The Catholic Journal.

—THE LEADING DIOCESAN NEWSPAPER—

Twenty-fourth Year, No. 28. Rochester, N. Y., Friday, April 11, 1913. [illegible]

The Gambler's Child

It was a wild stormy March night. In fierce gusts the east wind, gaining strength as it went swept the hills; then, shrieking and howling like a lost spirit, vented its fury in lonely Glen-Hackett, now hissing and whistling round the pretty cottage that nestled in this defile of the Commercial Mountains, then moaning and sobbing in accents of despair that found an echo in a weary heart close by. As the hours wore on the storm gained force, and in every home on the hills windows and doors were securely barred and bolted; but the cottage in the glen was unshutterd, and the glow of the lamp within shed a path of light down the narrow valley.

By the table in the small sitting room stood Nora Evans, a slight, girlish figure, whose white delicate face told of anxiety and care. Often her dark, lustrous eyes were raised to a little picture of the Sacred Heart and her lips moved in prayer, then with fresh energy she would bend over the filmy lace collar at which her deft fingers worked.

As the clock chimed midnight she went to the window and looked out beyond the glen. There, in the valley by the river, was the town, its bright lights, now flickering as the wind swept by in angry gales, then steady as the storm paused a breathing space.

"Yes," murmured the girl, "Harry is there, there in the gambler's den. Dear Lord, send him home to me. Oh, that it should have come to this! Night after night he is away from me. Why did I ever marry an unfaithful Catholic? Why did I leave my happy home at Reafadda amid the lovely Galtees? How could he be true to me when he was false to God? Sacred Heart, have pity on me! Help me, help him, for I love him."

"Muddie, Muddie," came the frightened cry from an inner room. "Oh, Muddie, come to me."

In an instant Nora was bending over her little girl's cot, trying to soothe the weeping child.

"I want father; why doesn't he come? Muddie, I want him so."

"And so do I darling, answered the mother. "Don't cry, Naureen, but just ask Our Lord to bring him home."

"Yes, but was the dream true? I thought he was gone forever, that I would never see him again. Oh, Muddie, was it?" sobbed the little one.

"Just a dream, storeen. See, I will sit here till you sleep once more."

It was long before the child could be comforted, but at last her sobs died away and the regular, quiet breathing told that she was asleep.

Then once more Nora resumed her lacework. It must be finished by morning. To and fro her needle plied, but soon her fingers grew numb, and no wonder, for the room was cold and comfortless. Its furniture consisted of three chairs and a table; the cheerful wall-paper was in painful contrast to the cheerfulness of all else; brass headed nails told the pictures had once been there, but these, with other household treasures, had been sacrificed to the passion of gambling. One by one all had gone; now all was desolation in Glen-Hackett. A young heart broken—a child's life blighted—a home ruined!

It had come so suddenly. Six months ago Harry had lost his splendid position at the bank because horses and races were more to him than duty. Then he took to betting and won at first. Who does not in the beginning? But soon small losses accumulated; to pay them off he had recourse to gambling. Here, again, fortune was capricious, and to drown his chargin he began to drink. Stray rumors of unfair play were afloat. Old friends cut Harry Evans, but of this his young wife knew nothing, for even the most thoughtless pitied her, and hid from her the knowledge that must ruin her life.

Poor Nora! Her thoughts were busy with the past as she worked at her lace. At last the pretty collar was finished, but still she sat at the table. A strange foreboding of evil had seized her; there was something wrong with Harry. In an agony of fear she fell on her knees before the picture of the Sacred Heart.

"Help him, dear Lord," she pleaded; "bring him out of his evil wayf. I am ready to forgive and forget if only he comes back to Thee and to me. Sacred Heart, the hope of sinners, remember Thy promise to be their secure refuge. To Thee I confide Harry Save him! I cannot."

Even as she prayed the storm outside grew fiercer, the wind beat against the window-panes, and up from the valley the tempest bore with startling distinctness the shriek of the outgoing mail. Often before had the wind borne the same sound up the hill, but never had it awakened such terror.

"It is all nonsense," thought the girl; "I am unnerved, un strung—nothing more. To-morrow I will laugh at my fears. But some one is coming. There are footsteps on the garden walk."

Quickly, Nora hastened to the door. A glance told her the approaching figure was not her husband, and the hearty voice of old Andy Kelleher, who lived yonder up the mountain, greeted her.

"Don't be afraid, ma'am, sure you know 'tis old Andy. It's a wild night, glory be to God, and I'm sorry to bring you a message from Mr. Evans. He had to go, ma'am, just now. He had some trouble, had to go, and—"

"I don't understand," interrupted Nora, "Andy, please tell me."

"Sure, it's myself doesn't know either, but he left by the last train, and he'll be away a long time, and he left me this message for you: "Keep a brave heart, better times are coming."

"God forgive me for the lie," muttered Andy to himself; "sure never a word did he leave for her but I can't see her break her heart afore me, loving him as she does, so strong and true."

"Keep a brave heart, better times are coming," repeated Nora.

A hundred questions rose to her lips, but she crushed them down; she would not listen to the fears that rose within her. Her whole nature told her something was wrong, but she would seek no knowledge that could lower Harry. Mechanically she repeated:

"Keep a brave heart."

"Aye, aye, Miss Nora. Sure I knew you since you were no higher than my knee," broke in Andy. "Many's the time I carried you in my arms when I worked for your father, God rest his soul, in the big farm at Reafadda. You were always brave and hearty, and now you'll face the trouble for the Lord's love. Sure His cross was more than yours. May God and Mary guard you this sorry night, alanna! But I must be going home to my good woman," and Andy turned away to hide his tears, "but I'll be down in the morning. You may have some message for the town. God be with you again, agra!"

As Andy trudged up the hill to his snug cottage his thoughts were busy with lonely, deserted Nora Evans. He found his wife, frightened by his unusual absence, telling her beads over a glowing turf fire.

"'Tis long you were in coming Andy avic," was her kindly greeting. Whatever kept you so late? God and Mary bless us!" she cried, crossing herself devoutly as a vivid flash of lightning lit up the darkness outside. "When was there such such a night?"

"True for you, Mary asthore; but 'tis a worse night than you know. Sure Evans (God forgive me, but I hate his name) was tracked tonignt and 'tis a small chance he has of escape. They say down town that he was playing false cards of late; tonight they proved it. He slipped the men that came to arrest him and got off by the mail for—"

"But sure they can send word by the wires and stop him," interrupted his wife.

"He's too clever for that, Mary agra: he got his pals to cut the wires. I saw them flapping in the storm as I crossed the moor. God forgive him, rogue that he is; he thought of himself, never fear, but there was no word for his wife and child; such 'tis we must think of them. Afore noon tomorrow the bailiffs will come to seize the cottage, but we must get her away, and how is the trouble; for she's proud and independent and won't be beholden to any one, even to us."

"Let us pray, Andy," answered the old woman. "We'll say the round of the beads, and God's Mother will put into our heads a way out of this trouble."

Down on their knees went the two, and in the sweet Irish tongue the praises of Jesus and Mary rang through the little cabin. Not in vain did these faithful hearts seek for aid, for a project before undreamed of presented itself. Why not go over to the Galtees to see their only child, Bridget, who lived near Reafadda? Last week some of the neighbors brought word that her husband was ill. What more natural than to go see him? True, the drive was long, close on forty miles, and up the mountains, too, and the weather was cold indeed but it was the only way to get "Miss Nora" (as the old pair still called her) away.

To be continued

Apostolic Letter of Pope Pius X.

To the Universal Church on the Sixteenth Centenary of the Peace of the Church

(From a synopsis made by the semi-official organ of the Vatican.)

"While the commemoration of the great and happy event by which, sixteen centuries ago, peace was at last given to the Church, fills all Catholics with the greatest joy and invites them to works of piety. We are moved to open the treasures of the gifts of heaven in order that choice fruits may be drawn in abundance from this solemn occasion. It is right and opportune to celebrate the publication of the Edict of Milan, issued by Constantine the Great soon after his victory over Maxentius, a victory, won under the glorious standard of the Cross, which terminated the cruel persecutions of the Christians and placed them in possession of liberty purchased by the blood of the Divine Redeemer and that of the martyrs. Then the Church militant won the first of those triumphs which have come to her in every age along with persecutions of all kinds; and from that day she has bestowed upon human society benefits that are daily becoming greater. For men, having abandoned the superstitious worship of idols, embraced the rule of Christian life in its laws, customs and institutions, and thus justice and charity flourished together upon earth.

"Therefore, We regard it as right on this happy occasion, on which so great an event is being commemorated, that prayers should go to God, to His Virgin Mother, to all the saints especially to the Holy Apostles, so that all nations, solicitious for the dignity and glory of the Church, may take refuge in the bosom of this Mother, dispel the errors with which the foolish enemies of the faith strive to bury her splendor in darkness, surround the Roman Pontiff with respect and obedience and confidently recognize in the Catholic religion the defense and support of all things. Then We can hope that men, fixing their eyes upon the Cross, the sign of safety, shall conquer those who hate the name of Christ and also the unbridled desires of the heart.

"In order that the humble prayers that will be offered up in this centennial celebration throughout the Catholic orb may redound to the greater spiritual food of the faithful. We have decided to enrich them with a plenary indulgence in the form of jubilee, and we earnestly exhort all the sons of the Church to unite their prayers and good works to Ours, so that from the benefit of the jubilee thus offered to them they may derive the greatest possible good to the profit of their souls and the advantage of religion.

The Sovereign Pontiff then concedes and imparts plenary indulgence in the form of a general jubilee for all sins to all and every one of the faithful of both sexes, whether residing in Rome or visiting it, who during the year from Low Sunday when the solemnities begin in memory of the Peace of Constantine up to the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary inclusive, make two visits to each of the basilicas of St. John Lateran of St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, and of St. Paul, outside the walls, and there pass some time in prayer according to his intention, for the prosperty and exaltation of the Catholic Church and of the Apostolic See, for the extirpation of heresies, for the conversion of all sinners, for concord between Christian princes and for the peace and union of the whole Christian people. Besides, after duly confessing their sins, they will within the same period approach the Sacred Table and also give some alms, each according to his means to the poor, or, if they prefer it, to some pious work.

To those who cannot come to Rome the Holy Father concedes the same plenary indulgence, provided that they visit six times, within the same period of time, the church or churches of their district, as their Ordinary may designate and fully comply with the other works of piety mentioned above.

The Pope consents that this plenary indulgence be applied to the souls in Purgatory.

He also concedes that those traveling on sea or land may gain the same indulgence on returning to their country or in any place of fixed abode, when they have complied with the conditions prescribed and visited six times the cathedral or the parochial church of their place of domicile or residence.

To regulars of either sex, though in perpetual cloister, as also to every person, clerical or lay, whether in person or restrained by any corporal infirmity, or by any other impediment from fulfilling the works stated above, His Holiness likewise concedes and permits that a confessor can commute them into other works of piety or postpone their execution to some other near date or prescribe those which the penitents themselves can execute. He also concedes the faculty of dispensing from Holy Communion those children who have not yet been admitted to the reception of the Blessed Eucharist.

Particular rules then follow for the guidance of confessors, for absolution from censures, from reserved sins, for commutations, dispensations, etc.

Gregg Shorthand

Class in Gregg Shorthand starts Monday, April 14th.

Rochester Business Institute,
S. C. Williams, President
John F. Forbes, Secretary

Weekly Church Calendar

S 13—Solemnity of St. Joseph
M 14—St. Lidwina, V
T 15—St. Peter Gonzales, C.
W 16—St. Benedict Labre C.
Th. 17—St. Anicetus, P. M.
F 18—St. Eleutherius, Bp. M.
S 19—St. Leo IX, P. C.

Gulf Coast Fruit Farms Company

References: Mobile Chamber of Commerce, M. F. McDermott, President Bank of Mobile. T. J. Touart, Ass't. Prosecuting Attorney Mobile County. Nicol & Hume Consulting Engineers, Mobile, Ala. Rev. Herman Schmidtner, St. Bridgid's Parish, Whistler, Ala.

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News From Ireland

Antrim.

The Ballymena Guardians have received the sanction of the local government board for the erection of a new hospital, at a cost of about $7,580.

Armagh.

A farm of land containing six acres near Portadown, has been sold for Adam Whittle, at £190, with two and a half per cent. auction commission.

Cavan.

The Irish National Foresters of Great Britain and Ireland will hold their annual convention this year in Cavan on the first week in August.

Cootehill Guardians have adopted a motion that Cootehill workhouse be placed at the disposal of the L. G. Board for conversion into an auxiliary asylum.

Clare.

A farm at Cloumoney South, owned by John Frost, containing 27 acres, was recently sold for £710 Robert Frost, solicitor, in trust for Martin Gleeson.

Cork.

The death of Sister of Sister Mary Conleth, second daughter of the late Thomas Travers, Rossboro', Cork, took place on March 4, at the Convent of Mercy, Clonakilty.

There lives near Macroom, County Cork, an old man named William Duggan, who is supposed to be 120 years of age. He still walks to Mass on Sundays, and often sings a song in Irish.

Derry.

The employes of Lillie and Henderson's collar factory are still out on strike, consequent on a reduction of wages.

Donegal.

Owen Toland, a widely known and popular man in the Clonmany district, died at his home in Rextown on March 3.

Down.

While engaged at prayer in the Dominican church, Newry, on March 1, Felix Campbell, aged 80, of King St., Newry, died suddenly.

The death of an old Newry footballer, John O'Rourke, of Monaghan street, took place on February 26. Deceased had spent a number of years in America, and had only returned about a fortnight previous to his native land.

Dublin.

Miss B. M. Kelly has retired on pension as lady superintendent and matron of Steeven's hospital Dublin.

Fermanagh.

Francis Little, for twenty-two years a member of Enniskillen Urban Council, and a well known Nationalist, died on March 2. He was 79 years of age.

Galway.

Galway Harbor Board has given a gratuity of £300 to Mr. Walsh, harbor pilot, who resigned.

Kerry.

The Congested districts board are negotiating for the purchase of about 100 acres of land at Laharden, Ballybunion, the property of D. D. Griffin.

Kilkenny

Mrs. Breen, Kilmanagh, the mother of 18 children, has received a donation of £3 from the King's privy purse.

Kings

James F. Costello, Ferbane, has been appointed clerk to the county surveyor after a competitive examination.

Limerick.

Dr. Magner has been elected medical officer of Rathkeale Union.

Dr. E. Lloyd-Ahern, Hermsbrook, died in Newcastle West on February 28th.

Longford.

Joseph Farrell has resigned as master as Longford workhouse.

Miss Colreavy has resigned her position as school teacher in Longford union.

Sligo

Dr. P. J. Burke has been elected tuberculosis medical officer for County Sligo.

Catholic News Notes

A new $40,000 church [illegible] dedicated on [illegible] N. H.

The new $100,000 [illegible] pital, New Ulm, Minn., [illegible] finished the last of the month.

A parish house and [illegible] cost $15,000 are to be [illegible] St. Patrick's parish, [illegible] Neb.

Mgr. [illegible] bishop of [illegible] ed apostolic [illegible] of Spain at Madrid.

The [illegible] Paulist church, New [illegible] laid on Sunday, April [illegible] impressive ceremony [illegible] at 4 o'clock in the [illegible] dinal Farley [illegible] mony and an [illegible] was preached.

Brother [illegible] who was connected [illegible] Salle Institute [illegible] years and had been [illegible] the order of [illegible] for thirty [illegible] pital, New York.

A pilgrimage [illegible] Bishop of [illegible] Monsignor [illegible] tor of St. Mary's [illegible] que, Ia., and Rev. [illegible] Seabrook of New [illegible] will set sail from [illegible] Genoa, Italy, [illegible]

Two [illegible] Redemptorist [illegible] last week [illegible] on jubilee [illegible] They are the Rev. [illegible] C. SS. R. [illegible] Hahn, C. SS. R. [illegible] Michael's [illegible] Island City [illegible] Bishop [illegible]

The suit of [illegible] Carroll against [illegible] St. Charles college [illegible] at this term of the [illegible] ty court, Maryland [illegible] possession of the [illegible] licott City, which [illegible] the college on [illegible] used for school [illegible] purposes. The new [illegible] built near Catonsville, [illegible] of Baltimore.

The Pope has [illegible] Rev. P. A. Phillips, [illegible] the Diocese of Denver, Colo., [illegible] the Rev. Richard Brady, of [illegible] same diocese, Domestic Prelates.

On March 19 the Sacred Heart Academy, Owatonna, Minn., [illegible] ducted by Sisters of St. Francis, was damaged by fire to the extent of $25,000.

The splendid new novitiate of the Sisters of St. Joseph (of Carondelet) in St. Paul, Minn., was formally opened on March [illegible] when Archbisop Ireland officiated en at the investure of thirty-eight candidates and the profession of twenty novices.

In the fifty-six years of its history St. John's church, Baltimore has had but two pastors. On March 28 the present incumbent, Right Rev. Mgr. George W. Devine, completed a quarter of a century in that charge. The anniversary was marked by an entertainment by the twelve hundred children of the parish school, at which Cardinal Gibbons made an address in which he paid a high tribute to Mgr. Devine. Purses of silver were presented by the boys and girls.

The fortieth anniversary of the ordination of Right Rev. O. B. Corrigan, D. D., Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore, will be celebrated in June.

Personal.

Miss Ruth Irene [illegible] Woodward Ave. [illegible] Book Club on [illegible] Mr. George [illegible] [illegible]