

At the Eleventh Hour

Continued from last week.

"And he said to me: It is done. I am Alpha and Omega; the beginning and the end. To him that thirsteth I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely.

"He that shall overcome shall possess these things, and I will be his God; and he shall be my son."

"Mrs. Brownell, will you tell me the truth?" Mrs. Dunn raised her head a little from the pillow. "Am I going to die?"

"We all hope not."

"But what does the doctor think?"

"He thinks you will not get well," Mrs. Brownell's sense of truth telling would not sanction even a prevarication.

"Now, do let me do something!" Mrs. Brownell hurried on, anxious to cover the disquieting news she had told. "Let me send for Dr. Miller, our minister."

"What can he do?" The tone was still listless.

"He can pray for you and read the Bible."

"I can pray for myself and you can read the Bible to me. Is that all?"

"He is a college man. He can explain so much better than I."

"But I have been well educated, too. What authority has he to lead me heavenward?"

"He is a good man."

"But aren't you a good woman?"

Mrs. Brownell stood near the head of the bed, still holding the partly opened Bible. From out of the pages fluttered a card, yellowed by age. It bore the picture of a young man, edged with a mourning band, an "In Memoriam" card, Mrs. Dunn's eyes fastened on the card.

There was a moment's silence, one of those moments into which an infinity is pressed. Even Mrs. Brownell felt this was no time for comment.

"I've been a foolish old woman," Mrs. Dunn began. "I thought I could stand alone without the Church, without God. But I know better now. I am not afraid to die, alone. Only one cannot live or die to oneself. I realize at the eleventh hour what that means. The picture is of my only son. He died when he was nineteen. Both he and my husband died in the Church. They will be waiting for me. What is my silly pride compared to that?" Mrs. Dunn's words came brokenly.

"Now, now, don't talk. It'll be all right," soothed Mrs. Brownell.

"I must talk. I am saying the things my heart has been saying for years, though I was too proud to admit it."

"Can't I get something for you?"

"Yes, send for the priest."

Mrs. Brownell hesitated.

"Surely you can't refuse to do that."

"I'll go now."

The woman's strange earnestness, the solemnity of a soul laid bare, the all but visible presence of death and her own helplessness to aid, left Mrs. Brownell no alternative. She hurried from the room, forgetful that the nurse had not returned and that she had left the patient alone.

Father Gilmour lived in the modest priest's house next to the equally modest wooden church down past the business portion of the town. Mrs. Brownell pressed the door-bell with a sense of misgiving. She had been told that priests hated Protestants. What reception would she get at this mysterious place?

A man past middle life and dressed in clerical garb answered her ring.

"Is this Mr. Gilmour?" she asked.

"Yes. Has Mrs. Dunn sent for me?"

"How did you know?"

"That is one of the privileges of a pastor to anticipate such calls."

"And will you come?"

"Wait at the church steps and

I will be with you at once."

In a few minutes Father Gilmour emerged from the vestibule of the church. The walk to Mrs. Dunn's home was strangely quiet. The priest said little and common-places died on Mrs. Brownell's lips. At the door of Mrs. Dunn's dwelling, Mrs. Brownell made no effort to go in. She could see the white-uniformed nurse through the windows and she would have liked to follow the priest inside. But his grave demeanor forbade even the thought of intrusion.

Mrs. Brownell went back to her porch as Mrs. Dunn's door closed behind the priest. Of course it was her imagination, she said later in telling of the occurrence, but when she turned to look back at the Dunn cottage, the place seemed to stand out from the other houses of the street as though the brightest shaft of sunlight in all Brakely fell upon it.

Weeks passed. Again Mrs. Brownell and her daughter rocked on the porch and watched the village pass their doors. The flowers in the Dunn yard were tended once more and now bloomed in double luxuriance. The door opened and Mrs. Dunn went to the gate to bid good-bye to the village priest, who had been calling there.

"I never knew any one to get well quicker," Mrs. Dunn looks better than I've seen her in years," observed the daughter.

"It's a curious thing, as we were saying at the sewing-circle yesterday, no matter how many years Catholics have been away from their Church, they always come back when they are sick or in trouble," said Mrs. Brownell.

"Our pastor says he simply can't understand the hold priests have on them."—Horace Foster, in the Rosary Magazine.

assembled, emphatically call for an official statement from the German government of its intentions in regard to Ireland, and we further ask that no peace agreement be signed with until the freedom of Ireland is guaranteed. We ask for Ireland the same treatment which Germany has accorded to Poland, and respectfully request that the Central Powers issue an official statement to that effect.

Be It further Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Secretary of State for the United States with the request that he transmit them to the German Ambassador at Washington.

President Matthew Cummings presided at the meeting, and Secretary Jeremiah Carroll forwarded the resolutions as directed.

There were forty delegates, representing 10,000 members, present at the meeting.

At a conference of the representatives of the branches of the Friends of Irish Freedom of Springfield, Holyoke, Chicopee and Westfield, held at Hibernian Hall, Springfield, Massachusetts, on Thursday, December 14th, the resolutions of the Cumann na nGael, calling on Germany to declare her attitude in relation to Ireland, were unanimously adopted. It was also voted that a memorial petition for Irish Freedom be presented to the Government of the United States, and those of the Central and Neutral powers should be started and that a mass meeting to further the same object be held in the near future.

News From Ireland

Very Rev. Canon Coyne, P.P., Keady, has been elected a diocesan commissioner of education by the Armagh Catholic Board of Education.

Carlow.

Married—November 27, at the Cathedral, Carlow, with nuptial Mass, by the Rev. Hugh Cullen, P. P., Graigue, assisted by the Rev. A. Lynam, Adm., Carlow, John, second son of James and Mrs. Brennan, Woodbine Cottage, Graigue, Carlow, to Annie T., youngest daughter of Martin and Mrs. O'Rourke, 2 Montgomery street, Carlow.

Died—November 24, at the residence of his niece, 45 Richmond road, James Walsh, late of Ballymogue, Hallon, Carlow.

Care.

The remains of the late H. R. Glynn, D. L., Kilrush House, were interred in Shanakyle cemetery, the funeral being one of the largest and most representative ever seen in the town.

Cork.

John F. Barret, composer of "The Ancient Mariner," "The Building of the Ship" (which was the oratorio sung at the opening of the Cork International Exhibition of 1902) and other popular works, died in London, aged 79.

At a science examination in Rennes University, M. A. Murphy, professor in the College de Sorize, late of Cecilstown, Mallow, was among the successful candidates.

Down.

On his promotion as manager of the Ulster bank, Letterkenny, his friends at Newtownards presented James McAuley with an illuminated address and check.

Down.

Two of the victims of the Cranfield Point disaster were identified recently—Bridget Brady, Mountain Lodge, Ardmore, Cootehill, County Cavan, and Joseph Walsh, Tubbercorry, County Sligo. One of the other victims is still lying at Greenacastle.

Dublin.

Married—At St. Joseph's, Terenure, with nuptial Mass, by the Rev. P. J. Higgins, diocesan inspector, Ballinacorney, assisted by the Rev. J. Higgins, Greenock, brother of the bridegroom, the Very Rev. Canon Daly, D. D., P. P., Mullinabreena, Rev. P. Butler, Adm., Sligo, and Rev. J. Anderson Terenure, Martin Higgins, L. D. S. Sligo, youngest son of the late Patrick Higgins, Kilkenny, to Kathleen Josephine (Kitty), second eldest daughter of James McEvoy, Hawthorn Villa, Kimmage road, Terenure.

Kerry.

There was a large attendance at the funeral of L. Quinlan, Tralee, to Rath. The Very Rev. Dean O'Sullivan presided at the obsequies.

Kildare.

It is stated that an offer has come from America of capital to build a railway connecting the above collieries with the main line near Athy. The original estimate for construction was about £53,000.

Most Rev. Dr. Foley presided at the office and requiem mass for the late Rev. Mother Mary Bridgid, whose death took place at the Presentation Convent, Carlow, in the forty-sixth year of her religious life. Deceased belonged to an old Kildare family.

Kilkenny.

Michael Corrigan, a Kilkenny man, has been unanimously elected Mayor of the city of Oudtshoorn, South Africa.

Long.

The death has occurred at a private hospital in Dublin of John B. Andrews, J. P., Rathkenny, Kings county.

Limerick.

D. O'Callaghan, solicitor, has been elected clerk of Limerick P. S. court by 9 votes to 7 for T. Duggan, B. C., at salary of £275.

Monaghan.

The only daughter of William Martin, solicitor, Monaghan, has died in Birmingham, where she was at school.

Foreign Mission News

Special correspondence by The Propagation of the Faith Society, 343 Lexington Ave., New York City.

From Edmonton comes news of the death of the venerable Father Lacombe, the oldest and most celebrated of the Oblate missionaries of the Northwest, having reached the age of ninety years. Fr. Lacombe's life has already been most interestingly written and its pages give a vivid picture of the experiences of this pioneer apostle of our own continent.

The directors of the Botanical Gardens at Tokyo have decided to erect a monument to the late distinguished botanist, Fr. Urbain Faurie, P. F. M. Fr. Faurie came to Japan as a missionary in 1873. He developed great interest in botany, and later traveled alone, over the greater part of the country making rare collections. He slept under a tree or a crag, and neither wild savages nor poisonous snakes had terrors for him, when plants were in sight. The monument will be erected on the island of Formosa where some of his most valuable work was done.

CATHEDRAL MINSTREL SHOW

Cast of Great Irish Minstrels to Put on Blackface Show.

Members of the Cathedral Men's Association, who have produced the Great Irish Minstrels for several years, will make their debut in blackface minstrel at Cathedral Hall on the evenings of Jan. 8 and 9, 1917. While the coming production will be given by practically the same talent as appeared in the Irish minstrel, it will not supersede that entertainment, which will be given as usual in the latter part of April.

The Cathedral choir has been working in conjunction with the men's association and the chorus of fifty male voices has been rehearsing for some time past under the direction of Wenzel J. Dousek. The stage will be set to represent a dock scene with the chorus as dock loiterers watching the interloper, endmen and soloists disembark from a boat which has just tied up to the wharf.

Among the several acts of vaudeville to precede the minstrel part are those of Taylor & Birmingham, Raymond, "the man of mystery."

Charles Hawken will have with him on the ends such well known dispensers of mirth as Roy Miller, Leo Hogan and Edward Sweeney. Daniel Roach will officiate as interloper, while the following will comprise the quartette: William Riley, Patrick Dailey, James McGrath and Charles Sullivan. Lawrence Weber, Charles Smith, Ray, Golding and John Norton are on the program for solo numbers.

Kts. of St. John Have Christmas Tree on New Years Day.

Commandery No. 272, Knights of St. John at St. Francis Xavier Church, held their fifth annual Christmas party and Christmas tree on New Years day.

This exercise is the fifth to be held by the Knights and is not for their families alone but for all the children of the parish. Many useful gifts were distributed to the children by Santa Claus, each child receiving a pair of stockings, a handkerchief, candy and peanuts.

Music was furnished by Lockhart's Orchestra. The famous Knights quartette sang many songs and an entertainment was given by the school children which made the afternoon a very pleasant one.

Coffee and cake was served to the Knights and their friends. The committee in charge of the affair was Ade-de-camp Brown, Frank Huhn, John Manning, Frank Drechshri and Matthew Kuhn.

The party closed by the President of Commandery 272, wishing all those present a Happy New Year.

Schwab to Give \$2,000,000 to College.

Charles M. Schwab has informed his Baltimore friends that he will endow St. Francis College, his alma mater, at Loretto, Pa., with \$2,000,000.

The larger part of the gift is to be devoted to the erection of new buildings to replace the older ones and to construct additional buildings.

The college is conducted by the Franciscans, and is more than one hundred years old. Mr. Schwab began his education there in 1866. He has retained his interest in the college and has already helped it in many ways.

—Let all who are Christians in name be Christians in deed, and there will be no longer any social problem.—Clemenceau.

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Catholic News Notes

Domestic.

The Bishop of Savannah's residence, was recently ransacked by burglars. They got 50 medals, which afterward they let drop in a hall-way, finding the medals were not money of this world.

At Los Angeles, Cal., 80 Japanese children attend the Japanese Catholic School, and are taught by Japanese Catholic Sisters.

Miss Dustin, daughter of a millionaire of Boston, has entered the Carmelite Order.

Mrs. G. T. Slade, daughter of the late James J. Hill, has given the Cathedral of St. Paul, Minn., a \$50,000 altar.

The law firm of Murphy & Brown, of Chippewa Falls, R. J. Murphy and J. Howard Brown, has closed its office, both members intending to study for the Priesthood.

The Carmelite Very Rev. Hilary J. Dowd, president of St. Cyril's College, Chicago, has been appointed Titular Provincial of the Carmelite Province of the Holy Land.

Boston has a Catholic Stenographers' Guild.

Dr. Thomas Fitzgibbon, a prominent surgeon of Milwaukee left in his will generous legacies to Catholic institutions.

In a Trenton, N. J., parish, an educational and recreation center for Catholic girls has been established.

There are six Chinese students at Notre Dame University.

Foreign.

To all the interned war prisoners in Switzerland, the Holy Father has sent a souvenir medal.

O'Connell Street, Dublin, is one of the finest thoroughfares in Europe.

A memorial chapel will be erected over the grave of Mgr. Benson in Hertfordshire, England.

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Is History Going To Repeat Itself?

Another missionary in Japan, this time Fr. M. Steicher, P. F. M., of Tokyo, is sounding the note of alarm and asking if history is going to repeat itself and another persecution set in for the Christians?

The Government has decided that the late Emperor must be adored as a god; many prejudiced persons are renewing the calumnies against Christianity, and some publications have gone so far as to print caricatures of Our Lord.

These straws show which way the wind is blowing, and if the law of religious liberty is once violated no one knows where fanaticism may lead the people. Martyrs may not be called on to lay down their lives, but the poor Catholics, still weak in the Faith, will suffer much or be forced from their allegiance to Christianity.

Two More Nuns Infected By Leprosy.

"To live in daily contact with lepers, tending their dreadful sores and breathing the foul atmosphere that must surround such sufferers demands a heroism more than ordinary. Human nature must at times revolt, and then only powerful grace enables the worker to resume the awful task."

In this way Fr. J. B. Michotte, who often writes to us about the asylum at Kumbakonam, begins his letter, but he has still sadder news to tell:

"Two of our Sisters have become infected with the dreadful malady. Accustomed to follow the stages of leprosy step by step in the asylum, they can remain in no doubt about their fate. They have contracted leprosy and must henceforth live among their charges."

"Under these circumstances the only comfort the nuns find is in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. At Kumbakonam there is no Exposition, but as the Franciscan Sisters at the Burmah leper asylum have this constant comfort, our two nuns are going there for a time. May the Divine Presence console these noble women and give them strength to bear their affliction!"

Fr. P. J. Crimont, S. J., of Juneau, Alaska, has other troubles than poverty to impede progress. In a note acknowledging a gift, he says:

"We are very appreciative of the Society's valuable aid to Alaska. The activity of the Sects in the territory is very great, and it throws its efforts in many channels—for instance, the mis-