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The Mistress of Wirribirri

Continued from last week

"What is she like, avick?" And the woman gently rocked herself to and fro. "Ah, what can I say she is like?"

"Like Johanna, is she?"

"Yes, Shane, surely; but, oh, much more beautiful. She is like a May morning, and like a sweet wild flower. She is a queen. Her portrait hangs in many a gallery in the Old World. Her hair is like a shower of burnished copper, and her eyes are like the sun-lit sea. Her face is like the Madonna's, and her soul is like snow, avick; and her heart is gold—pure gold. I've seen her in satin and diamonds, the talk of the Old World cities. I've seen her carry a poor bruised dog home in her arms and tend it herself. I've seen her ride over fences and hedges, where every other one feared to follow. I've seen her peerless among beauty and rank, and I've seen her kneeling in poor cottages weeping with those who wept. She has all the world can give, avick, but I think there are times when her heart craves for something else. Her nature is different, Shane. There are times when I think she needs her father."

Shane sobbed softly. "Ah, my little girl; I did it for the best. They have given you what I never could, and you know, and if I suffer, what matter?"

Out of the gloom rose the figure from the couch, the glory of hair falling about her shoulders; and coming straight to Shane, she knelt at his feet and put her arms about him and drew his white head down on her shoulder.

"Oh, my father, my father!" she cried. "My poor, brave father. Your daughter has found you, and never again will you leave her. Oh, my own, my own! Kiss your little girl. We shall have Christmas together, daddy. Where you go I go, too. Wherever your home is, it is mine, too. Oh, they were good and kind and loving, but they're not my own. I think my heart told me so at times, and he should not have tempted you then. Oh, I'm glad, I'm glad, my own father!"

"What will the master say, alannah? Think before you act. They'll turn me off in my old age. Alannah, where did you come from? I thought you were in your bed."

"You dear old goose, they won't turn you off. They wouldn't lose their oldest and most valued servant for the world; and if they do, why you can come to us. I went out early to bathe, and then came back here to wait until you would come along and get me a cup of tea. I had fallen asleep, and then your voices woke me, and then—I found my father. Get him some tea, like a dear soul, and then we'll go home. Where is my home, father?" And she looked at him eagerly.

"Ah, sweetheart, it's a wee cottage on a station many good miles from anywhere, where we have a jolly black boy to mind us and the best young master in the world."

She smiled and ran off, and then went slowly up the luxurious stairway to her own dainty room. She locked the door and in a storm of silent weeping threw herself on her knees before an "Ecco Homo."

"Oh, my suffering, God," she prayed, "give me strength. He is my father, and because he needs me my place is with him, be he rich or poor. Give me strength to do right." She dressed herself plainly, took a few necessities and then hastily wrote:

My Dears: May heaven bless you for all your loving goodness and kindness to me, and, dears, forgive me for leaving you without a goodbye, but I dare not trust myself. The gulf between us is a great one now, for I have found my own father—your old servant, Shane O'Shane—and my place is with him, for he needs me. With my heart's love,
Joan.

Billy's eyes goggled when they fell on the radiant vision that sat beside Shane when he drove up to the cottage in the gloaming, and as he took the horse away he walked backwards, gazing. The doctor's wife and her sister had been to him ideal, but this girl—he was amazed.

Shane gently drew his daughter into his little sitting-room. "Welcome home, my own brave child," he said brokenly. "It's not much I have to give you but the pent up love of my lonely, longing heart."

"Which is all in the world I ask, my father."

The low, thrilling voice brought the man who sat dreaming in Shane's easy chair to his feet with a bound that apprised him of the fact that he still had a very weak knee. He sank down quietly with a smothered groan.

"Shane, old man," he said, "I'm sorry I startled you, but I've been awfully anxious about you, so I came down to wait and see if you'd turn up. I gave my knee a little twist; it does take a while to strengthen."

"Master Kevin! Why God bless you, boy. Sit there and Billy will bring the light."

Billy brought the lamp along revealed to Kevin O'Neill's waiting eyes his "one woman"—his dream girl.

He stayed at the cottage for tea and heard the whole of the story, and when Shane said: "Praise God for working it out in His own wonderful way," he answered a fervent "Amen."

There was some little trouble about the organist for a while.

"No," said Father Lyons; "no one else shall play it. It's either you, Kevin, or the mistress of Wirribirri. And so there was no music in the little church."

"How could I," Kevin told himself, "go fumbling with my clumsy fingers while her magical ones are there?" But one joyous day he ran into the presbytery.

"Father," he exclaimed, "you are going to have your organist and Wirribirri his mistress?"

Father Lyons extended both hands and beamed. "I'm glad, my boy, glad. Who is it?"

Kevin's eyes dropped. "Why, Joan O'Shane," he said softly.

"Good!" cried the genial priest. "Good! The grandest soul and the noblest heart I know. God bless the mistress of Wirribirri!"—Ellen M. O'Sullivan, in The Southern Cross.

K. C.'s in Canada

Coming from all parts of the prairie provinces as well as the leading cities of the border states with particularly strong delegations from Lethbridge and Calgary, visiting Knights descended upon Medicine Hat, Canada, recently and to the number of at least three hundred and fifty, including some of the most distinguished officers of the order in the Canadian and American west. The occasion was the installation of the new Medicine Hat council of what is the strongest Catholic order in the world today, and the assemblage was characterized by Knights of long standing as the largest and most successful ever held in the Canadian west.

Knights of Columbus

Rochester Council has established the praiseworthy custom of attending the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Memorial Day (May 30th) for the repose of the souls of deceased Brothers. The mass will be said this year at Corpus Christi church, Saturday, May 30th, at 8.30 o'clock.

Weekly Church Calendar

Pentecost

Gospel, St. John xiv., 23-31

S 31 St. Angela, V.

M June 1 St. Pamphilus, M.

T 2 SS. Peter and Marcellinus

W 3 St. Clotilda, Q.

Th 4 St. Francis Caracciolo, C.

F 5 St. Boniface, B. M.

S 6 St. Norbert, B. C.

The Gaelic Revival

By M. K. Fenelea

The news of the recognition of Ireland as a separate national entity, has come to the vast majority of foreigners as a strange surprise. That an island called Ireland existed somewhere either in or near Europe, most readers of newspapers were fairly positive about, but what was exactly meant by Ireland, whether it was a nation, a state, a province or a colony; an appendix or a body politic of its own, few knew or cared to know. In fact, the knowledge about Ireland outside her own children, might be reduced to three headings, Irish witticism, Irish blackthorns and Irish whiskey, as to the rest of Irish life, past, present or future, it formed no subject of curiosity.

"The name 'Ireland' does not appear to convey a distinct idea to a foreigner, whereas, it seems part of that goblin malice lurking in names, that the word 'England' which does convey to most people a clear cut idea, has in reality no title of existence except as a geographical expression."

There is a Kingdom of Ireland, and a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland but there is no Kingdom of England; the Kingdom of England, was governed by the Scottish Kings from 1603 until 1707 when the parliament of England and Scotland were united under the official title of Great Britain and under the rule of Queen Anne of the Scottish House of Stuart; since then the Kingdom of England has ceased to exist while the Kingdom of Ireland, still officially exists as a separate Kingdom governed by a Viceroy, and with the Gaelic revival stimulated with its own patriotism reviving its own language, dance, music and literature and preparing to live its own life according to its own philosophy.

I utterly fail to see where some Americans received the impression that the Gaelic language was a sort of underlying dialect of English; as a matter of fact, there is far less difference between the English and Italian languages, than between English and Irish. English has sprung from Teutonic and Latin roots, which are hidden from view; whereas Irish is a purely Celtic tongue the roots of which are always visible; it is agglutinative, the language of tribes anxiously clinging to their root words for fear of losing the means of understanding each other. It is clear, dreamy, torrential and delicate, fit for the mouths of loving women and the tongues of brave men.

In America little is heard of the literature of European smaller nationalities and the general reader still less cares to hear about it. He indulges in the idea that small nations can have but small literature. This singularly absurd mistake is derived from a total misunderstanding of the causes giving rise to a great literature. Literature is the artistic shape of a language as a statue is the artistic elaboration of marble. Nations with borrowed languages such as the Belgian, Swiss and Latin Americans, will never create literature, they may write clever books but they will never write classics; their wealth in money, machines and manufacturing may be very good but it will never help literature into existence.

In all due deference to the merits of English literature it has already reached its summit; in poetry and prose the Latin and Teutonic languages have reached their climax. The Irish have the fairest prospects before them; the language has musical, logical and philosophical views of the richest dye and if new great work in literature are possible, they will be only so with a nation whose language has still large quarries of unbroken marble.

To be continued

In Paris, today, there are no fewer than 71 parochial unions, safeguarding Catholic youth.

Unveiling Monument

Among the great gatherings that have been held in Buffalo will be numbered that which is to take place Sunday, May 31st, when the Knights of St. John will unveil a monument which they have erected in Pine Hill cemetery. An open air mass will be celebrated, the ceremonies attendant to be arranged with all the pomp and ritual impressiveness that surrounded the divine sacrifice when offered under military auspices. Bishop Colton and a large number of priests will be present, and the sermon of the day will be preached by the Rt. Rev. Thomas F. Hickey, Bishop of Rochester.



Rt. Rev. Thomas F. Hickey.

It is expected over 30,000 persons will attend the ceremony, with an additional number that will come from nearby towns. A choir of 200 male voices, composed of singers of the different city churches, will furnish the musical program, assisted by 200 boy choristers who will sing hymns written especially for the occasion.

More than 2000 Knights of St. John will constitute the guard of honor. They will be in full dress uniform.

The monument is built of granite and stands 33 feet high, measuring 22 feet across at the base. The bronze statue of a Knight of St. John in uniform measures 8 feet in height and 11 feet to the top of the flag. Upon the wings of the monument will be inscribed the names of 184 members of Buffalo commanderies who have died during the 40 years of the organization's existence, and ample space will be provided for the inscription of the names of members who die in the next 60 years.

Memorial to Father Damien

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the death of Father Damien, the Apostle of the Lepers, occurred lately, and it was celebrated at Tremeloo, a little village of Brabant, near Louvain, where he was born. It was also celebrated in Louvain itself, where a magnificent statue by a Belgian sculptor has been erected to the memory of the heroic priest.

This statue represents Father Damien standing embracing with one arm and partly shielding with his cloak one of the poor victims of the terrible disease. Many floral tributes adorned the plinth of the statue on the occasion.

A document on Italian emigration is now in course of preparation by the Sacred Consistorial Congregation.

In a convent at Madras, India, the Rev. Mother has eight of her own sisters as nuns under her charge.

Carmody to be Heard at Convention

Attorney General Thomas F. Carmody of New York state will be one of the prominent speakers heard during the convention of the Federation of Catholic Societies of the State of New York, which is to meet in this city from May 30th to June 2d. On Sunday evening, May 31st, Mr. Carmody will speak at Convention Hall on "The Church and Socialism."

First President Charles M. Bayer, Hon. William Muench, Rev. Mathias Hargather and Bishop Thomas F. Hickey will be other speakers at the meeting in Convention Hall on Sunday night.

Assemblyman Cyrus W. Phillips of Rochester is to discuss the New York state workmen's compensation law in an address on Monday evening at a mass meeting of workmen in St. Joseph's Hall. On Monday evening also there will be a mass meeting for working girls in the Shubert Theater at which Mrs. Martin Moore Avery will discuss "Socialism, Weighed and Found Wanting."

On Tuesday morning a memorial mass is to be celebrated at St. Michael's Church, in Clinton Ave. north, Tuesday afternoon will be devoted to a trolley ride to Kodak park and other places of interest, and there will be a banquet on Tuesday evening in the hall of Holy Redeemer church, of which Rev. Jacob Staub is pastor. The committee in charge of the convention expects a large attendance from New York, Brooklyn, Albany, Syracuse, Buffalo and other cities.

Catholic News Notes

The summer, four laymen's retreats will be given at Techny, Ill., by the Fathers of the Divine Word.

The Bishop of Cleveland has made the Eastern Standard Time the official time in his diocese.

A military field mass will be celebrated at League Island Navy Yard, Philadelphia, for departed soldiers, sailors and marines, Sunday, May 31st.

Rt. Rev. Mgr. Buh, V. G., of Ely, Minn., sang the solemn mass at the Slavonic Croatian Union. He is 81 years old.

The Sisters of St. Mary, recently received from an unknown friend in Waco, Texas, ten thousand dollars for their house of studies at the Catholic University.

A layman's retreat will be held in St. Paul, Minn., June 25-29 under Rev. Lewis O'Hern, the Paulist. It will be for men.

The Catholic parish population of Evansville, Ind., 8 parishes, is 10,249.

At Chehalis, Wash., reports says the Benedictine Sisters will erect a \$250,000 academy; the site will cost \$40,000.

In New York there is a Chinese Holy Name Society.

Thomas Fitzgerald, of Elizabeth, N. J., has given \$45,000 for a new church at Hillside, N. J.

The Holy Name Academy, Buffalo, was damaged by fire to the extent of about \$13,000.

The Church of St. Claire, Minn., has been totally destroyed by fire.

At Whites Ferry, Pa., a Boys' Industrial Home, costing \$100,000, is to be erected.

News From Ireland

Deaths.—At the Convent of the Holy Faith, Glasnevin, Sister M. Fintan Tierney, in the 70th year of her age and the thirty-ninth of her religious vocation.

Accident.—A Portadown factory worker named Henry McCann was found dead on Friday in a lane way of Hanover street. He died from heart failure.

Claims.—At the Ennis Quarter Sessions Judge Bodkin, K. G., heard of a claim from the Misses Anna F. Butler and Henrietta J. Butler, Castlerine, for \$47 for the driving of 41 head of cattle and 47 sheep off the lands of Drumullan on March 19.

Catch.—The further grant of \$600 has been sanctioned to the London Town Commissioners for the erection of additional houses and the work is being proceeded with.

The best fishing that has been known in Kinsale for some years was that which took place during the past week, and has exceeded all expectations. The Avonbeg, Arklow, topped the list with a fine catch of 30,000.

Inquest.—At an inquest at Magherafelt on the body of Robert Watson, 68 years old, who died in the infirmary as a result of injuries received through falling down the stairs of his home, the jury found that death was due to a fractured rib having punctured the lung.

Appoint.—Dr. Jeremiah Boyce was the only applicant for the position of Medical Officer of the Ballinacorney Dispensary district, in room of Dr. Corcoran, who has resigned, at the meeting of the Ballinacorney Board of Guardians and he was appointed unanimously.

Deaths.—The death took place at Ballinacorney, Holywood, of Mrs. Danville, widow of the late R. A. Danville, D. L. Mrs. Danville was a daughter of the late Mr. Chalmers, of Moylena, County Antrim and was married in 1837. Her only child is John Danville, D. L., of Navan, County Monaghan.

Accident.—As a result of a motor cycle accident, Henry Peed, aged 28 years, of 1 Sandford avenue, Pembroke, died in the city of Dublin hospital.

Deaths.—The death has taken place of Thos. Fiddis, of Derrygonally, County Fermanagh, who, according to the parish register of Derrygonally, has reached the age of 107 years.

Kilkenny.—F. W. Doherty, B. A., on account of ill-health, resigned the secretaryship of the North Kilkenny Executive, U. I. L. G. Gilmore, M. P., S. I., has been appointed to the Commission of the Peace for Kilkenny city.

Mourning.—Deep sorrow is felt in Killarney for the death of the Loreto convent there of Mother Mary Dorothea Field, who had attained the 71st year of her age and the 55th of her religious life.

Limerick.—At Rathkeale Quarter Sessions there being no criminal cases for trial from the western division of the County of Limerick, Judge Law Smith was presented with white gloves.

Recently the profession took place at St. Patrick's Convent of Mercy, Gort, of Miss Mary Agnes (baby) McMahon, in religion Sister Mary Anthony, eldest daughter of Michael McMahon, Ballynannymore, County Limerick.

Meeting.—At a largely attended meeting of the inhabitants of Clough Head, County Louth, it was agreed to establish the holding of a monthly fair, and many promises of support were received.