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Eternal Light

Continued from last week

Their simple faith shames our all too frequent skepticism. There was, of course, no trouble in enlisting David. He was eager at the very scent of the spiritual chase. The famous little drawer had to be stocked with extra Novena leaflets, and before night had set in, old Tommy, David's secretary and companion, as faithful as he was maimed and halt himself, had sent them speeding to everyone whom David's active mind could designate.

But Father Charles valued David's prayers too much to run even the chance of his relaxing in fervor.

"You haven't forgotten the Novena, David?" he asked, when happening by the next day.

"No, Father," but then David stopped, as if embarrassed.

"You haven't any difficulty in making it?"

"Not exactly, your reverence, but there is something which I should like to ask you before I continue the Novena. It was a thought that came to me of a sudden last night, as I was lying there awake praying to St. Francis Xavier. It is a thought that gives me the greatest happiness you could think of; yet I don't like to trust to it until I have asked your reverence's advice."

"Go ahead, what was your thought?"

"I thought that it might please God if I were to ask St. Francis in this Novena to take away my own eyesight and give it to the young Father who has been struck blind. You see, your reverence," he went on to-day with more than his usual animation, "what is my eyesight compared to his? I am only a poor laborer, good for nothing in the world; and his eyesight will help him to save thousands and thousands of souls. If I am blind, nobody suffers but myself; but if he is blind thousands suffer besides."

For a few moments Father Charles was too much moved to reply. His heart spoke only compassion for poor David's miseries, and yet something whispered to him that here was the triumphant humility of the saints, which glories in infirmity. Still hesitating to answer, he asked further:

"Can you think of any other reason, David, why you should wish God to transfer your eyesight to Father H? Beside the good to souls, do you look for any spiritual benefit to yourself?"

"I surely look for it, Father," David replied. "You see my eyes. They are the only comfort I have left. They are strong and fine as ever. I can read all day without fatigue, and I can watch a fly crawling up the wall over on the other side of the ward. I should have been crazy long ago if it hadn't been for my eyesight."

"Well, then, why do you want to lose it?"

"To be more like our Blessed Lord on the cross. You see, Father," he continued with the air of a boy explaining some cherished plan, "there is nothing whatsoever for me to look for except a big share in Christ's cross. He had no comfort at all. He had nothing but suffering. Now, if God takes my eyesight from me, I shall lose all comfort, as our Blessed Lord did; and, Father, that thought makes me happier than anything else in the world. But, of course, Father, I shouldn't care to make that offering without your permission. Will you grant it to me?"

"Granted!" said the chaplain, feeling himself about as humbled as a man can be. "If God does not accept your offering, you have all the merit, and no harm is done. If He does accept it, that will be a sign of His good pleasure."

All that day David was jubilant. He lived and planned only for that Novena, trying by every device of pious ingenuity to wrest this unique favor from God. The rest of the week Father Charles was called away to a neighboring institution; but when he could

pay a flying visit to David's ward, he was greeted by words of jubilant satisfaction.

"Eight years ago," said David, "I should have gone mad at the thought of such sufferings as mine have been. Without the grace of God I should have lost my senses long ago. And yet, Father, now I would never pray to get well. Sure," he added with an air of unearthly conviction, "I am ready to lie here for thirty years more, and suffer all that I have had and more, too, if it would be pleasing to our Blessed Lord."

The Novena was concluded and David received Communion that morning. God had apparently not granted David's prayer. His eyes were as bright as ever, and gazed in peace upon his Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, whom he was trying so closely to follow. "But there is still time," he repeated. "I'll keep on knocking, and God may give my eyes away yet."

His prayer, however, was being heard in a different way. Father Charles did not hear, in his absence, that David had suddenly sickened and weakened near to death, and had been anointed on Wednesday by another visiting chaplain. Sunday night Father Charles happened by and heard the news.

"But don't worry," David said. "I can't tell you what peace I have. I am perfectly happy. Never in my life have I had such peace. Oh, God be praised!" And he repeated: "I am perfectly happy. I wish only for the cross of our Lord."

"Thank God for the graces He has given you, David," said Father Charles. "I'll be back tomorrow early."

And early the next morning Father Charles kept his promise. He hurried to the familiar corner, but was bewildered when he saw there was no sign of David.

Where has he been moved to? Father Charles asked in an astonishment.

The old men around the ward were still, as if they, too, were bewildered. Then the nurse explained.

"Mr. Dwyer is gone," she said. "He died at 2 in the morning; a most peaceful and effortless death."

David's prayer was answered in God's own way. His eyes were at last closed to the light of the earth; but they were already opened—so was Father Charles' conviction as he knelt that morning in prayer for David's soul—to the unutterable glory of the Eternal Light.—John LaFarge, S. J., in The Messenger of the Sacred Heart.

Funeral of Mrs. Anna Winters of Auburn, N. Y.

Auburn, Feb. 23.—The large auditorium of St. Mary's church was filled Monday morning at the funeral of Mrs. Anna Winters, widow of Thomas Winters. The services were conducted by Rev. James Winters, of Horseheads, son of the deceased, assisted by Rev. William Cowen, D.D., of St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester, and Rev. Alexander J. McCabe, of Charlotte.

Among the priests in attendance were: Rev. Francis Goggin, of St. Bernard's Seminary and Rev. John J. Bresnahan, pastor of St. Bridget's church, Rochester; Rev. Thomas Carroll, of Stanley; Rev. A. Dissett, of Mount Morris; Rev. M. Groden, of Corning; Rev. A. Temmerman, of Elmira; Rev. C. A. Silke, of Moravia; Rev. John B. Doran, of Scioto; Rev. Thos. O'Connor, of King Ferry; Rev. P. J. Smyth, of Cato; Rev. Hugh Crowley, of Groton; Rev. T. H. Boyle, of Wellsburg.

The Chapel of St. Joseph in the new Cathedral of St. Paul Minn., will be fitted out by the Sisters of St. Joseph and their pupils and friends. Archbishop Ireland has blessed their undertaking.

In the diocese of Denver, which includes all Colorado, there are 109,182 Catholics, of which number 33,464 are in Denver. The diocese has 173 priests.

News From Ireland

Antrim.
The Belfast corporation has given its final approval to a motion for the promotion of a bill in Parliament authorizing the raising of \$15,000 of additional capital in connection with Bellvue.

For the fifth year in succession Councillor R. J. McMordie, M.P., has been unanimously selected to fill the office of Lord Mayor of Belfast.

Cavan.
Joseph M. Green, of Tullyvin House Cootehill, has been sworn in as high sheriff for the County Cavan.

Myles Prior, jr., of Coragh, has been elected relieving officer of the Ballinamore district by Bawnboy Guardians at a salary of \$16 per year.

Clare.
On the morning of January 17, a widow named Clery, who held a small farm at Killimer, some three miles from Killrush, was discovered by her relatives to be dead in bed. Her husband died some years ago under similar circumstances.

Co. Wick.
The Kinsale Rural Council has decided to refuse to enter into any negotiations with the military authorities with reference to supplying Fort Camden with water from Crosshaven water-works.

Derry.
The Local Government Board have sanctioned a loan of \$2,500 for the erection of a new courthouse at Limavady.

At St. Patrick's church, Dungiven, on January 15, the Rev. E. Loughrey, united in marriage Thomas, the eldest son of the late Hugh Mullin, Templemoyle, Limavady, to Annie, fourth daughter of Hugh McHenry, Gortgarr, Dungiven.

Donegal.
The death took place recently at Drumfin, Inver, of Miss Nancy McDiye, in her 110th year.

George Lawrence Young, of Culdaff, has been sworn as high sheriff of the County of Donegal.

Dowa.
The police of Crawfordsburn village are investigating the mystery of the disappearance of a man named Andrew Lockhart, aged about 50 years.

Charles Stewart, butcher, of Thornville, Rutland avenue, died on January 19, as the result of a fall in the city abattoir.

Fermanagh.
For the first time in the history of the "ancient and loyal" borough of Enniskillen, the Nationalists have obtained control of the Urban authorities of Galway.

Galway Urban council has re-elected Martin McDonagh as chairman.

Kerry.
The death of Sister Theotique Foran took place in West Africa, recently. She was the youngest daughter of John P. Foran, Tiershannon, Ballyheigue, and sister to Rev. Brothers Kilian, Charles and Conrad Foran.

Kildare.
The death took place on January 16 of James Tierney, Stanhope street, Athy, at the age of 72 years.

Kilkenny.
John Byrne, Kennyswell, has been appointed sanitary sub-officer by Kilkenny Urban Council.

Leitrim.
At the opening of the Carrickon-Shannon Quarter session, on January 20, by Judge Drummond he was presented with white gloves, there being no criminal cases for trial.

Limerick.
Alderman P. O'Donovan has been re-elected Mayor of Limerick and his salary increased from \$250 to \$400 per year.

Waterford.
The Waterford corporation has re-elected, for the fourth time, Alderman Richard Power, as Mayor of Waterford. Mayor Power is now in the 89th year of his age.

Ireland Prosperous; Jails Empty.

On Friday evening last the Gaelic Literary and Musical Association had the weekly meeting at Conservatory of Music. The usual good time was enjoyed, and supremacy was given to the Irish dances. Miss Corinne Farrell, a child of eleven years, was the attraction of the evening. She gave at intervals, four recitations and received unlimited applause. Miss Corinne promised to study up some typical Irish pieces for future occasions, and there is no doubt that her presence will be looked for by those who heard her at the last meeting.

The aims and objects of this association are the cultivation and diffusion of the Irish language, the fostering of the study of the literature, history, art, music, and dances of Ireland; the history of the Irish race in America, and the promotion of the spirit of self reliance and pride of nationality among our race in this city, and an eagerness to lend a willing hand to our Irish brethren in the struggle of life.

The members, both Irish and Irish-American have every reason to be proud of their nationality for according to Harris Weinstock, a member of the American Committee of Investigation which recently spent several months investigating the rural conditions of Europe says: Ireland today is undergoing the most remarkable revolution of progress that any modern country has ever known. Since the passage of the Irish Land Bill over 300,000 land tenants have been converted into landed proprietors, all within a period of ten years.

Ireland, once one of the most poverty stricken places on the map of the world, now promises to become, per capita, one of the richest, and not only this, but it is destined to set the world a pace in the matter of crimelessness and is likely in time, to rank the lowest in its percentages of crime, intemperance and pauperism.

"Quoting the Irish Independent under date of July 17th, 1913 Ireland is at this moment in a state of profound peace. In chorus the judges proclaim there is little or nothing to do. Every day since the opening of the assizes we read in the judges' charges to the juries:—The condition of the country is peaceable and your duties on this occasion will be extremely light. In several counties the judges of the assizes were presented with white gloves (which means that the calendar is blank). Mr. Justice Ross attributed the falling off in crime to two causes; one was the extraordinary advance in temperance and the other, the success of the Irish Land Bill.

Keeping with the Judges' story we find several of the Jails empty and some have been converted into schools and hospitals."

A lengthy article, "A Lesson from Ireland," by Harris Weinstock showing the results of the American Investigation Commission appears in the November issue of Heart's Magazine, and might be of interest to some of our friends on this side of the water.

The Church of San Miguel, at Santa Fe, N. M., was erected 53 years after the discovery of America.

Centerville, Ia., is to have a new \$25,000 St. Mary's church.

The English-Gothic church of the Visitation, at Kewanee, Ill., will cost about \$100,000.

The Catholics of Sioux City diocese contributed \$17,000 for an addition to the St. Anthony Orphanage.

Miss Katherine Kaiser, of Kenosha, Wis., left her \$25,000 estate to charity.

The Bishop of Wheeling has appointed Rev. O. H. Moyer, of the Cathedral, his Vicar General. Father Moyer is a convert.

Catholic News Notes

The Brothers of Mary will have charge of the new St. Charles College at Maritaburg, Natal, South Africa.

In the diocese of Jaffna, a Cingalese girl has all the marks of true stigmata, and is held in veneration. The ecclesiastical authorities have not yet rendered a decision.

Among the conflicting reports from China is that under the presidency of Yuan, idol worship is being restored and even cannibalism is reported.

A new exhaustive life of St. Vincent de Paul has been written by E. K. Sanders, in England.

Archbishop Mirow, of Constantinople, is confronted with the care of about 10,000 Catholic fugitives of the late war.

The public school at Conjos, Colo., is taught by the Sisters of Loretto, Ky. Sister Euclia is in charge.

It is reported that the distinguished English author and lecturer, Mr. Benson, will preach the Lenten sermons at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, in New York.

St. Francis Hospital, La Crosse, Wis., had 2,014 patients last year and only 89 deaths.

The new St. Elizabeth Hospital at Brighton, near Boston, will be opened this spring. It will be in charge of the Franciscan Sisters. It will have a frontage of 225 feet.

The Grand Hospital in Milan, in 1456, had more than 2,000 patients.

In France there are 11,317,434 families, of which number 1,806,744 are childless.

Knight of Columbus.

The First Degree will be exemplified Monday night, March 2nd, at 8:30 o'clock. A large class is ready for this degree and members proposing candidates are expected to be present to meet and assist their friends.

A special meeting was held on Thursday night, Feb. 26th, to vote on a few candidates.

A permanent General Secretary was appointed at the February meeting. The Council knowing the need of such an officer and recognizing the long faithful service of Financial Secretary Kavanaugh elected him to the office. He is to have charge of the books and club rooms, acting under the direction of the Grand Knight and Trustees. He will have regular office hours during the day and will extend to members any courtesies that may be in his power.

The Fourth Degree will be given positively on March 15th.

Order of Alhambra

Regular meeting Tuesday evening, March 3rd, at Foresters' Hall, 397 East Main St. This is our first meeting since the ceremonial. Come and meet our new brothers.

A smoker will be held directly after the meeting with some novel features. Lunch and refreshments.

A Brooklyn man paid his daughter's way through a course in domestic science. On completing the course the girl eloped with another man. The suited one has this consolation: "The fellow will have to eat the domestic science biscuits."

The first aeroplane motor used by the late Wilbur Wright will be preserved in a French museum. It ought to be in the United States, but its presence in France will be a reminder of America's inventional progress in a field in which the French have made great strides.

Rules For Lent

Bishop Riekey has issued the following letter for the observance of Lent:

The Holy Season of Lent begins on the 25th of February. All 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 without restriction on Sundays and once a day on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, except on the Saturday of Lent week. But the use of both game and fish at the same meal is not allowed even on the Sundays of Lent.

The practice of taking a small piece of bread with a cup of coffee, chocolate, or the like, in the morning is permitted by the law. Likewise when the principal meal cannot be taken at midday, 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 law 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 meat, except only at one meal on days on which its use is granted by dispensation.

By virtue of a special Indult given March 15, 1906, by the Holy See to the Bishops of the United States for ten years, renewed February 5th, 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 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 counselled 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, February 10, 1914.

The elections in Spain will be held during the first ten days of March.

There are many English noblewomen in the Catholic convents of England. Several peers have sisters and daughters in them.

Archbishop Keane of Dubuque, Iowa, is laying plans for a Catholic summer school for the religious orders, that is, for Sisters. It may be opened this summer.