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A Brother's Prayer

(Continued from last week)

On hearing this news Mr. T— quieted down actually slept a while. After dinner he was alert, evidently waiting for his expected visitors.

Ere long a gentle tap at the door was heard, and Sister Esther and her companion entered and greeted the sufferer as if he were an old friend. Moreover, they brought him a dainty glass of gelatine and assured him he would relish it. Not a word was spoken on the forbidden subject, but half an hour was spent talking on many topics in which the Sisters skillfully found he was interested.

When the Sisters rose to go Mr. T— expressed regret and actually asked their pardon for his rudeness on the first occasion. "But," said he with rising excitement, "I thought you wanted to talk religion to me, and if you knew all I've had of it in my life, and how I hate the word you wouldn't blame me."

"Come, now," said Sister Esther, "we won't part with disagreeable topics on our lips."

"Won't you come soon again?" asked Mr. T—. "You don't know how lonely I am. People are afraid of consumptives."

"Yes, indeed, we will come, perhaps next week."

"Oh, not so far off as that," said he. "Couldn't you come tomorrow?"

"Tomorrow?" echoed the Sisters. "Why, you would get very tired of us at that rate."

"I don't think he would," said his wife. "He has spoken about you several times."

"Well, then, the day after tomorrow." And again Sister Esther held out her hand.

Mr. T— kept it a moment, and Sister Esther saw one point was scored.

On their return home prayer was renewed. Every one was interested in the sick man's case; every one longed to see this poor soul reconciled with God and restored to grace.

The promised visit was paid and others followed. Mr. T— grew restless and irritable if the Sisters were delayed. Finally Sister Esther having secured a foothold, she began to speak of his soul.

He changed color, but did not fly into a rage. She made little impressions. Still, on leaving she told him a friend of hers meant, if Mr. T— had no objection, to call next day, and Mr. T— must keep him until she arrived.

Mr. T— would be pleased, he said, to meet any friend of hers, and so they parted.

Next day Father W— called on Mr. T— at the hour the Sisters usually came. He was a fearless, athletic man, young and pleasant faced, whose interest had been won by the earnest appeals of Sister Esther. He had been told about the revolver.

Sure enough, as soon as the sick man saw the Roman collar he drew the weapon from his pillow and, pointing it at the priest, shouted: "Get out of my house! You are a Romish priest! Get out, or I'll shoot!"

"No, you won't," said Father W—. And springing towards the bed, he wrested the revolver out of the weak hands. "Don't, Mr. T—," he pleaded. "Don't excite yourself. Be reasonable. I want had touched the very heart of you. Be your friend. I am not at all offended by your reception."

Curses, horrible curses, were the only answer, but they exhausted the invalid, and he fell back on his pillow. The priest administered a restorative, which the trembling wife provided; and then lay patient and resigned, just then the Sisters entered the room.

The patient could not show anger before the quiet concern of Sister Esther. He could only say, in a weak voice:

"So this is your friend!" "Yes," said Sister Esther, "and I know he will be yours. Get him to talk to you on athletics."

The incongruity of the subject, in view of Mr. T—'s exhaustion,

due to the encounter just passed, touched the humor of every one present. Father W— emitted a peal of hearty laughter. The ice was broken and the priest was so agreeable that when he arose to depart the invalid invited him to return.

This was the beginning. Father W— followed up his advantage, and in a few visits won the confidence of the dying man. One afternoon Mrs. T— spoke of her husband's hatred for religion and he told the story of his life. His early years were spent in goodness and piety, and he set his heart on becoming a priest. His parents (long since dead) rejoiced at giving their son to God, and he entered the seminary. His studies had led him as far as minor orders, when suddenly a serious skin disease appeared. To his consternation and grief he found that the malady would not yield to remedies. Through some misunderstanding or error he was supposed not to have sought sufficient, and he was given to understand that his seminary course must be abandoned. His parents were poor, and he dared not go to them and disappoint them. He was filled with despair and bitterness. He left in anger. The trial was too much for him, and he cursed God! A fellow student, who pitied him, helped him all he could, recommended him to a physician friend in a distant city, gave him money and implored him to get cured and return. But so many efforts had been made to cure him, and had failed, that he had lost all hope.

However, he went to the distant city and was finally cured. With the joy of returning health came the renewed bitterness of disappointment. He obtained a situation and prospered; but he had lost his faith, never spoke of the Church but to curse it, and, as his worldly goods increased, became more and more antagonistic to everything Catholic.

He married a Catholic wife, but she was too weak to hold her religion and their little daughter, strange to say, loved the Catholic Church and longed to go to the Sisters' school, but was never permitted to speak of such a thing. She watched the Sisters, and when her father grew so ill that he was mostly confined to bed, she spoke to them the day our story opened, and thus made the first step towards her parents' salvation. He never knew this, however.

When the long story was ended the priest consoled him, and with kind and many words poured into his soul a flood of strength and hope in God's mercy. He told him plainly he was near death, and he must be saved. He begged him to forget the past bitterness and to return to the Good Shepherd. Who has sought him out with such unflinching effort. The dying man listened and finally said:

"I don't know why it is, Father W—, but there has been all these years an invisible hand that has kept me back from even worse things than I have done, and a voice within which seems to plead with the Lord to spare me till I should make my peace with Him. And I will follow its counsel. Father, I think I will go to confession! Come tomorrow and I will be ready."

Father W— was overjoyed. At last the fervent prayers not only of the Sisters, but of his own W—, and springing towards the bed, he wrested the revolver out of the weak hands. "Don't, Mr. T—," he pleaded. "Don't excite yourself. Be reasonable. I want had touched the very heart of you. Be your friend. I am not at all offended by your reception."

The next day Mr. T— made his confession and peace and contented the invalid on his face. Shortly afterwards he received Holy Viaticum and Extreme Unction, and then lay patient and resigned, just then the Sisters entered the room.

The Sisters visited him daily, and so did Father W—.

One day a strange priest entered the room.

"You do not know me, Thomas?" said he.

The dying man looked at him. "Can it be— Fred, my old friend of the seminary?"

"The same," said the stranger. "I came to Chicago this morning,

I knew you were here. I got the directory and found your name and your home, and I have come to see you. And how do I find you?"

"Oh, my faithful friend!" said the sufferer, brokenly. "The years have worked strange havoc with me. I have gone far from my father's house. I have been a prodigal son. But He sought me out and brought me back to His tender arms. I have been lost and am found again."

"Thomas," said the visitor, "you were hardly dealt with when you were students together; but you have come to your own. They acknowledged to me that they might have been more considerate, but it was all for the best. Thousands of prayers and Masses have been offered for you. I have never passed a day without mentioning your name in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass."

"Oh, my more than brother!" said Mr. T—. "I felt it. I knew someone was fighting for me before God, and it was you! Wait with me for the end."

Only a few days passed. One evening as the sun went down and the soft summer breezes parted the curtains of that chamber they knelt around his bed. Two priests were there and the weeping wife and child. His friend of the long ago, who had knelt beside him in the seminary chapel, wiped the death dew from his clammy brow and raised his anointed hand in absolution as the solemn sacred prayer of the Church fell on his failing senses:

"Depart, Christian soul, in the Name of God, the Father, Who created thee."

One long, shivering sigh and the ransomed spirit fled from the suffering body, redeemed, saved, through God's infinite love and a spiritual brother's faithful prayers.

Oh! the length and breadth of the mercy of God, that gathered to the Sacred Heart this worn and weary spirit, this much tried being, this precious human soul. Surely "if there shall be joy in heaven over the conversion of a sinner, there were glad rejoicings on that day."

The wife and child were soon restored to Holy Church, and the Sisters in the convent as they knelt before the altar in their beautiful, silent chapel offered their grateful prayers and thanksgivings.—The Rev. Richard W. Alexander, in Exchange.

Weekly Church Calendar

May 4—St. Monica, W
5—St. Pius V. P. C.
6—St. John before Latin Gate
7—St. Stanislaus,
8—Apparition of St. Michael
9—St. Gregory
10—Vigil—Fast Day

U. S. Steel Gives to Church

In addition to furnishing church sites in Gary, Ind., the United States Steel corporation has donated \$50,000 to the Catholic Church for the benefit of the six foreign congregations in that city. Of this amount \$10,000 already has been received by the rector of the Croatian congregation.

Fig Orchard in Catholic Colony

\$15.00 down and \$5.00 monthly will buy fig orchard planted and cared for in exclusive Catholic Colony in Beautiful Southern Alabama. Splendid profits. An income for life whether you locate here or not. Write postcard for full particulars to Gulf Coast Fruit Farms Co., Knights of Columbus Building, 106 St. Joseph St., Mobile, Ala.

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 Schmitter, St. Bridgid's Parish, Whistler, Ala.

Dr. Osler Attacks Faith Cardinal Gibbons Makes Fitting Reply

When part of the speech of Sir William Osler at the dedicatory exercises of the Phipps Psychiatric clinic of the Johns Hopkins hospital, Baltimore, was read to Cardinal Gibbons, on Saturday, the prelate exclaimed:

"I am shocked." Sir William, who is professor of medicine in Oxford university, said in part:

"Primitive views will prevail everywhere of man's relation to the world and to the uncharted region about him. So recent is the control of the forces of nature that even in the most civilized countries man has not yet adjusted himself to the new conditions and stands only half awake rubbing his eyes."

"Nine-nine per cent. of our fellow creatures when in trouble, sorrow or sickness, trust to charms, incantations and to the saints. Many a shrine has more followers than Pasteur; many a saint more believers than Lister. Less than 200 years have passed since the last witch was burned in the British Isles."

"Mentally the race is still in leading strings. In the childhood of the world we cannot expect people yet to put away childish things."

"Scientists in any line sometimes make statements such as that of Dr. Osler," said the Cardinal, "and only a short time ago I had to defend some truths that Thomas A. Edison attacked."

"These scientific specialists think their statements should go unchallenged, but this one of Dr. Osler shall not, and I shall write to him asking him to retract it. I would like to call the attention of Dr. Osler to the fact that Pasteur was a devoted Catholic and put his trust in the saints. He said that as his knowledge of medicine increased his faith grew likewise. The statements attributed to Dr. Osler are an attack on Christianity."

"I am surprised that he should make such attacks in this age. 'What do the things that Dr. Osler preaches stand for any how? Fifty years hence all his teachings may be overthrown by new discoveries. His whole doctrine is based on theory. 'Fifty years ago, the scientists of that day imagined they knew all that was to be known of medicine; yet today their conclusions are overthrown by later discoveries."

"The Catholic Church is not founded on theory, and whereas the whole world is informed of its doctrines, the conclusions of Osler are known to comparatively few. The world at present is alarmed by the condition of the head of the Church and changes in his health are of great interest—more, perhaps, than that of any scientists whom we know."

Dr. Osler when informed that the Cardinal regarded his reported utterances as an attack on Christianity, appeared to be greatly disturbed.

"I am no enemy of the saints," he declared. "I will talk to my friend, the Cardinal, about this as soon as I get back from New Haven."

Sir William made it clear that he regretted the exception taken by the Cardinal to his remarks and that he intends to see the Cardinal about it. He mentioned the Cardinal's name in a way that indicated that his feelings toward the prelate are kindly, and that he is eager to have an opportunity to settle the difference by a heart to heart talk.

Kansas Church Burns

Sacred Heart church, Ottawa, Kansas, was practically destroyed by fire last week. The building and equipment cost, five years ago, \$16,000. There is an insurance of \$8,000. The church will at once be rebuilt.

News From Ireland

Accident.
Alex. McNeil, 13, son of a widow resident at Park, was riding a horse down a disused road near Cusheadun when the animal stumbled, and fell on top of him killing him instantly.

Carlow.
Miss Kathleen Gladys Grogan, daughter of the master of the Carlow hunt, is engaged to be married to Robert Le Poer McClintock, of Rathvinden, Carlow.

County.
The priests and people of Kanturk parish have contributed \$43 to the 1913 Home Rule fund.

Derry.
On March 6, at his residence, Labby, Draperstown, the death took place of Michael Bradley in the house in which he lived since he first saw the light 93 years ago.

Down.
Died—Recently, John Molloy, Glenties.—March 25, Frank O'Donnell, Cassidy, Donegal. There being no criminal cases for trial at Donegal Assizes on March 25, Judge Cook was made the recipient of white gloves.

Down.
A verdict of death from natural causes was returned at an inquest on Mrs. Agnes Graham, 60, of Clintagh, near Drogheda, who suddenly collapsed on March 24 and died in her husband's arms before medical attendance arrived.

Dublin.
Mrs. Lizzie Wheeler, of 22 Warren street, Dublin, died in the Meath hospital, on March 23, as a result of injuries received the previous evening through falling down the stairs at that address.

Fermanagh.
Justice Holmes, addressing the Grand Jury at the opening of Fermanagh Assizes, said it was just 47 years since he first came as a probationer on the north-west circuit, and during the intervening period he had always found orderly life of its inhabitants.

Galway.
A fierce cyclone swept the docks at Galway on the evening of March 21 and buried Thomas Connolly of Raven Terrace, the father of the late town steward, beneath the debris of a fallen shed, causing a severe fracture of the wrist and a wound in the head.

Kerry.
During a severe thunderstorm on March 22, five cattle belonging to Denis Moynihan, Tylough, were struck by lightning and killed.

Kildare.
Accidental death was the verdict of a coroner's jury at Kildare regarding the death of Eugene Hennessy, aged 10, who died from burns received while alone in his mother's house at Claregate street.

Kings.
On March 24, F. R. Maloney auctioneer, Nenagh, put up for auction Timothy Kenna's licensed premises in Main street, Birr. At \$235 it was knocked down to John Kinahan, of Clareen. The premises are situated in the center of the town.

Mayo.
The death has taken place at his home at Ranaranny, near Charles town, of an old age pensioner named Dominick Collieran, at the age of 104.

Sligo.
John Levins, a popular young man in the employ of the M. G. W. R., at Sligo died recently at the Sligo hospital.

Tipperary.
The Confraternity Hall in Thurles was destroyed by fire on the night of March 25.

Tyrone.
Peter McAleer, a well known and popular resident of Tamlough, died on March 22.

Wexford.
Died—March 27, Mrs. Matthew Moloney, Springmount.

Catholic News Notes

A handsome, large 14x20 feet combination church and school at St. Benedict, is to be erected at Evansville, Ind.

By the will of the late Michael Reilly of Uxbridge, Mass., disposing of an estate valued at \$20,000 St. Mary's Church and St. Mary's Cemetery Association largely benefit.

The chaplain of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Dayton, Father Corbett, threw off his cassock and went out to three-drawling men who were thrown out of their pants. He righted the upturned boat and saved the men.

A beautiful Theodora statue of Christ has been presented to Mgr. Russell of St. Patrick's Church, Washington, by Mrs. Maurice Francis Ryan, who has returned to Denmark.

The Junior Promoters of St. Paul, Minn., favor the erection of a new stone to Father Gannon, who built the original log church of St. Paul, from which that city derives its name.

The new St. Agnes' Home for working girls will be temporarily established at No. 20 Vernon St., Worcester, Mass.

The place where Father St. Ignace landed, at Chicago in 1833, has just been sold for \$200,000.

On April 14 1897, twenty-one years ago St. Rev. Matthew Kelly, D. D., was consecrated second Bishop of the Diocese of Providence. At the same time before which he was consecrated the Bishop celebrated his own solemn mass of Thanksgiving.

Very Rev. Edward O'Connell, D. D., has been named president of Spring Hill College, which is to succeed Very Rev. Patrick J. Meyer, S. J., father O'Connell, who was formerly vice president of the college.

Cardinal Gibbons has promised to attend the Convention of the Federation of Catholic Societies in Milwaukee in August. He will participate at the Catholic Sunday, August 10.

All the dioceses of Germany will be represented in a great pilgrimage to Rome this year.

In Buenos Ayres, Argentina, a new Catholic College and Church costing two million dollars is to be built.

The Third Order Secular of St. Francis is increasing in Spain. In Madrid the Order numbers about 4,000 tertiaries.

The miraculous well of St. Winifride, in North Wales, England, is in danger of extinction by a public drainage system.

In Austria, reports are current of atrocious cruelties to Catholics in Montenegro; Catholics are threatened with death unless they abjure their faith.

In Spain Catholic womanhood is a staunch one. The women there know how to defend the rights of the Church.

Throughout the crisis of the Holy Father's illness, the vast piazzas of St. Peter's was thronged with prayerful people, as also the churches.

The Duke of Norfolk has contributed \$10,000 towards the fund for the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Bishop Amigo of Southwark, London.

Abstinence and fasting cure many complaints.

A little hole will mak a big ship.

A good name is better than riches.