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A Strayed Child of Mary

A True Story

By Mary Rowena Cotter

Alice Fenton was the daughter of good Catholic parents. Her education was received in the parochial school, and at an early age she took a position in a store, when, for the first time in her life she was thrown into constant companionship of those not of her own faith. The simple fervor of her childhood, however, appeared to be unshaken, her monthly Communion and Mass on Sundays and holidays never being neglected in spite of many pressing invitations she received from her friends to accompany them on Sunday excursions. She was very popular among her Protestant friends, but, though she understood it not at the time, she was far more loved and respected by the members of the Young Ladies' Sodality of the Children of Mary in which she held a high office.

She was looked upon as a model of Christian young womanhood by the latter who hoped one day to see her the mistress of a good Catholic home; while the former saw but little outside her personal charms. It was then no small or pleasant surprise when it was announced that Alice was engaged to Robert Lawrence, the only son of an old Protestant family. His friends were greatly adverse to so fine a young man bringing a Catholic into the family; while her whole family and the good old parish priest did all in their power to show her the folly of such a marriage.

Alice would have her own way, for, though her lover never entered her church, he never objected to her going. On the contrary, he seemed to be interested in her regular attendance at her Sodality meetings or other evening devotions, and would always be at the church door to accompany her home; but the subject of religion was never mentioned between them, for she did not believe in trying to force her religion on any one, and felt confident that his love for her would win him over.

There our young heroine was destined to disappointment, and the marriage took place in the rectory without the nuptial blessing which had once seemed so beautiful to the Child of Mary.

For the first few months everything went well. Each Sunday the happy young couple were seen at High Mass together; but, to please her husband, the monthly Communion had been given up, and Alice never told that it was because her husband did not wish her to go to confession, and had even threatened to discontinue attending Mass if she disobeyed him. Still she did not abandon hopes of his conversion, but prayed earnestly that he might be baptized with their first child.

Following the birth of their little daughter came Alice's second trial. To please his wife the young father made no comment when little Agnes was baptized, but when the mother asked him to care for baby while she attended early Mass he emphatically refused, saying that it was a mother's duty to remain at home and care for her child, and she had no right to go to church now. In vain did she plead, only to have the same plea of mother's love and mother's duty forced upon her, and for the first time she fully realized that her husband was her supreme master.

Sixteen years passed in what, to all outward appearance was a most happy married life. The husband prospered well in business in spite of his increasing cares, and had a pleasant home in which eight children were not considered too large a family. Not one, excepting the first, had been baptized; the mother had never entered the church since the day of her first child's baptism, and to those who had not known her in youth the fact that she had ever been a Catholic was not known.

The children attended the pub-

lic schools, but were never sent to any church until persuaded by some of their school-mates and teachers to attend the Methodist Sunday-school. In the multiplied duties of her household the mother was too indifferent to object, until the truth was brought to her mind from a wholly unexpected source.

Agnes, now grown to a beautiful girl of fifteen, went to the country to spend her vacation with cousins on her mother's side. It was her first visit, and there was no small or wholly agreeable surprise on either side to find the difference in the religion of the young people. Full of curiosity to learn something of a religion which was such a mystery to her, and of which she had heard nothing too good from her former companions, Agnes was glad to attend church with her cousins, and never tired of asking questions which were always answered in the kindest and most interesting spirit.

They did not tell her that she herself, had been baptized, but when she learned for the first time that her mother had once been a Catholic the knowledge sank deep into her heart. She never asked why, but she knew that her father must be the cause of it, and she remembered how sad her mother seemed at times, especially when the church bells were ringing, and how little interest she took in getting the children ready for Sunday-school. She thought, too, how mama never went to church herself. She intended to speak to her mother about it, but when she remembered what a stern man her father was, though kindness itself to his family, she thought best to keep silent.

Summer passed too quickly, and our young girl, ready for her first year in high school, returned to her city home, changed in heart far more than any one suspected. No one knew that she had gone alone and spent a whole hour before the altar of the little country church, and prayed that God might give her the light to know what was right. In that hour of grace she had given her young heart wholly to her Creator with little knowledge of what it meant.

The change was not unnoticed by her parents. The father thought it was wholly due to the difficult work in school and the companionship of older children; while the mother smilingly said Agnes was now a young woman, taller than herself, and she could not be expected to be always the laughing child she had been.

On Sundays Agnes was now often missed from Sunday-school or the meetings of the Christian Endeavor Society of which she was as active a member as her mother had once been of the Sodality of Mary; but nobody knew that many a time on her way home from school she would steal into the Catholic church which was always open, as she felt a church should be, and sit for a long time gazing at the marble altars and beautiful paintings, and statuary which formed such a striking contrast to the bare cold walls of her own church. She realized it not then, but with each visit she felt more and more the unseen Presence not found elsewhere.

To be continued

The Church at Nyassa, Africa, embraces 12 stations, 52 missionaries, 12 religious, 485 catechists, 786 schools attended by 18,503 boys and 5,426 girls, 6 hospitals, 5 orphanages.

In the Kingdom of Prussia there are 2,383,000 children in Catholic schools.

Father Montanar, of Montreal has prepared a Chinese catechism.

The Archbishop of Madras, India, has founded a religious community of native nuns, drawn entirely from the Pariahs. They practice great self-denial and are devoted to teaching.

The condition of the Catholic Bulgarians is said to be deplorable.

Catholic News Notes

Bishop Wehrle dedicated the new \$35,000 church at Beach, N. Dak.

It is reported that the Jesuits will open a college in Nashville, Tenn., this coming autumn.

The Sisters of St. Francis, from Syracuse, New York, are in charge of the leper colony at Molokai, Hawaii, and are doing wonderful work.

Mrs. Susan Devin, of New York, has given the Sisters of Mercy \$200,000 for a hotel for Catholic working girls in that city. This hotel-like home was opened a fortnight ago.

Mgr. Schinner, Bishop of Spokane, will build a Cathedral in the very near future, and for the present has made the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Pro-Cathedral.

At Mt. Ida, Va., Mgr. Bonzano, Ap. Delegate, blessed the cornerstone of a church which six young women, devoted to St. Rita are building.

At Mt. St. Mary, Cherokee, Ia., the Servants of Mary will open an academy in September.

Bayshore, on Long Island, is to build an \$85,000 church.

The Carmelite nuns' asylum for Homeless Children, in Milwaukee, will cost about \$300,000.

At our National Capital there are now three Catholic monuments—the statues of Columbus, Barry and Sheridan.

Mr. John D. Crimmins and family, of New York, will decorate the beautiful chapel of the Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Adoration of Hunts Point, N. Y.

The city of Lorain, Ohio, will give St. Joseph's Hospital \$3,000 a year for caring for the worthless poor.

In the United States there is one priest for about every 900 Catholics.

Prizes To Be Given For SUPERIOR SCHOOL WORK

The managers of the L. L. Williams Rochester Commercial School have decided to offer the following prizes as incentive to the best effort of which the pupils are capable during the school year which will open Tuesday, September 1st, and they would be glad if parents would co-operate with them by offering some sort of a reward for the winning of one or another of the prizes:

The school will give the pupil in the commercial department who will submit the best set of books at the completion of his course, penmanship, accuracy and neatness to be considered, the judges to be disinterested parties who are wholly unacquainted with the contestants, Ten Dollars in Gold, and for the second best set of books, under the same conditions, Five Dollars in Gold.

For the best work in typewriting, being governed by the Underwood Typewriter Company's rules, covering speed and accuracy in operating the machine and the fewest errors in papers returned for correction, upon graduating, the contestants to have had no previous typewriting practice, Ten Dollars in Gold, and for the second best work under the same conditions, Five Dollars in Gold.

The awards will be made in June, 1915. All contestants will be promptly advised of the results through the public press or by letter.

News From Ireland

Amoy.
Miss Rose A. McCabe has been appointed nurse in Larne hospital by the Larne Guardians. Miss McCabe was trained in the city Infirmary, Belfast, and is a native of Keadue, County Roscommon.

Carlow.
The appointment of James O'Gorman to the commission of the peace for County Carlow has given much satisfaction to his many friends.

Uster.
Rev. Brother Hilary Stuart, O. F. M., a native of East Clare and a cousin of the late Rev. Charles Stuart, P. P., died last week at the Franciscan Convent, Ennis. Michael Whelan, U. S. A., a popular Kilmash gentleman, has arrived at home to spend a short holiday after a long absence. Mr. Whelan has traveled extensively throughout Ireland.

Derry.
The death took place recently of Dr. M. O'R. Neville, J. P., of Warrensbrook, Enniskean, County Cork.

A resolution calling on the people to support the Oireachtas at Killarney was unanimously adopted by the Cork Corporation.

Robert H. Smith has been co-opted a member of the Derry Harbor Board in room of the late George Knott Gilliland, D. L.

Donegal.
As medical officer of the Ballyshannon Union, Dr. J. C. McMullan was elected by a majority of sixteen votes.

A laborer named Daniel Docherty was drowned July 11 while bathing near Castleknock, County Donegal.

Dublin.
The Dunleavy and Dalkey corps of the Irish National Volunteers, who are becoming very efficient, went through a series of extended movements at Killavogue on Sunday afternoon.

Fermanagh.
Justice Boyd, at Fermanagh Assizes, affirmed the dismissal of the county court judge in a claim for £1,000 for the alleged malicious burning of Kesh Co-operative society's store.

Kerry.
Died.—On July 7, at Cahirveen Francis (Frank) Sullivan, second son of T. A. Sullivan and grandson of Edward Fitzgerald, J. P., Cahirveen, aged 13 years.

Kings.
R. Dawson, of Rosslare harbor station, has been transferred on promotion to Tullamore.

Lancaster.
George Harty, who met with an accident at the Gort races by the falling of Toll Gate in the Newtown Plate, is in a very critical condition.

Longford.
The Longford Volunteers are making very satisfactory progress, and largely attended drill parades are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Mayo.
The death of Miss Mary Faby, Breahey, Castlebar, took place on Monday, July 13. The esteemed lady had reached her 78th year.

Queen's.
Rev. Mgr. Murphy, P. P., V. G., has been re-elected chairman of the joint committee of management of the Maryborough District Lunatic asylum; and W. Corbett, J. P., Co. C., has been elected vice chairman.

Roscommon.
The Castlereagh Feis was held in the Hanly Memorial hall on July 19th.

Sligo.
The County Sligo grand jury placed on record their regret at the death of Owen Phibbs, of Lisheen, for many years a member of that body.

Tipperary.
Cashel District Council has co-opted by 24 to 16 votes, James O'Donnell, Ballintree, to the Nodatown division, rendered vacant by the death of his father.

Industrial Slavery In The Black Hills

Facts Brought Out Before United States Commission On Industrial Relations.

Special to the Journal

The United States Commission on Industrial Relations on August 3 and 4 held public hearings in the municipal hall of the city of Lead, S. D., in the heart of the Black Hills, as to industrial conditions existing there. The Commission's inquiry had been brought about by the difficulty between Bishop Busch and the Homestake Mining Co., owners of the greatest gold mine in the world, over the question of Sunday observance. The Bishop, it will be recalled, after several futile attempts to persuade the company to encourage Sunday rest among its men, carried his grievance to the Milwaukee convention of the American Federation of Catholic Societies, where at the Social Service Conference he stated the conditions existing in Lead, showing that it was impossible for many Catholic workmen to attend mass on Sunday because of the work at the mine. The statements of the Bishop were misrepresented by several Socialistic papers throughout the country and by the local newspapers in Lead and feeling ran high against the Bishop in that city. Six months prior to the Milwaukee convention in March, 1913, he had, as a matter of protest, retired to Rapid City, some fifty miles from Lead, where he established his episcopal see.

The Central Bureau of the Central Verein, when informed that this matter was to be looked into by the Commission, sent a special representative to Lead to be present at the hearings and to report the facts in the case to the Catholic press.

The testimony before the Commission, supplemented by the investigations of this representative in Lead, disclosed a most peculiar situation in that place. The workers for the Homestake Mining Co. are well cared for in as far as material matters are concerned. The working conditions in the mine are very good, the wages are reasonable enough, ranging from \$3 to \$5 and \$7 a day, the eight hour day, obtained through the efforts of the Western Federation of Miners several years ago, is still in force. The company maintains a free hospital for its employees and those immediately dependent on them and has recently opened a large "welfare" or amusement building, for the whole city of Lead, in which can be found game-tables, a free library, the gift of Mrs. Hearst, a large stockholder, and other features of an entertaining nature.

The workmen of the Homestake Co., however, and the inhabitants of Lead, evidence the most servile fear of the company on all occasions. One of the members of the commission at the session on the last day, complained that it was impossible to persuade the business men to say on the stand things they willingly discussed in private.

"No Free Press or Free Speech in Lead"

To get the workers to talk is even more difficult, if that were possible. No satisfactory information at all can be obtained from them as to their relations with the company. The local newspaper, apparently subsidized by the company in that it has been running for three years a large "ad" against the Western Federation of Miners which has no meaning at the present time, likewise reflects only the company's views. As Commissioner O'Connell remarked: "There is no free press or free speech in Lead."

The company further compels its applicants for work to sign a card promising not to join a labor organization and maintains a force of detectives to discover any "agitators," unionists, or Socialists who may be in the workers' ranks. George North-

am, the chief of the police, the company's detectives, and the fact that many of the men are employed on a contract basis and dismissed each year.

The company's attorney, Charles Koller, in the course of his testimony, stated that the company, either in fee or through mineral rights, owns many business houses and residences built on land which at any time the company may decide to use for mining purposes, and these occupants must vacate ninety day's notice, in some cases without compensation or for improvements on the premises. The people of Lead, workers and business men, well-fed and comfortable, have not the mercy of the State's agent of the mine, who has been vested with absolute power by the company's directors.

To be continued

Thomas E. Garvey attended the National Convention of the C. O. C. on Aug. 8th, at St. Paul, Minn., as a national delegate having been elected at Schenectady.

Frank J. Shorlock, Secretary Agent of the Knights of Columbus, will visit Rochester, Conn., to examine the books, local laws and general condition of the Council.

New York State Council, East of Columbus has founded scholarships in St. John's College, Bardonia; Manhattan and Fordham Colleges, New York; St. Bernard's College, Albany; and Niagara College, Niagara Falls. A scholarship is valued at \$125 per year for a four-year course.

Examinations for these scholarships are to be held the week in September. The examinations are open to Knights of Columbus or the sons or grandsons of living or deceased Knights of Columbus. Applicants must fill out forms, which can be obtained from Grand Knight James T. Jones, 607 Chamber of Commerce Bldg., Rochester, N. Y., when duly filled out, forms are to be sent to the Chairman of the Committee on Scholarships for filing and approval.

The purpose of these scholarships is to give collegiate education to Catholic young men without such assistance would not obtain higher education. The applicants from this vicinity will compete for a scholarship in Niagara College. The Knights of Columbus have definitely committed themselves to the maintenance of Catholic education. The members in the United States contributed an endowment of \$500,000 to the Catholic University at Washington, besides founding a Chair of Catholic American History at a cost of \$66,000 in the same institution over ten years ago. Various local Councils have established parochial and high school scholarships, and now the State Council has taken a long step forward by establishing these collegiate scholarships.

Cardinal Della Voige, the new Camerlengo of the Holy Roman Church, is seventy years old. He has a bright mind and a prelate of uncommon culture and singular piety.

The cost of the public schools in France last year (Catholic schools not included) was \$74,000,000.

The Supreme Pontiff has constituted the Commission for the revision of the Vulgate a Pontifical Commission.

A weak mind is like a microscope, which magnifies trifling things but cannot receive great ones.

The Cause of Canonization of the Blessed Viannay "Cure of Ars" has been submitted to the Congregation of Rites and initiated.