The Catholic Journal.

—THE LEADING DIOCESAN NEWSPAPER—

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The Gambler's Child

(Continued from last week)

Far into the night they talked and planned, while she for whom they were so solicitous prayed and pleaded before the cherished picture. To the heart of Jesus she could tell her fears, she could trust Him with her unspoken sorrow, she could lay before Him the anguish of her crushed spirit, she could tell Him she still loved her faithless husband. At last, worn out with the earnestness of her prayer, she sank on the cold floor in the sleep of exhaustion.

A loud knocking roused her early in the morning. On opening the door she found Andy, who enlarged upon the illness of his son-in-law, told of their intention of going to him, and asked if "Miss Nora" would like to go with them, as they would pass by Reafaddo and she could she her mother. Very volubly the old man talked to give the girl time to recover. They were to start in an hour, and "as it was all so sudden-like, may be you'll have a bit of breakfast with us above afore the neighors bring round the jaunting-car, and sure I might as well carry up the little one for you."

Nora could hardly find words to thank him. She would be so glad to see her mother; in a few moments she would be ready, and the old man waited till Maureen was dressed, but the little lady declared she would much prefer to walk. She was six years old, she said; quite grown up, she thought.

Mary Kelleher had a hearty welcome for mother and child. Early that morning she had risen to bake fresh cakes for them; the sight of these dainties and the prints of golden butter were novelties to poor Nora, who had worked so hard all these months to provide food for Maureen and herself. As soon as the breakfast was over they started on their long journey.

The day was bright with spring sunshine, which lighted up the lovely valley of the Suir and rested caressingly on the Commeragh's many peaks. Towards sundown the south slope of the great Galtees was reached and then began the slow and toilsome ascent. An icy wind beat down from the snow-capped heights above, the crimson glory faded away, in the west, the valleys beneath grew gray and misty, the shadows of twilight had given place to the gloom of night before the lights of Reafadda came in sight.

Never before was Nora so glad to see her old home; to her it was now a haven of rest. As her mother's arms were folded round her, the strong brave spirit gave way; she broke down piteously. The worry of these weary months, the want of nourishing food, the chill of the previous night, the fatigue of the long drive—all had combined to bridge total collapse.

For weeks she hovered between life and eath, then rallied a little. But to all who watched the wan, worn face, the wistful earnest eyes and the drooping figure, it was clear that the seal of another world was on gentle Nora Evans, that for her there were few steps between heaven and earth. And Nora knew it, too. For long hours together she would sit out in the dear old garden where she had played as a child, and watch the light and ark on the Galtees, or listen to the music of the mountain stream which dashed over crags and sparkled in the sunshine, then with bounds and leaps went its downward way to the dark valley of Skeeninarinka. She too was going down to the gloomy valley of death, but she feared it not, for beyond, on the other bank, was the land of the Sacred Heart.

At times Maureen, weary of her frolics with the great dogs, Finn and Gyp, would sit beside her mother and strive in her loving way to cheer her. Then Nora would tell the child of the love of Jesus, of His gentle, kindly ways; ever and over again she would relate the parable of the lost sheep, that if she prayed hard he would one day be found, and then Jesus would rejoice. Young as Maureen was, she determined to find her father, and time but strengthened this resolve.

The sunny days grew shorter, the chill breath of evening told that autumn was come, and already the first folds of her wondrous veil of crimson and gold rested over the trees. When Reafadda looked its loveliest, when the hills wore the nameless hues of September and the air was sweet with fragrance, Nora Evans was called Home. Hers was the death of the saints. The Heart of Jesus had ever been her refuge in life. In Jesus she trusted. She had loved him always. How could she fear to meet Him? To her child she handed over her mission. Maureen would win her father back to God. With a smile on her lips and love in her heart Nora Evans went to the Lord.

The days that followed were lonely for Maureen. She would roam on the hill with Finn and Gyp, or she would lie still among the heather "thinking," as she said, but in truth it was praying. The Sacred Heart was to her a real living reality, every trouble was told to Jesus, every longing for her mother, every desire to find her father. Mother had told her to trust Our Lord for everything. Thus the days went by. At sundown she and her grandmother had long talks and the old lady often wondered at the depths of love and prayer that the child's words revealed.

Thus three years passed and Maureen had gone far in the way of the saints. Then to her, as to them, came the hour of trial. Her dear grandmother died, the house at Reafadda was closed, and the child became the ward of a distant cousin, a Mrs. O'Brien, a kind, motherly soul, who lived near the picturesque town of C—

Poor Maureen, the change wellnigh broke her heart. One thing comforted her—she could offer this cross to Jesus for her father. Her new home was situated amid lovely scenery, but, best of all, she could still see the Galtees, and her eyes often sought their clearly defined outline. That distant line of blue seemed to lift her soul aloft. Another source of pleasure for Maureen was the convent school. There she learned so many things, but the beautiful hymns to the Sacred Heart filled her whole being with delight. Often, while Mrs. O'Brien was busy with household tasks, the strains of the child's baby voice would reach her, and she would drop on her knees and bless herself, for, as she once said: "It is an angel, and no child, God has sent to me. She makes one pray."

Soon Maureen grew white and wan, she seemed too tired to play, too weary for a frolic with her dear dogs. Mrs. O'Brien, alarmed at these symptons, consulted a doctor; but all his prescriptions were unavailing. Then the nuns suggested that the child should be sent to a branch house of the order, where the Sisters had charge of a large hospital. Maureen would have every care, even the change would do her good. The prospect so pleased the child that ere many days she was comfortably established in her new quarters. For a time she seemed to improve, then the weariness and lassitude returned, and it was evident to all that the little life was drawing to a close.

Maureen had not yet mode her First Communion. The feast of the Sacred Heart was near; what day could be more suitable? So Mother Magdalene, the kind superior, decided to begin the preparation at once. For hours she would sit with the child in the sunny garden; with her she sang her favorite hymns and spoke of Jesus and His love for children. There for the first time the nun heard of the little girl's apostolate, of the disappointment that was wearing away her life; for after three years of praying and pleading she had not found her father.

"But my pet," urged the nun, "you may have won your father back long since. It is not necessary you should know of his conversion. You must trust that to the Sacred Heart; all your prayers are treasured there. Now, I know for certain you have been the means of winning a soul to God since you came here."

"Oh, Mother, how can that be?"

"It is true, dear, quite true You remember hearing of the fever patient? Well, he was brought here in a sad way, utterly destitute; but it was easy to see he had known far better days, he was always so polite to the Sisters, so grateful for every service. He had come home from America to find his wife and child, but every one belonging to him was dead. In one way only he was troublesome—he would listen to no prayer, would see no priest, had no faith in religion, he said. Day after day he heard you singing your hymns out here and the words awakened old memories, his heart was touched. This morning he asked to see a priest, and now he has made his peace with God. This evening he will receive his last Communion."

"Oh, Mother, I am so glad, and tomorrow I shall make my first, perhaps my last, for if father is saved my work is done, and I shall be glad to die, glad to offer my life in thanksgiving."

"Offer your life in thanksgiving," repeated a kindly voice. "See, I have heard the secret," and Father Burke, the chaplain, emerged from the shady walk that led from the hospital. "Reverend Mother," he added, turning towards the nun, "I have news for Maureen, happy news indeed. Her father is with God. Yes, my child," he continued, gently stroking the little wasted hand, "you won his soul; your prayers were heard in a wonderful way. It will comfort you to know that your voice led him back—your hymns. Ah! I see you understand. Yes, your father was the fever patient; but now he is safe. This evening Jesus took him home shortly after receiving Holy Communion. We could not bring you to him because of the fever, but his bed was wheeled to the window that he might see you. His last words were a prayer that God would bless his little Maureen."

"O dear Lord, now I can go. Sacred Heart, what can I do to thank Thee?" was the child's reply, and the joy of answered prayer so transfigured her thin white face that it was unearthly in its loviness. But the hectic flush, the shining eyes, the feverish hands told of danger. All night long she tossed restlessly, watching for the dawn. When morning came she was too weak to rise. Jesus soon came to her in her First and last Communion. His little apostle had done His work, He Himself would be her reward. Ere evening she had crossed the portals of land where love finds its eternal fruition.—Sister M. Gonzaga in Messenger of the Sacred Heart.

Knights of St. John

The Rochester Regiment, Kts. of St. John will banquet at the Powers Hotel, Wednesday evening, April 23rd. A reception beginning at 7.15 will precede the banquet which will be served promptly at 8 o'clock. Invitations to be present have been extended to Bishop Thomas F. Hickey, Rev. Mathias J. Hargarther, chaplain of the local regiment; General James B. Dugan of Kenton, Ohio; Supreme president, Henry Lieder of Buffalo, supreme vice president John L. Schwartz of Buffalo, supreme president of the Ladies auxiliary Mrs. Tesesa Renner and the spiritual advisors of the local commanderies as follows: Rev. Wm. Kessel, St. Mauritius Commandery 9 and St. Eustace Commandery 39; Rev. Staub St. Louis Commandery No. 17; Rev. Father Boppell, St. Boniface Commandery 25; Rev. Gefell, St. Peter and Paul's 28; Rev. Schellhorn, St. Michael's 40; Rev. Burns, Sacred Heart, 106; Rev. Laurenzis, St. Theodore, 197; Rev. Krischel, St. Bernard's 272.

The large banquet hall will be decorated including the National colors and the colors of the order. Prof. F. A. Zeitler will furnish the music. Tickets and reservations can be had at Meng & Shafer Co., Powers Block store.

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Lecture at Convention Hall

The Rochester public will be treated to an interesting lecture by Mr. Peter W. Collins at Convention Hall next Sunday evening. His subject will be: "Why Socialism is opposed to the Labor Movement." Mr. Collins is known as a forcible speaker and as one who has challenged all Socialistic leaders of the United States including Mr. Debs. to a debate. His long connection with the Brotherhood of the Electrical Workers as its international secretary, and his position as editor of the Electrical Worker, make him eminently fit to discuss all topics concerning the labor movement. Admittance to the lecture will be free and both ladies and gentleman are cordially invited. A large attendance is expected.

Concert at Exposition Park

A concert will be given by the Brahm's Glee Club, one of the best known musical organizations of the city, in the auditorium of Exposition Park on Wednesday evening, April 23. The club is directed by Prof. Eugene Bonn, director of music at St. Patrick's Cathedral. The soprano soloist of the concert will be Mrs. Anna Wambach Stanley of Buffalo; the barritone soloist will be James C. King of Syracuse, and the pianist will be Miss Lillian Utz of this city. Professor Bonn will be in personal direction of the singers.

There will be 24 male voices in the chorus, and the programme will be made up of the best English classics. Professor Bonn has devoted considerable time to training the voices of the men, and he declares himself well pleased with the progress made by them.

Personal.

The marriage of Miss Helen Maloney of Buffalo N.Y., and Mr. James C. Heaney of Akron, O., formerly of Rochester was solemnized at St. Vincent's church, Akron, O., by Rev. Father Maher, D.D., on March 24th. Mr. and Mrs. Heaney will reside in Akron, O.

Bishop Hickey at Troy

Albany, April 16.—Rt. Rev. Thomas F. Hickey and these priests of the Rochester diocese were at the annual meeting of the alumni of the old St. Joseph's Archdiocesan Seminary at Troy: Rev. James H. Day, M.J. Hargather, J. F. Nelligan, J. P. Brophy, J. H. O'Brien, A. M. O'Neill and J.P. Schellhorn, city, James T. Dougherty, Canandaigua; B. W. Gommenginger, Lyons; M. A. F. Holmes, Macedon; A. A. Hughes; Geneseo and J. G. McGrath Auburn.

Knights of Columbus.

A meeting was held on Friday evening April 18th. The question of the settlement of the litigation of the property deeded to Rochester Council by the late Dr. J.J. Burke was brought up for action.

Weekly Church Calendar

20 S.—St. Agnes, V.
21 M—St. Anselm, Bp.D.
22 T—S.S. Soter and Caius,
23 W—St. George, M.
24 Th—St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen
25 F—St. Mark, Evangelist
26 S—Our Lady of Good Counsel

England's first daily newspaper was the Daily Courraut, founded 1702 in London, and published by a woman.

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.

Catholic News Notes

Miss Clara Muhle, lately received the veil of a Sister of Charity at Mt. St. Joseph, Delhi, Ohio. Miss Muhle is the fourth member of her family to embrace a religious life.

The government will make Georgetown University a special station for observation purposes. The Rev. Francis A. Tondorf, S. J., scientists and seismicist, has been appointed special observer.

The $21,000 addition to Sacred Heart School, Oshkosh, Wis., was dedicated by the Bishop of Green Bay.

Miss Melva Wilson, of New York, a sculptress, will receive the habit of a Sister of Charity on her return from Rome, where Bishop Kennedy presented her to the Holy Father.

A tract of fifty acres of land of the homestead of former Justice Rosach, of New York, was presented by him and his wife to Cardinal Farley, who in turn, presented it to the Ursuline Sisters for a novitiate.

Cardinal O'Connell says the Catholic charities are flourishing.

The annual report of the Diocesan Seminary of Philadelphia shows that the total collection during the past year was $67,402 or $5,000 in excess of the previous year. It was stated that thirty candidates were excluded for lack of room, and the rector suggests that a separate preparatory seminary be erected.

In the diocese of Louisville, three sisters are Postmistresses.

Rt. Rev. Mgr. Cerretti, auditor of the Apostolic Delegation at Washington, has been recalled to Rome, and is succeeded by Mgr. Vincenzo Misuraca of the Apostolic Delegation at Manila, P. I.

In the diocese of Pittsburgh there are 22 Catholic Women's Leagues to aid in religious, educational and social works and protection of girls.

The Bishop of Sioux City says the 7,700 children in the Catholic schools of his diocese save the State annually $270,000 and the city of Sioux City $40,000.

This year's collection for Philadelphia's theological Seminary at Overbrook, amounted to the magnificent sum of $67,402.

The views of Cardinal Gibbons in favor of the retention of the Philippine Islands, have been printed by the house of Representatives as "House Document No. 1446."

The Congregation of the Mission will erect a $100,000 college at Hillcrest, Princeton, N. J.

On the opening day of the National Convention of Catholic Societies on August 10th, at Milwaukee, Archbishop Keane will preach the sermon. In Louisville last year, Bishop McFaul preached the sermon.

That monstrosity, the new "Republic" of Portugal, has officially abolished Christmas, substituting the human family, at whose disintegration its laws are directed.

Mrs. Catharine Fitzgerald, of Knockanagh, County Cork, Ireland, born in 1798, died and was buried in Kiskean church-yard She was in her 115 year.

In his early youthful days, Cardinal Newman was an accomplished violinist. His first attempt as an author was the writing of a comic opera.

Italy is experimenting with aerial mails, an aviator recently carrying a sack of letters 101 miles in 36 minutes.

News From Ireland

Armagh.

Died—Edward [illegible] wood, Lurgan [illegible] Mrs. Mary A. McWhinney, [illegible] magh.

Carlow.

The following deaths have taken place: March 7, Charles Ivory, Tullow, aged 68 [illegible] March 3, Mrs. Ellen Wall, [illegible] Leigh, Ballickmoyler.

Clare.

The Local government board has sanctioned the [illegible] of Francis Barrett, as [illegible] the Union workhouse at a [illegible] of $60 a year, with [illegible] the estimated weekly [illegible] 15s.

Cork.

A bale of cotton in perfect condition, identified as part of the cargo of the Ivada, which was wrecked some years ago at [illegible] Head, was found recently [illegible] some boatmen at the entrance [illegible] a large cave at the east [illegible] Bere Island.

Donegal.

Judge Holmes congratulated the jury at Donegal assizes on March 13 on the peaceful state of the county.

Down.

Dromalane Mill, at Newry [illegible] owned by Messrs. F. P. W. [illegible] ris & Company, is closed [illegible] owing to a strike of workers.

Dublin.

The late J. B. Crawford [illegible] Blackrock left an estate [illegible] £3,982.

P. Murphy has purchased [illegible] the sum of £600 the premises [illegible] Mr. Watters, Baggart.

Galway.

The members of Galway [illegible] trict Council [illegible] speech and action [illegible] ain against the [illegible] have called on him to [illegible] not as a member of the [illegible] council.

Kerry.

Sister Mary [illegible] tion convent, Cahirciveen, [illegible] on March 8th.

Rev. Brother Laurence [illegible] nell of the Order of C[illegible] Brothers, died [illegible] March 10. Deceased was a [illegible] of Kerry.

Kilkenny.

The death occurred [illegible] Castlecomer workhouse [illegible] of Edward White, [illegible] who was widely known [illegible] ty Kilkenny as a weather [illegible] ter.

Kings

While Kate Callen, aged [illegible] 65 was on the way to [illegible] Coole, March 8, she suddenly threw up her arms and [illegible] When a companion went to [illegible] her up life was found to be extinct.

Limerick.

Michael O'Brien of the [illegible] nard district has purchased [illegible] farm in his neighborhood containing over 90 acres for [illegible]

Longford.

Miss Byrne, an assistant nurse in Longford Union, has resigned her position.

Mayo

John J. Reilly, Bangor Erris, has been elected clerk of Belmullet Union.

Judge Wright congratulated the jury at the Mayo Spring Assizes on the peaceful state of the county.

Tipperary.

A lad of fourteen named Gle[illegible] son, of Nicholas St., Thurles, employed by a merchant in Main St. was carrying a box of eggs recently when he stumbled and fell backwards, the box falling on him. He died as a result of his injuries.

Tyrone.

The death of Dr. Joseph Bradley, medical officer of the Gortin dispensary district occurred at the Tyyone county hospital on March 8.

Waterford

Rev. D. J. Roche, O. P., for many years stationed at St. [illegible] or's Priory in Waterford, [illegible] been transferred to [illegible]