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The Paths of Dawn

The soft Irish purr of Miss Dugan's voice made its velvety way to the room that Margaret Lannan had given to her brother and Holman.

"Then if you're goin' to confession to-night, you take the altar clothes over. Yes—ye—es—because I'm not sure of gettin' over in the mornin' these days. No, I'm careful now since the last attack. Ye—ye—yes, it was awful sudden. Life is so uncertain. Well, I'll be goin' then—"

By the fireplace of what was library and bedroom for Margaret, the listening men stared at each other in amazed relaxation. "It's all here," Lannan observed with a comical grimace. The men so confident of each other's thoughts were back from a long ramble through the south, west and Old Mexico. It was a chance decision regarding a prospective venture, or the current of destiny, rather than sentiment that had brought about their unexpected visit to the stone bungalow among the Norway pines of Margaret's homestead.

Their first surprised at her frontier environment and her enterprise had settled into a delightful comfort. And now the drawing brogue without brought back inebriously, sights and sounds of their careless youth in Big Mound, Iowa. Idly visualizing the familiar voiced visitor, they recalled a far-time "Nelly Doherty," to them a symbol of church work in a repellent sense. As there had been two Nellie Dohertys—cousins—she was termed "the pious Nellie" with the complete approval of the other Nellie in the distinction. Her accent was to them a "pious tone" and her mouth, taut-held, was interpreted as having a "pious twist" by those otherwise drawn.

The faces of Margaret's guests bore the print of discipline that comes in life's installments, capriciously directed. For the unclassified religion affords the only systematic social training. Holman had never known a religion. "Boose" Lannan had forgotten the catechism long before he should have interpreted it in terms of life. The two were what some call confirmed bachelors, and were long committed to the soldier of fortune way. For them was a dramatic suspense in their changing conceptions as years rolled, and they liked to be years-on at times. Now they were reflecting that even they and Margaret already, were at that dim mile-stone of intolerable maturity whence the rusty-turbaned Nellie Doherty had looked back upon giddy choir singers.

"Did you notice a prayer book anywhere? I've looked every where except here. Maybe it's fallen behind the book rack."

Margaret, the diminutive bungalow-builder, burst upon them, herself a Nellie Doherty of fate. Her manner was a blend of hospitable good humor and the fussy insistence of the fate-made business woman. Her imperative intensity in immediate search was now a ludicrous development of an old, amusing characteristic. She did not, moreover, upset the intervening chairs, though it seemed to lovers of repose in woman inevitable that they should be overturned. The men sprang to aid her search. Lannan, with an assumption of excitement and concern—a trick of his boy days that made her smile.

There was a continual smiling between them because the fashion about her. And yet you milar mannerisms of youth cropped up constantly, tender-tinted status. At by perspective. Margaret passed first it looked as if we'd have a into the lamp glare, and, bend-saint in the family, and we were ing down, stood inexorably with-ered, her relaxed brows in the frown of spinsterhood. Then as she swiftly stepped upon a chair and to explore a mantle cubby, a to be more charitable to his young roundness of arm and waist, a lithe movement of limb, presented a phantom of tenacious girlhood.

"Maybe you don't think there's need of haste. You don't know I want to get there before the ferry stops, for I don't want to take my own boat to-night. It's going to storm."

Without apprising them, she gave up search for the book. She had bewildered them by a variety of movements in final tasks. Now she slipped to a chair and sitting on her foot addressed an envelope while she spoke.

"Get ready and come with me, Luke. You ought to come you know."

"And you have the heart to ask me out of a rainy night? Won't it do if I go after you?"

She looked down at his teasing smile with meaning gravity.

"Can't you stay with us to-night? You don't need to go. Let's see how long since your last confession?"

He had a fit of mimicry, but neither auditor smiled.

"Tomorrow is Easter Sunday, and I finish a novena besides."

She dropped her eyes with a queer little assumption of reserve that was new to her.

"Why don't you wait till morning, then? I should think you'd always be afraid to go over among those Canucks at night."

"A good reason why you might come with me," she retorted. If she had been given to feminine "wile" she might have gained a point by stating that the ferryman occasionally drank. Both men knew that she wished not an escort, but that her brother approach the sacraments. The absurdity of this hope was to them augmented by the evident confidence with which she waited expectantly. It became an embarrassment.

"Let me escort you," Holman said kindly, flushing meanwhile for the inevitable repulse.

She gave him the shy repelling glance he remembered of her girlhood.

"Come on, I'll race to the ferry with you," said her brother.

Holman pondered alone. The phantom glimpses of Margaret's girlhood flittered around her room. He was thinking of a plain-featured, impulsive school girl, with a dimple in one cheek and a sudden winsome smile that closed, in wrinkles, two very bright eyes. The eyes were now as stary as ever, but tragic-sharp and hollow-set. The smile was a shadowy something that Holman could not translate. It suggested vaguely the time of a mission in their final school days. After it she had fallen silent in the last riotous class meetings, or had always been excusing herself from them on the plea of going to confession. Holman and her other friends had smiled tolerantly and had commented privately on the undoubted change in her, due to religion. They had remarked a glimpse of some white, mystic quality at times—as if she were listening to a voice within, a voice not of self.

It was after this that Holman had dropped himself from the ranks of her boy admirers. She had seemed to embody an ideal, too good for love, destined for consecration. This conviction had been decisively stated by the girls of the class.

"She'll go to a convent."

Holman looked up as his friend returning, restored himself to the fireplace comfortably before speaking.

"Well that's the way Madge petered out."

A certain tenderness in his laugh lessened the jarring note in his comment.

"Tell me about her," said Holman agreeably.

"There was a solemn expression about her. And yet you wouldn't have thought it would lead to her present status. At by perspective. Margaret passed first it looked as if we'd have a into the lamp glare, and, bend-saint in the family, and we were ing down, stood inexorably with-ered, her relaxed brows in the frown of spinsterhood. Then as she swiftly stepped upon a chair and to explore a mantle cubby, a to be more charitable to his young roundness of arm and waist, a lithe movement of limb, presented a phantom of tenacious girlhood.

He paused to laugh with Holman at the common memories suggested.

"After she had as worried to a frazzle about her worrying about our not worrying, she quit it and began to make money."

To be continued

News From Ireland

Antrim.
The death of Rev. Father Basil Moubert, a member of the Passionist Order, occurred at Holy Cross Monastery, Ardoyne, on December 24th. Father Basil, who had reached the age of 67, had been in failing health for some time past, and the end was not unexpected.

Armagh.
William Tracey, of Madden, near Keady, died suddenly of heart disease in Keady.

Carlow.
Dr. Edward McDonald has resigned his position as medical officer of Carlow dispensary.

Clare.
The East Clare Executive of the U. I. L., have unanimously re-elected Eugene Duffy and J. P. Noonan, president and vice president, respectively. The Rev. James Monahan, C. C., who has already done so much good work for the tenants of Clare, is appointed representative on the National Directory.

Down.
Dr. A. Crowley was elected medical officer for Carrignavar dispensary.

Donegal.
The Inishowen Board of Guardians, which with one exception is composed of Catholic Nationalists, has elected Robert Moore, a Presbyterian, to the position of Clerk of the Union and Rural District Council at a salary of £115 per year.

Dublin.
The death took place in London, England, on December 21 at the church of SS. Peter and Edward, Westminster, London, to Miss Ethel Frances Macmillan, youngest daughter of the late Dr. Angus Macmillan of Hull.

Galway.
On the morning of December 26 at Creggas, a cattle dealer named Thomas Rogan, of Glenties, Loughlynny, was found dead in bed.

Kerry.
Twenty-five tons of hay, the property of William Flahive of Mile-eight, was destroyed by fire on December 21st.

Kilkenny.
Dr. A. B. Stephenson has been elected medical officer of Kilkenny No. 2 Dispensary District and Fever hospital at a salary of £130 per year.

Limerick.
The death of the Rev. John Connolly, C. C., took place on December 21 at the family residence, near Bruff. He was on the mission in Limerick for a number of years until his health got impaired some time back, and he was widely esteemed by the large number of friends who enjoyed the acquaintance of himself or his relatives.

Louth.
Dr. Barne, medical officer of Drogheda, and coroner for the district, died on December 21 at the age of 52 years.

Meath.
On December 19 in the Chapel attached to St. Mary's Convent of Meroy, Drogheda, the solemn profession took place of Miss Josephine Mary, in religion Sister M. Paul, fourth daughter of Joseph Mary, Kellystown House, Slane.

Rosecommon.
The master of the Rolls, in the Chancery court, has awarded £10 damages to M. Cooney, a contractor, of Castle street, Rosecommon for injuries to his dwellinghouse caused by certain operations of the defendants, the Rosecommon County Council.

Tyrone.
The licensed premises of James Corrinan, Main St., Newtown Stewart, were destroyed by fire early on the morning of December 21.

Wexford.
Died—December 22, Henry G. Georgehan, Wexford.—December 23, Captain William Kelly, Wexford.

Catholic News Notes

Since 1872, the year of its foundation, St. Mary's Infant Asylum, Boston, has sheltered and cared for over 21,000 infants. During the last year about 700 babies received either temporary or permanent relief or shelter at the asylums and this at a cost of \$30,000.

Rev. Edward E. Quirk, of St. Joseph church, N. J., has been appointed the police chaplain for the city.

New York contains probably over one million Catholics; New York state over 2,778,800.

At a Catholic fair at Alexandria, La., recently, a fine automobile was won by Rev. J. A. Schmodry, C. S. Sp., pastor of the Sacred Heart church for colored people. The good priest immediately disposed of the machine, the money to be devoted to the needs of the parish.

The Rev. Francis J. Beckmann, D. D., has succeeded the retired Dr. Shee as rector of Mt. Mary's Seminary of the West, near Cincinnati. Dr. Beckmann, whose age is about thirty-seven years, is a Louvain-Rome educated ecclesiastic, and is favorably known for his scholarly attainments.

At the inauguration of the Hon. Joseph H. Gainer as Mayor of Providence, R. I., which occurred recently in the City Hall, Rt. Rev. T. F. Doran, V. G., offered the prayer.

St. Joseph's Church, Albany, N. Y., has put up an organ which cost over \$25,000.

Among recent converts in the far Southwest is John F. Wilkinson, a retired U. S. army officer. He is a resident of Mesilla, N. M., and one of the best known men in the valley. He was received into the Church December 22 after careful study under the direction of Rev. Joseph Coulombe of the Church of St. Genevieve.

Some days ago the Chaplain of the Massachusetts State Prison, assisted by fourteen priests, heard 300 Confessions in that prison.

The University of St. Thomas, Manila, founded by the Dominicans in 1611, has eighty-one professors and over one thousand students.

The Bishop of Urgel has been made president of the little republic of Andorra, near Spain.

At Piacenza, Italy, a splendid monument is to be erected in memory of Bishop Scalabrini and the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Missionary Fathers of St. Charles Borromeo.

In the year 1300, the Franciscan Fathers were established at Nazareth, which is about 65 miles north of Jerusalem.

The Dominican Vicariate of Canada has been converted into a Province by the Master General, with the Very Reverend Henry Hage as its first provincial.

The Fourteenth Century Order of the Bridgettine Fathers will be re-established in London, England. Three hundred thousand dollars will be expended on their plant there.

The President of the Republic of Portugal has asked the Premier to "pardon" the Bishops of Braga, Portalsgra and Lamego who are suffering three years' banishment. The Premier replied that it was not opportune to "pardon" them just now.

Knights of Columbus.

A pre-lenten reception and dance will be given on Monday, February 3rd. Come and have a good time.

Rules for Lent

The Holy Season of Lent begins on the 5th of February. All churches on the week days of Lent are days of fasting on one meal with a moderate collation in the evening. All the days of Lent are days of abstinence from flesh meat.

By dispensation, however, the use of flesh meat is allowed with out restriction on Sundays and once a day on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, except on the Saturday of Ember week, and the Saturday of Holy week. But the use of both meat and fish at the same time is not allowed even on the Sundays of Lent.

The practice of taking a small piece of bread with a cup of tea, coffee, chocolate, or the like, in the morning, is permitted by indulgent. Likewise when the principal meal cannot be taken at mid-day, it is allowed to invert the order by taking the collation in the morning and the principal meal in the evening.

The use of eggs, milk, butter and cheese is allowed at the principal meal. By general custom in this country it is also tolerated at the collation, provided the quantity prescribed by the fast be not exceeded. Lard and drippings may be used in preparing food.

The following persons are exempt from the obligation of fasting: Young persons under twenty-one years of age, the aged, the sick, nursing women, those who are obliged to do hard labor, and all who through weakness cannot fast without prejudice to their health.

Persons exempted from the obligation of fasting are not bound by the restrictions of using meat only at one meal on days on which its use is granted by dispensation.

By virtue of a special Indult given March 15, 1896, by the Holy See to the Bishops of the United States for ten years and renewed February 8th, 1906, in favor of the working people of this country who find it difficult to observe the general law of abstinence, the use of flesh meat is granted on fast days both to them and to all the members of their family, except on all the Fridays of the year, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and the eve of Christmas; but for such as are obliged to fast the privilege is restricted to one meal of the day. (This extraordinary dispensation is given solely to the working classes, and does not extend to the liberal professions). Those who avail themselves of this indulgent are counseled to perform some penitential work, as for example, abstinence from spirituous drink.

In churches where there is a resident pastor, there will be a sermon and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on every Wednesday evening and the devotion of the stations of the Holy Cross on Fridays.

Pastors in charge of two or more churches, will give one sermon during the week in at least two churches.

Prayer and the spirit of penance should accompany penitential works. Endeavor, therefore, to excite your parishioners to observe this holy season according to the intention of the church, and place every facility in their way for receiving the sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist.

Very sincerely in Christ,

+THOMAS,

Bishop of Rochester.

Rochester, January 15, 1913.

The collection on the Feast of Epiphany, or on the Sunday within the octave, is for the Eastern schools.

The collection for the Propagation of the Faith will be taken up in every church of the Diocese in which there is Mass on the first Sunday of Lent, and in all other churches on the first Sunday thereafter on which there is Mass.

The collection on Good Friday is for the Holy Land.

The annual collection of Penance will be taken up in all the churches of the Diocese in which there is Mass on Penance Sunday, May 11, and in all other churches on the first Sunday thereafter on which there is Mass.

The amounts received will be forwarded to the chancellor within a week.

Commending these good works to your zeal, and hoping that the charity of our faithful people will bring increased blessings on the Diocese, I remain,

Very sincerely in Christ,

Thomas,

Bishop of Rochester.

Diocesan Charity

Bishop Hickey's letter on diocesan charities was read Sunday in all of the Catholic churches. It follows:

"The time is at hand for submitting to our clergy and lay the annual reports of the diocesan charities, and our first duty is very properly one of appreciation of the generous response given to our appeal last year.

"As the final purpose of any work determines largely its interest in it and the aid given, we beg the privilege of repeating in substance what has been set forth at other times in regard to the annual collection taken up in all the churches of the diocese for diocesan charities. It is to assist in providing for the dependent and helpless ones of infancy, childhood and old age. It is to assist from those who are the ties of kinship to help in making as comfortable as possible others deprived of this material blessing.

"It is to assist in retarding the wayward or in restraining the erring ones. It is to help in making known the message of Christ's gospel and in inspiring men to follow it which will mean a better and a higher type of citizenship and of social life. It is to enable more of the little ones of the flock to receive a Christian education without which their training would be imperfect. It is to lead ourselves to the greatest charity of life, the salvation of immortal souls. It is to promote the welfare of the Holy Mother Church and the glory of Almighty God. We cannot imagine the Catholic turning from this claim when once it is fully understood.

"That the funds received in the diocesan charities collected will be thus applied, is the guarantee of the Bishop of the diocese, they will be placed, and we believe must accept the supreme responsibility of this diocese to feel the right which the message to help him to do God's work."

The total amount collected in 1912 was \$7,647.93. The disbursements were: St. Mary's Boys' Orphan Asylum, \$1,500; St. Patrick's Orphan Girls' Asylum, \$1,600; St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum, \$500; for missionary work in the diocese, \$3,047.93; printing reports, \$100; St. Ann's Home for the Aged, \$1,000; total, \$7,647.93.

Weekly Church Calendar

Feb. 2—Quinquagesima Sunday

M. 3—St. Blas, Bp.

T. 4—St. Andrew

W. 5—Ash Wednesday Fast Day

Th. 6—St. Dorothy

F. 7—St. Richard

S. 8—St. John de Matha

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