The Catholic Journal.

—THE LEADING DIOCESAN NEWSPAPER—

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The Greatest Thing

"Some men are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." Ralph read the words and smiled. Yes, that was the condition of the world at large and the little world of the village of Morceau had no reason for thinking itself exempt from general rules. Ralph had never been outside his native village any further than down to the river, about ten miles away. He had gone to the Sisters' School, had completed the grammar grade and had stared to work. For a long while he had earned his pittance at odd jobs in the office of a factory, and had finally won the lucrative position of bookeeper in that establishment.

He had always shown more intelligence than the average boy in the village, so much so that the Sisters urged his parents to send him to a Jesuit Boarding College to finish his education. But money was needed at home, and Ralph's greater good was sacrificed to the absolute demands of his younger brothers and sisters.

His twenty-first summer was now at its height. The office was closed for the afternoon, and here he was pondering over a little book of maxims and wise sayings. He had long been thinking—thinking seriously. He felt within him the craving and yearning of a nobler heart to do and dare—to go out beyond the confines of his native village into the great world that was always beckoning him onward and upward, and to do the greatest thing man's power could attempt. He felt within him the longing to be the center of a circle that would revolve about him; to stand aloft, the cynosure of all eyes; to sit upon the throne of greatness to be adored by all whose intellects were keen enough to recognize and whose wills were strong enough to reverence his undoubted superiority.

Strange to say, mingled with all this desire for eminence was a distracting, and disheartening thought. Ralph was a good Catholic. And Sunday after Sunday as he knelt at the altar rail to receive Holy Communion he had an unwelcome idea that God wanted him for the priesthood. Unwelcome, 'I say, because Ralph had all but given his heart to a pure young girl he had known almost all his life. That was why Ralph was so moody today. This old saying about greatness had always perplexed him. He knew it was the greatest thing to give his heart entirely to God. And Ralph was honest enough to wish to do the greatest thing.

The wind sighed softly through the leaves. The birds flitted by him in chattering gladness. The sun wheeled through an hour's space of heaven, and Ralph sat there, the book still open and unread, his mind far down the labyrinthine ways of thought from which he could not escape. With a look of stern determination he finally arose and went back quietly toward the house. His eyes were fixed and staring; his lips tightly drawn. There was resolve written in every line of his refined countenance.

He glanced at his watch—five o'clock. There was still time before the evening meal. His walk lay down the village street some few blocks below his own modest home. These blocks he covered without looking to right or left. He opened a low wicket gate and slackened his pace as he entered a well-kept yard and saluted a black-eyed, black-haired girl in terms of easy though respectful familiarity.

"Busy, Mary?"

"No Ralph. I was just reading that story about Eric you said you liked. Do you know, Ralph, I think what Eric needed was a real friend whose advice he could follow."

"No doubt."

"But I see, Ralph, you're worried. What's the matter?"

"Mary, I've got something to say to you, and I don't know how to begin."

"Better begin right in the middle," she answered with a laugh.

"Well, I will. Now, don't stop me till I'm through, for I'm like a steam engine, all ready for a hard job. I've been preparing a long while for it, and if you stop me I may explode."

"You'd better begin. You're exhausting all your steam on the preparation," she answered playfully.

"Mary, as far back as I can remember I have lived in this little town, working and slaving to earn an honest penny for my younger brothers and sisters. They are old enough now to look around for themselves, and I intend to follow the longing of my inmost soul. I have never told you, Mary, that I loved you. I did not know it myself at first. We have been playmates together, we have sat in the same schoolroom together, and we have grown from childhood into the sunshine of existence, hardly knowing that we were growing more and more into each other's lives. If that were all, Mary, it would be easy enough. I would take you out beyond this village and set you on a throne of the world to be the queen of womanhood. But at present—at present, I don't know what to do."

He paused. She looked at his quivering lips, his tear-dimmed eyes. His left hand clasped the back of the rustic bench, his right was hanging idly by his side. She did not dare to interrupt; she saw at once that his mood was a passionate one. And, besides, she was afraid of her own tongue betraying a secret she had never dared to breathe to a single soul.

"I don't know what to do," he continued. "There is a God calling me, calling me, calling me, and my heart says: 'Nay, I do not want to come.' I know it's all strange to you, Mary, and I suppose you would think me blasphemous if I said I am now at the parting of the ways, where stand two pedestals. On one is God, on the other you. Don't start so, Mary; I do not mean to be irreverent. And now the time has come for me to choose. True, if I take you, I shall not have to abandon God altogether. But I am not sure that I would be doing the greatest thing. When I kneel in the church and listen for the voice of God, I seem to hear within me the secret calling to abandon all, even you, Mary, and follow Him in the priesthood. Oh! if I could know, if I could have the courage!"

She waited for him to continue but he did not. She looked at him, as his eyes wandered away over the lawn toward the house. If there was ever a look of Heaven on a woman's face, it was on hers then. There was no hesitation, no doubt in her voice. Down down, deep down in her noble heart, so far down that it almost made her scream with anguish, she crushed her own bitter torture, and came, like an angel of light, to this wavering soul. Thank God for such women as these! They are man's guardian angels and his true protectors. Mary touched Ralph's tightly clenched hand and restored him to the reality around him.

"Ralph, you ought to be the most thankful person in the world."

He did not answer. He stood there as though hewn out of marble. Instinctively her nobler nature manifested itself and proclaimed its superiority in the child-like submission of the man before her.

To be continued

The death has been announced of Mgr. Montagnini, Apostolic Delegate to the Republic of Colombia, He died in Berlin from complications resulting from a serious operation.

The insignia of the Order of Leopold has been conferred upon Sister Gudule, a Sister of the Assumption, by the King of the Belgians. This nun performed valuable ambulance work during the recent Balkan war, and was obliged to witness the destruction of the mission property at Mostratli, where the convent of the Sisters and establishments of the Assumptionist Fathers were entirely ruined by fire and pillage. Sister Gudule is herself a Belgian.

News From Ireland

Carlow.

The Carlow Nationalists have subscribed £50 a first installment to the Home Rule fund.

Cavan.

Died.—Recently, Daniel Galligan, Kilderry.—Recently, Mrs. J. Graham, Holborn Hill, Belturbet.

Clare.

Ennistymon Guardians have granted a pension of £33 per year to Thos. Nestor, who recently resigned as porter of the Union.

Cork.

Daniel Coakley, N. T., of Rahalisk has resigned his position after a service of 46 years.

A shark, measuring 4 feet 10 inches was caught on the Turbot Bank, in the harbor of Queenstown on October 14 by the spiller lines of W. Robinson's boat.

Derry.

William Hill of Fernlester, a widely known and respected farmer and dairykeeper, was about his house and farmstead seemingly in perfect health went out to supervise the harvesting of his grain crop and a few minutes later one of his sons found his father dead in the field; near his house.

Down.

The death is announced at Bangor of the Rev. Edward Maguire D. D., formerly Protestant Dean of Down. Dr. Maguire was 91 years of age.

While James McBirney, aged six, only son of R. McBirney, farmer, Ballyhenry, Comber, was examining the inside of a field-roller, his head being between the spikes, the shafts came down and and broke his neck. Death was instantaneous.

Dublin.

The death has taken place at Ardnagriena, Tivoli road, Kingstown, of Mrs. Maria O'Brien, widow of the late J.F.X. O'Brien M. P., who took a prominent part in the "Young Ireland" movement, and was the last man in Ireland sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered.

Kerry.

Died.—Recently, Mrs. M. McDonnell, Convent street, Listowel.—Recently. Mrs. Robert Casey, Castlegregory.

Bridget Sweeney, aged eighteen months, daughter of a herdsman living at Coolnaleen, was accidently burned to death recently.

Limerick.

Messrs. Spiller and Bakers, Cardiff, have purchased Walker's Distillery premises, Limerick, and intend establishing a branch of their milling industry there.

At the Mercy convent, Listowel, on September 30, Miss Norah Condon [in religion Sister Mary Francis], daughter of James Condon, Crocay House, Knockaderry, was professed a nun of the Mercy Order.

At Limerick Quarter Sessions on October 4, Patrick Kennedy, of Cran, was awarded £90 compensation for the destruction of a new hay shed and a dairy and coach house on his farm in June last.

Tipperary.

Cashel Rural Council has appointed Mrs. Ellen Bourke of Foulkstown, to the position of rent collector and inspector of dairies, in room of her husband, who died recently.

A man named Shanahan dropped dead in a field near Newbirmingham, on October 2. A painful circumstance in connection with his death is that he is a brother of the young woman, Mrs. Egan, of Newbirmingham, who was found drowned in Derryvila Bog only a few days before.

Waterford.

By 34 votes to 3 the Waterford Board of Guardians has increased the salary of J. McGrath, one of the R. O.'s from £40 to £65 a year.

Died.—Recently, Mrs. Wm. Aherne, Lismore.—Oct. 6, John Healy, relieving officer, Mullinavat.—Recently, Mrs. Margaret Sweeney, Crowhill.

Catholic News Notes

Bishop Alerding of Ft. Wayne is now in the 69th year of his age the 46th of his ordination, and the 14th of his consecration.

The golden jubilee of ordination of Bishop Foley, of Detroit, was celebrated on Tuesday. He is the first student ordained at the American College in Rome.

The Governor of California has proclaimed "Serra Day" in honor of Fr. Junipero Serra, a legal holiday.

The Bishop of Fort Wayne dedicated the hospital chapel of the Carmelite Sisters at Indiana Harbor on the 19th ult.

Very Rev. A. J. Klein, V. G., of the diocese of Lincoln has been made a Domestic Prelate.

On the grounds of the Passionist Monastery of Blessed Gabriel, at Brighton, Boston, a beautiful statue of the Bl. Gabriel has been erected and blessed by the rector, Very Rev. Fr. Cornelius Thompson, C. P.

On Tuesday the cornerstone of the new chapel of St. Charles College, Catonsville, Md., was laid by Cardinal Gibbons. The chapel will be 125x58 feet, with a 175 foot tower and marble altars.

The 500th anniversary of St. Rita, who is termed the "saint of the impossible," is being celebrated this year in many places in the world—one celebration was in Chicago.

Alexander Smith Cochran, of Yonkers, N. Y., has given the Sisters of St. Joseph's Hospital in that city $25,000.

The Catholic Ladies' Aid Society in San Francisco is doing much good. In one year they visited over 7,000 sick and needy.

At Montclaire, N. J., a feature of the Jesuit mission in the church there, was the assembling of one thousand children, including infants in arms, as a demonstration of protest against race suicide.

The Abbey of St. Vincent, Pa., is erecting an addition 170x56 feet, four floors.

The St. John's Church, school and rectory, Covington, Ky., will cost abut $70,000.

The altar rail of SS. Peter and James Church, Baltimore, has richly carved panels and 36 columns of Sienna marble.

The parochial schools in the United States are increasing in number at the rate of about 140 a year; the number of priests is increasing about 400.

A chalice, bearing the date 1660, and believed to have been Father Marquette's, was found in a church at Hilles, Wis.

The St. Vincent Home for boys in Brooklyn is a large, square five-story edifice.

At Ann Arbor, Mich., a hospital is in course of erection for the Sisters of Mercy.

Count Macchi-Celere, the new Italian Ambassador to the United States is said to be a nephew of Cardinal Macchi.

In the Catholic schools of St. Paul and Minneapolis are 14,375 pupils, an increase over last year's enrollment of 1,630.

To Play Pedro

The E. O. W. Pedro Club will meet with Mr. and Mrs. Weidemiller of Melville St., next Wednesday evening.

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Corpus Christi Church

The twenty-fifth anniversary of Corpus Christi Church was observed Sunday at the last mass at 10.30 o'clock. Bishop Thomas F. Hickey acting as celebrant. Assisting Bishop Hickey at the pontifical high mass was the rector, Very Rev. Dennis J. Curran, V. G., as assistant priest; Rev. M. J. Hargather, of St. Michael's church and Rev. J. Emil Gefell, D.D., Ph. D., of SS. Peter and Paul's church, deacons of honor; Rev. Francis J. Zwierlein, D. D., of St. Bernard's Seminary, deacon of the mass; Rev. Joseph S. Cameron, assistant at St. Mary's church, subdeacon; Rev. Andrew B. Meehan, D. D., J. U. D., of St. Bernard's Seminary, master of ceremonies, and Rev. John B. Sullivan, assistant at Corpus Christi church, assistant master of ceremonies. Dr. M. J. Nolan, of St. Andrew's Seminary, was in the sanctuary.

In 1887 Corpus Christi church was organized by Rev. James J. Leary, to whom the task of establishing the new parish had been assigned by Rt. Rev. Bernard J. McQuaid, the first bishop of Rochester. The following year a site in Main street east opposite Birch Crescent, was purchased and there the first church, a red brick building, was erected. The lower part of the edifice was used for school purposes. The cornerstone of this building was laid July 8, 1888, and on November 4th of the same year the building was dedicated by Bishop McQuaid. The parochial school was not opened until September 1889.

Father Leary served as rector until 1900, when he was assigned to St. Mary's church, South St. To succeed him the Bishop appointed Rev. Dennis J. Curran, who is now vicar-general of the Diocese of Rochester.

Soon after Father Curran took charge of the church it was decided that a new building was needed and in May 1902, ground was broken for the present edifice at Main street east and Prince St. On September 21st of the same year the corner stone was laid and on June 14, 1903, the church was dedicated.

A new school building in front of the old church, between the New York State Armory and St. Agnes's Institute was completed last summer at a cost of $45,000. Alterations to the old parochial school and church, which is now used as a meeting place by various societies connected with the church, cost approximately $7,000.

Big Acts of Indoor Circus of Labor Temple at Exposition Park

Beginning next Monday, under the auspices of the Rochester Labor Temple Association, Frank P. Spellman's indoor circus will open one week's engagement giving performances every afternoon and evening at Exposition Park.

Among the attractions are the ten Siegrist and Silbon aerialists and the Lunette Sisters, the aerial whirling butterflies. Possibly the most notable attraction in the ring will be the wonderful bareback riding of Miss Daisy Houdgini, scheduled as the foremost equestrian of two hemispheres, who will give an exhibition of all kinds of fancy riding. Barlow's comedy bucking mules, always delightful to the youngsters; a score of clowns, who have amused large audiences during the past summer; Madame Spellman's group of trained bears; Hall's performing elephants, and Rocard's performers will add to the variety of the entertainment. The great Schiavini troupe of six beautiful women, pre-eminently the most graceful and daring of acrobats, will perform feats of skill and strength never before accomplished by women.

The circus will, of course, be accompanied by all the accessories, which make this form of amusement popular to both young and old.

Successful Lecture Tour Against Socialism

Mr. Peter W. Collins, the well known labor leader, who has in the past undertaken several successful lecture tours against Socialism under the auspices of the Central Bureau of the Central Verein, has again met with great success on his latest tour. In October Mr. Collins lectured under auspices of the Citizen's Non-Partisan Committee at St. Mary's, Ohio, and, after the lecture, accepted the challenge to a debate with a social attorney of [illegible] O., in which he opposed his antagonist so effectively that a Socialist drum corps, held in readiness to celebrate the expected victory of the party [illegible] disbanded in dismal silence after the debate. On both occasions the hall was filled to its utmost capacity.

In a letter to the Central Bureau the secretary of the Citizen's Non-Partisan Committee says of the lecture and debate: "we are pleased beyond expression with the lecture and debate," and on Nov. 5, a telegram from the secretary announced that the "Citizens ticket" had been elected, defeating the Socialists, which was in great part due to the forceful lecture of Mr. Collins.

A lecture delivered under the auspices of the "Citizen's Campaign Committee" in Hamilton, O., met with a similar success. Mr. Collins has been equally successful in Minnesota, where he is speaking under the auspices of the State Council of the Knights of Columbus before the [illegible] councils in the state. This tour has also been arranged by the Central Bureau.

Order of Alhambra

The fall ceremonial of [illegible] Caravan took place Monday evening in Concordia Hall. [illegible] candidates were initiated into the mysteries of the order. Grand Commander [illegible] Sweeney and the full [illegible] staff. Many nobles from [illegible] Auburn and other [illegible] were present. A banquet served in the Hall [illegible] banquet hall to which [illegible] dred men sat down. When [illegible] were lighted Commander Sweeney called the assemblage to order and after a short [illegible] introduced Henry J. [illegible] toastmaster, who filled the role very successfully. [illegible] called upon Peter A. Vay, [illegible] P. Smith, W. C. Rosenbach, [illegible] J. Henry Carey, Andrew [illegible] E. J. Ryan, Oswald Hughes [illegible] Manley of Geneva and others who all paid tribute to the [illegible] work of the Alhambra. The banquet was closed by the entire assemblage singing "America" led by Angelo J. Newman.

Miss Gertrude O'Reilly Gives An Interesting Lecture

Miss Gertrude O'Reilly of Dublin, Ireland, who is again in this country on an annual lecture tour addressed the faculty and students of the Academy of the Sacred Heart Tuesday afternoon. The subject of Miss O'Reilly's lecture was "Irish Wit and Humor," and the talk included both mirthful and serious tales of Irish peasantry.

Miss O'Reilly's lectures are very popular in this and many other American cities, where her visits are looked forward to as yearly literary entertainments of unique interest and value. She is a graduate of the Sacred Heart Academy of Roehampton, England, and many of the institutions of the same order in the United States and Canada are included in her tours.

A royal princess, niece of the Emperor Kia-Tsing, is reported to have joined the Catholic church. This conversion shows the new trend of opinion in China, as Emperor Kia-Tsing was declared foe to Christianity during his rule in the latter part of the last century.

Send in your printing.