennessy, a farmer of Rathorgan, Dungourhey, who died at the remarkable age of 108 years, and whose remains were interred in Clonmoult cemetery.

Derry.

Married.—August 29, at St. Columba's church, Long Tower, by Rev. Wm. Doherty, Adm., Michael Joseph Fullerton, to Elizabeth Kavanagh, third daughter of Patrick and Annie Kavanagh, 14 Bridge St.

Down.

Michael Morgan, Rostrevor postman for over forty years, was about to retire on pension when a sad calamity overtook him, necessitating his removal to the Down Lunatic asylum.

Dublin.

By the death of the Very Rev. David P. Mulcahy, P. P., Swords at the age of 81 years, there has passed away one of the most highly respected priests in the diocese of Dublin. The sad event occurred on August 25, at a private hospital in Dublin.

Fermanagh.

Francis Maguire of Boston, a native of Fermanagh, has purchased the historic Gortoral house and demense near Swanlinbar, which was held by W. J. Brown, auctioneer, Enniskillen.

Galway.

The new college of St. Mary, Galway, was opened on Sunday, under the most auspicious circumstances by the Most Rev. Dr. O'Dea, Bishop of Galway.

Kerry.

William Sayers, a lockman in the employment of the Tralee and Fenit Pier and Harbor Commissioners, was found drowned in the Tralee canal, close to Blenserville drawbridge, on August 24.

Leitrim.

Mrs. Corcoran and her family, who were evicted from the famous Thomastown farm last year, have been installed in an evicted tenant's hut at Knockbaron, Kinnitty. The occasion was celebrated by a public meeting.

Limerick.

Died.—August 23, Mrs. Ellen Guckian, Kiltoghert.—Recently, William Carty, Kiltclare.

The death took place at the convent of Mercy, Kilmallock, on August 27, of Sister Mary Albeus Meany, at the early age of 32 years.

Monaghan.

A young man named Patrick Kerr, aged 18 years, of Carrick anure, died on August 28 as the result of injuries received by falling from a cart drawn by a runaway horse.

The congested districts board has agreed to purchase the whole of the Sullivan estate in this county with the purpose of reselling to the tenants.

Tipperary.

The death of Rev. John McGrath, P. P., Mallinahinch and Kilscooly, of the diocese of Cashel and Emly took place recently.

Westmeath.

Died.—Recently, Joseph Eivers, Dublin Bridge, Mullingar.

Catholic Charity Conference

The Second National Conference of Catholic Charities which met at the Catholic University, Washington, September 22-25th, achieved even more remarkable success than the first Conference in 1910. Twenty-seven states and fifty two cities were represented among the 350 delegates.

The Conference was honored by a visit from the Apostolic Delegate, Most Rev. Archbishop Bonzano, who endorsed very warmly its aims and methods and conveyed the blessing of the Holy Father to the Delegates. This exalted approval which is highly prized by the officers and members of the National Conference, was reiterated directly in a cablegram received from His Eminence, Cardinal Merry Del Val, who acknowledged the cordial expression of attachment to the Holy See sent from the Conference, and conveyed the Holy Father's Apostolic Blessing again.

During the days of the Conference several meetings were held by the women delegates representing 28 distinct organizations engaged in relief work. They effected a National Federation of Catholic Women's Charitable Organizations. In addition to this, these delegates discussed thoroughly the work of the Protection of Young Girls in our large cities and reported on methods now in vogue in that work.

Weekly Church Calendar

- 19 Sunday after Pentecost
- G. The Wedding Garment.
- 6—H. Rosary B. V. M.
 - 7—St. Mark
 - 8—St. Bridget
 - 9—St. Denis
 - 10—St. Louis Bertrand
 - 11—St. Francis Borg
 - 12—St. Wilfrid
- Wanted—Catholic student, desirous of earning money in a legitimate way, approved by the clergy. H-33, this office.

Twenty-Second Anniversary of C. Y. M. A.

The Catholic Young Men's Association of St. Joseph's Church will celebrate the twenty-second anniversary of the organization of their club with a reception and pedo party on October 22nd at their club rooms, 23 Ormond St. Joseph Young has been chosen Chairman and is endeavoring to make this the largest affair ever held by the Association. The Committee in charge are: Joseph Young, chairman; Chas. Haefle, Secy.; Rev. Wm. Kessel, C. S. R.; Thomas Smith, Ed. Kummer, H. E. Bayer, John Waring, H. Leckinger, Arthur Lorenz, R. Stick, Geo. Faust, Frank Leicht and Ray Whitley.

Miss Lillian McDonald was pleasantly surprised last Friday evening at the home of Miss Bessie Hinch, 243 Oak street, the occasion being her birthday. The evening was spent in games and vocal and instrumental music by Miss Bessie Hinch, Miss Ella Grady, Mr. Bush of New York, and the Jolly Six Orchestra. Dancing was enjoyed. Covers were laid for twenty-five.

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R. W. WILKINSON