

# The Catholic Journal.

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## The Blue Eyes of Nora

Do you know Cononagh Village far away in the heart of romantic West Cork?

The village in itself is pretty much after the style and pattern of many another Irish village; just a handful of two-storied dwellings, including, needless to say, a few public houses—a creamery, a mill, and two or three small shops.

But if the village of Cononagh cannot boast of any particular beauty on its own account its natural surroundings are beyond any manner of doubt whatever remarkably beautiful, varied and romantic, even in that magical corner of rugged Carbery in which almost every spot contains a charm all its own.

Cononagh village, indeed is placed in a setting of rare loveliness, for on one side you have a murmuring wood clustering along the hills and vales to the westward, and on the other a bewildering combination of heather-clad hills, wild, rugged mountain glens, and the silver thread of the Roury River winding along between its fern and flower-gemmed banks, through the shadowy woodland and the pleasant green pastureland of the valley.

On a certain evening in September Nora Carmody was standing in her little shop at the Rosscarbery end of the village—her mother, younger sister and brothers being engaged at their tea, in the light of the turf fire in the kitchen beyond the shop counter—when a "tea-man" (to use the phrase of that locality) drove down the road and drew up before the Widow Carmody's house.

The "tea-man" alighted, came over to the door smilingly lifted his cap; and as he did so, Nora saw before her in the purple-gray shadows of the falling twilight, as handsome and winning-looking a young man as she had ever before, in all her five-and-twenty years, beheld.

"I wish to stay here for the night and to put up my pony and trap and luggage, if it's quite convenient," said the young man, with a sudden wistfulness in his clear, dark-gray eyes. "I am very tired and also very hungry. I've driven a long distance, and the pony is done up. But for all these reasons I wouldn't trouble you—but what can I do?"

Nora Carmody's blue eyes gazed for a moment or two in unconscious admiration into the stranger's face; and he, on his part, gazed with very conscious admiration into hers.

As he told her, at a later period, it was her eyes which at first attracted him so irresistibly—eyes so "darkly, deeply, beautifully blue," that few men indeed could withstand their half-shy, half-coquettish appeal.

Apart from her jewel-like eyes Nora Carmody was a sweet-looking girl, with a refinement, delicacy and sensitiveness in her face that at once revealed her true character, as faithfully as the rose's perfume reveals the rose itself.

The young "tea-man" was tall, broad-shouldered, splendidly built. He had a strong, square-jawed face; but his dark eyes were as tender as a woman's, and his low voice had a ring like music in its tones.

And scarce thinking of what she was saying—speaking, indeed, straight from the impulse of her heart just then—Nora said quickly, in reply to his words:

"Oh, I'm sure we can make room for you. I'm sure it will be all right. Wait a moment. I will ask mother—and one of my brothers will help you about with the pony and trap."

Such were the seemingly simple circumstances of Nora Carmody's first meeting with James Magrath; but nothing could persuade the girl afterwards that this something was not prearranged by destiny—nothing could convince her that if she had been in Canada that afternoon, instead of in Cononagh, she and James Magrath would not have crossed

each other's path.

James Magrath stayed for the night at Mrs. Carmody's, and before he went to bed he had wonderfully ingratiated himself with the family household circle and had charmed them all with his ringing tenor voice.

"You sing beautifully," Nora told him; and she asked impudently as was her usual way—"I hope you will come around here again."

James Magrath did come again in the following month, and this time he and Nora had a long confidential talk together.

During the long talk—carried on over the turf and bogwood fire, long after Mrs. Carmody and the others had gone to bed—James Magrath gave blue-eyed Nora a full account of himself and of his strange family history.

He was, it appeared, a native of North Tipperary. Half a year before he had had a quarrel with his father—a wealthy farmer residing near Borisoleigh—and on the following day he had left his home and inheritance behind him and started forth to earn his own living as best he could.

Through the influence of a cousin of his, in his business in the city of Cork, he had, some weeks afterwards, obtained this job at which he was engaged at present.

"Why did you quarrel with your father?" asked Nora.

"Well, I hardly like to touch on the matter, as it is a very painful subject," was his reply. "However," he went on quickly, as a sudden flush of color swept over his face, "I feel that I could tell you my heart's secrets. In spite of me, you seem to draw everything from me. I quarreled with my father, Nora, because I took on my own shoulders the theft of a sum of money—which was in reality removed from our house by an unfortunate cousin of mine—whose wife and child were literally starving, and whom my father had refused to help!"

"With my own eyes I saw this cousin remove the notes from my father's big mahogany desk which he first smashed open with a poker. Afterwards when my father missed the money and circumstances seemed to point to me as being the thief, I screened my cousin, as I've already told you and taking the blame on myself was driven from my home as an outcast!"

"But that was a terrible thing for you to do, James—oh, why did you do it?" Nora cried in her excitement, addressing him by his Christian name for the first time.

"I did it because I pitied poor Joe—my cousin, I mean—and pitied his wretched wife and child. I said to myself, that as I had no wife and child, it did not matter so much what became of me. But now I've altered my opinion," he went on and his earnest dark eyes were fastened almost passionately on Nora's excited face.

"Now at last I feel and know how wrong I was, to have done this thing—to have wilfully cast aside my birthright and stained my name with a disgraceful slur!"

"But surely it is not too late—", Nora began, excitedly, but the words faltered timidly on her lips.

"I must think it over!" he said, his voice hoarse with emotion. "It seems a cruel thing to betray Joe and ruin his wife and child; but there are other things just as cruel—I never looked on it this way before. Now everything is altered—everything! I must strike-out some plan to clear myself at last!"

Not for two months later did James Magrath again drive up to the Widow Carmody's door, to the moment Nora looked into his face she saw he had come to some definite decision as to the arrangements of his immediate future and feverishly she waited when she should find herself alone with James.

At last they again sat by the turf fire together, Nora by the exercise of all her natural tact and intelligence having managed to pack off the others to bed.

To be continued

## A Brief Sketch of the Condition of Ireland in the 18th Century

Written by M. K. Fenelon

Continued from last week

The year 1776 is a memorable one in the History of the United States, it should also be a memorable one in the History of Ireland for it witnessed the first step toward the abolition of the penal code. A law was passed permitting Catholics to hold landed securities. A large portion of the Irish landlords were extravagant men in constant need of money and a great part of Irish land could only be kept in condition by frequent expenditures in drainage. Under these circumstances the evil of the law which prevents Catholics from lending money on landed securities was keenly felt and many Catholics who had made money in industrial life invested it in foreign securities; a bill to allow Catholics to invest money in mortgages was introduced in 1761 but was rejected by the English Priory Council, it was passed in 1776; also a bill enabling Catholics to hold leases for 61 years on farms of not over 50 acres, provided it did not lie within 1 mile of a city or market town, and various other concessions were made (all of a minor nature which cannot come within the scope of this brief paper) until finally in 1793 the Catholics were admitted to the County franchise on a £10 qualification.

Having dwelt briefly on the Religious Social and Commercial aspect of Ireland in the 18th century we will now take a rapid glance at a more interesting phase, that is, the Political aspect.

The Declaration of Rights in 1782 placed Ireland ostensibly at least in the rank of self-governing kingdoms, but it left the Catholic with no more political rights than the serfs of Russia. The very law which enabled them to acquire land, made them more sensible to their disqualification, which in their case alone deprived land of the franchise which the Constitution had annexed to it. Again, of the 900 members of Parliament only 82 were returned for county seats the remainder being returned for close Borough seats which were the property of individuals and it was no unusual thing for one individual to control 3 or 4 Borough seats. Indeed at one period the Beresford family controlled no less than 10 Borough seats in the Irish House of Commons, this with the shameless abuse of patronage among the County members, reduced parliamentary representation to a mere farce and it was admitted that little more than one fifth of the total representation was under popular control. The French Revolution and the revolt of the American colonies had set men a thinking and a strong agitation for a Reform in Parliament began to stir the country. In July 1791 the anniversary of the French Revolution was celebrated at Belfast with great enthusiasm. Democratic toasts were drunk and speeches were made eulogising Paine, Washington and the French Revolution and demanding an equal representation and an abolition of the remaining Popery laws. This was the first sign of that union between the Presbyterians and Catholics which led to the formation of the "United Irish Society. Paine's 'Rights of Man' was about the same time widely distributed in the North and it made many converts. In September the same year a most remarkable pamphlet was published over the signature "A Northern Whig" urging Reform of parliament and as a means of attaining it, a close alliance between Catholic, Protestant and Presbyterian irrespective of race or descent. It was the first time in the checked history of our country that a call was made to form a really national movement and that the Irish people were invited to join hands irrespective of race or creed for the common welfare

of their country. It was written by a young Protestant lawyer who was destined to play a prominent part in the events of the following decade and his name which will be reversed while the spirit of Irish nationality lives—was Theobald Wolfe Tone.

It would be out of place for me, before representatives of the Irish race to offer any apology for giving a brief sketch of this pamphlet.

It was especially remarkable for the clearness with which it sounded a note of unqualified hatred for Parliament and contempt for the Revolution of 1782. He described that revolution as the most bungling imperfect piece of business that ever threw ridicule on a lofty epithet by assuming it unworthy. It doubled the value of the property of every Borough owner in Ireland. It left three fourths of the people of Ireland without even the semblance of political rights and the remaining fourths completely helpless in the hands of an alien government. All that had been effected was to increase the corrupt price by which the government of Ireland was carried on. "Before 1782 England bound us by her edict. It was an odious exercise of power but it cost us nothing. Since 1782 we are bound by English influence acting through our own parliament and paid for out of our own pockets. In Ireland alone among European nations the Government is not only un-national, but anti-national, conducted by men whose first duty is to represent another nation, and by every means in their power to repress every Irish interest which could in the most distant way interfere with the commerce or policy or patronage of England. This is esteemed the measure of their skill and their success, and it is always their chief recommendation to the favor of the Crown. How successfully they accomplished their task is shown by the fact that the Irish parliament by its own law excluded itself from the Commerce of half the world in the interest of a monopolizing English Company and has just voted an expenditure of £200,000 for military defence of that commerce from which Ireland was forever excluded. . . . As long as the Irish sects are at enmity with each other, it will be always easy for the Administration, by playing on the fears of the Protestants and the hopes of the Catholics, to defy them both. But if the whole body of the people demand a Reform of Parliament which will include concession of the elective franchise to Catholics it will at least obtain an honest and independent representation."

"If 'he says' there be any serious ground for dreading a majority of Catholics, they may be removed by a very obvious mode. Extend the elective franchise to such only as have a freehold of ten pounds by the year and on the other hand strike off the disgraces to our Country and Constitution, that wretched trite of forty shilling free holders whom we see driven to their ochel market by their landlords, as much their property as the sheep or bullocks which they brand with their name."

It is said that 10,000 copies of the pamphlet were sold and its teaching was rapidly diffused. The following October Tone founded at Belfast the first Society of United Irishmen it consisted of 36 original members and its avowed aim was the equal representation of all the people of Ireland.

The object of the leading members at first was simple Reform, and judging from the writings of Thomas Addis Emmet—McNevin and Arthur O'Connor it would appear that the question of separation was not agitated among them and it was with reluctance they were convinced that Parliamentary Reform could not be attained without a revolution and it was this conviction that led them to Republicanism on the other hand it is equally certain that others were from the beginning more than mere speculative Republicans and clearly foresaw that revolution was the natural issue of their movement, and among these may be reckon-

ed both Wolfe Tone and Napper Tandy.

To be continued

## News From Ireland

Owing to a storm which prevailed early on Tuesday morning, February 24, a great portion of the white cliffs in the vicinity of Garryon Tower, which overhangs the road, became detached. The road was completely blocked.

The Lisburn mineral water factory in Millbrook, near Lisburn, was destroyed by fire on the night of February 27.

Married on February 12, at Myshal, by Rev. M. Kelly, cousin of the bride, Michael O'Rourke, youngest son of the late Michael O'Rourke, Knockbrack, Myshal, and Kathleen Kavanaugh, Ballinacree, Myshal, daughter of the late John Kavanaugh.

Rev. Father Gerrard, P. P. Mountnugent, is under medical treatment as the result of a fall from a car near Navan.

Very Rev. T. O'Reilly, P. P., Mullaboran and Loughduff, has been raised to the dignity of a Canon of Ardagh diocese.

Henry O'Reilly, engineering staff, Congested Districts board, and a native of County Cavan, was unanimously elected county surveyor by Cavan County Council on February 25.

Miss Nano Mulcahy, daughter of Patrick Mulcahy, postmaster, Ennis, made her religious profession, in the Ursuline convent, Waterford, recently receiving the name of Sister Otteran.

A store belonging to William Canny, in Newmarket street, Coleraine, was badly damaged by fire recently.

Married on February 22, at the Long Tower church, Derry, by the Rev. C. H. Kerlin, C. C., Edward, eldest son of Charles Boyle, Castlefin, to Eileen Maria, eldest daughter of Alfred Vaughan, 43 Fountain street, Derry.

Jane Barbara Thomas, late of 15 Edward street, Bath, and of 13 Royal Mount street, Dublin, who died on the 10th of November last, left personal estate (in the United Kingdom) valued at £5,811.

Murrough O'Brien, who for thirteen years was a member of the Irish Land Commission, died on February 22, in a private hospital in Dublin, aged 71 years.

Kerry.

As a result of the recent heavy rains a large area in the Douglas district adjoining Dingle Bay has been flooded and considerable loss has been sustained by the farmers in the district.

Rev. William O'Connor, P. P. Aunascaul, died on February 20, after a brief illness. He was a son of the late John O'Connor, of Newtownsandes.

Kildare.

Kildare County Council on Feb. 24, elected two rats collectors for the Celbridge and Maynooth districts, the successful candidates being Francis J. Field and L. P. Dempsey.

Kings.

Joseph J. Bruntz, 5 Leinster St., Dublin, has been appointed engineer to the Edenderry, No. 1, District Council.

Leitrim.

On the morning of February 23, at St. Patrick's church, Mohill, Miss Maggie Healy, daughter of the late Peter Healy, Drumboy, was united in the holy bonds of matrimony to Frank Beirne, Lougherril.

Monach.

The death has occurred at Carlanstown, Kells, of William Bennett, farmer, at the age of 105.

Tipperary.

Dr. Thomas D. Buckley, Lisowell, has been appointed medical officer of the Ballylongford district, at an initial salary of £130 per year.

## Catholic News Notes

St. Elizabeth's Hospital at North Yakima, Wash., has been formally opened and dedicated by Rt. Rev. Edward J. O'Dea, D. D., Bishop of Seattle.

The Cathedral parish of the diocese of Fort Wayne, Ind., is projecting a \$50,000 school building for boys.

The St. Raphael Veritas American has received an appeal for aid to build its new Leo House in New York for immigrants. Rev. James Velt, 6 State Street, is the rector.

An industrial school for orphaned Catholic children is being completed at Lafayette, Ind., and will soon be dedicated by Most Rev. James H. Duggan, D. D.

The House of the Angel Guardian at Rosbury, Mass., which had been used for many years as a school and cared for the boys of the town.

A Hungarian parish recently has been established in Philadelphia, where it is estimated that over 15,000 Catholics of Hungarian lineage live. The rector is Rev. L. Horvath.

Because of urgent need of priests, the rector of St. Joseph's, Philadelphia, is offering a higher course of studies at the Catholic University. Those who have been recalled to, and assigned to duty, in the Archdiocese of New York.

The German priests of the Archdiocese of St. Paul, Minn., held a meeting to discuss the fine German National Chapel at St. Boniface in the eastern part of the Cathedral of that city. The German Catholics of St. Paul have assumed the task of furnishing and completing St. Patrick's Chapel in the Cathedral.

Father Palubicki, in charge of the Indians of the Saint's Reservation, is endeavoring to build a church for the Indians.

The residence of the Bishop of Syracuse, N. Y., was recently damaged by fire to the extent of \$2,500.

The "Monitor," of San Francisco, states that the great orator "Moses," by the abbot, master of St. Peter's, at Rome, Mgr. Dom. Perosi, will be positively produced in San Francisco this year and for the first time outside the Vatican.

Many of the letters of the saintly Bishop Bruce, of Vincennes, Indiana, will be given the University of Notre Dame.

The Archbishop of Philadelphia has appointed Rev. J. W. Keogh chaplain to the Catholic students of the University of Pennsylvania.

Rev. J. J. McLoughlin Day, senior curate of St. Andrew's, Taunton, England, has been received into the Catholic Church. He will join the Cowley Fathers at Oxford.

The Masonic majority in the French Chamber keeps steadily in view the destruction of the Catholic primary schools in France. In that country it is now an educational persecution.

In 1846 the Chinese Emperor ordered all the pagan temples that had formerly been Catholic churches to be restored to the Catholics.

The Decree of Beatification of Ven. Michel le Moelleux, a Breton servant of God, has been promulgated.