

A Scratch on the Pane.

Continued from last week.

A long shudder ran through Peter Carle; beads of sweat stood out upon his forehead. He lay listening, straining the muscles of his neck as he held his head up to hear correctly.

The scratching continued. With a bound he was out of bed, facing the narrow casement. Outside a soft radiance lighted the pane and the outline of a hand, holding a sparkling jewel between its thumb and forefinger, was plainly visible.

Peter gave a little moan and fell in an inert heap upon the floor.

The next day he went about his work mechanically; his feet were heavy; there was a deep furrow across his brow. He drank deeply of the home-brewed ale and at even-tide flung himself, undressed, upon the couch and was soon breathing heavily.

A storm swept over the valley; the thunder seemed to blast the sky asunder; the wind tore trees and rocks from their foundations and cast them down the mountain side; the rain came down in torrents—but Peter slept.

Then above the war of the elements came the scratching on the pane.

Peter passed his hand across his eyes and rose slowly. He felt old beyond his time, bewildered, as though he had just come into feeling after an unconsciousness of many years. The rain was beating in from a leak overhead. He raised his eyes to examine, but they got no farther than the window. The fire was out, there was no moon shining, but from a soft radiance outside he could distinguish the gnarled trunk of the plum tree, and clear and distinct there came to his ear, like no sound he had ever heard, the scratching on the pane.

With a snarl as of a wounded animal, he lurched against the door and ran into the night.

The sun was high in the heavens when Peter Carle returned. The brook sparkled lightly over the stepping stones; the birds sang merrily from the wayside; the flowers nodded their heads to gentle breeze. It was as though nature were trying to make amends for her passion of the night before.

All day Peter worked clearing away the debris. He placed a ladder against the roof and cleaned the leaves and twigs from the eavestrough. He hewed down the plum tree and carried it to the back lot, never once glancing through the window. He straightened the things about the room; laid the fire, fed the cattle and made himself a meal of salt pork and porridge. Then throughout the long twilight he sat on the steps, his head in his hands, his lips parted in their accustomed smile. He talked aloud as if to a companion whose needs must be argued with.

"Why should I be afraid, as a woman who has missed her life? I have done no harm. I came into the world as a natural consequence; I shall go out of it in the same way. If my ears play me false, it is because they need oil to soften the drum. If my eyes deceive me, it proves that I have overtaxed the nerves. There is cause for what is and there is nothing without reason. I shall not be foolish again."

Very quietly he rose and went inside. He unhung the gourd dipper and took a long draught of the cool spring water. He banked the fire, undressed and, lying down, was soon fast asleep.

The moon rose high over the tree tops; the stars came out one by one; there was a last twitter of birds and quiet enfolding the little cottage under the hill.

Peter stirred in his sleep—there was a scratching on its window pane. He sat bolt upright, distinct, systematically, as though with some intent, came like the energetic neighborly sound. He rose to his feet, Japan and even surpass it. It need pulling the covers with him. The hardly he pointed out that to win bigness of him seemed to fill the room. He shook himself as though for the Catholic fold is not a task to be free of all invisible fetters, to be slighted or underestimated.

Clear and regular it came—the scratching on the pane.

Peter clenched his fists. "Stop! Stop! I say," he shouted. "This is my house and I will have none of you. Be gone!"

The sound did not cease. "If you are man or beast come inside and I will measure my sinew against yours."

He bent his head to listen; there was no answer.

"I—I," he tore at his neck-band. "I have no fear of you. You are nothing; you can do nothing; I can prove you are nothing. It is against all reason. I am ill, dreaming, but I'm not afraid." He crept back into bed.

The scratching continued.

He piled the covers about his ears and lay still for a long time. Then slowly he raised his head, his eyes shining big and fierce from his pale face; the corners of his mouth twitched nervously. "I can stand it as long as you. My strength cannot be equaled. Go on; you will be the first to tire. I like your noise now that I am used to it."

The scratching continued.

He fell to trembling as though with palsy; his limbs grew cold; the roof of his mouth was dry; his tongue was parched. Then he lay tense. The cords knotted upon his brow; there was no more sound; the scratching had ceased.

Peter sprang from his bed and leaped to the window. The moonlight shone brightly upon the glass and there, as though cut for all time, clear and beautiful, he beheld the crucifix.

A great rage overwhelmed him. He had been fooled. Nature had failed him! But he would not have that thing—this emblem of mystery thrust upon him. He laughed aloud.

"I am stronger than you, whatever you are. I'll treat you as I did the blinding blizzard, I'll over come you as I did the roaring water; I'll conquer you as I did the wild beast. I defy you!"

With an oath he struck a great blow. There was a crash, the rattle of flying glass, the thud of a falling body, a groan, a sigh, and all was still.

They found him the next day, his great bulk stretched across the window sill, a queer gasp in his throat, the twisted smile frozen on his face. —Anna's Slaughter Gilmour, in The Lamp.

Rockefeller Wealth In The Service of Foreign Missions.

Sectarian Hospitals in China Backed by the Foundation.

One of the most striking features of the public life of Christ was His tender solicitude for the sick, the lame, the blind, the leper. He made them to be well, to walk, to see and to be clean. But to each of the afflicted, to whom His loving kindness brought healing of body, divine grace and power brought healing and strength of soul. It was through the portals of mercy and charity that the divine love made its entry into the souls of men. And ever since those who have gone forth to carry out the mandate of Christ to preach the Gospel to all nations, have made lovingly ingenious use of the powers of healing and corporal works of mercy to gently draw the souls of men into the net of grace.

The hospital and medical branch cause for what is and there is nothing without reason. I shall not be foolish again."

Very quietly he rose and went inside. He unhung the gourd dipper and took a long draught of the cool spring water. He banked the fire, undressed and, lying down, was soon fast asleep.

The moon rose high over the tree tops; the stars came out one by one; there was a last twitter of birds and quiet enfolding the little cottage under the hill.

Not only have the Protestant missionary societies, as we have said, understood the importance of hospital and medical service to the missions... but they have as the Annual Report of the Rockefeller Foundation for 1915 and but recently published, shows, known how to secure for themselves the immense financial backing of this enormously wealthy foundation.

The Rockefeller Foundation maintains what is called the China Medical Board whose avowed purpose is as the Report states: "To assist Missionary Societies to strengthen their medical schools and hospitals by providing equipment and other facilities and by making annual grants, as may be found expedient, for the support of physicians and nurses selected by the respective Missionary Boards subject only to the Foundation's approval of the professional qualifications of the appointees." And further: "with the consent of the Missionary boards, to reorganize and expand existing medical schools, with hospitals, and to support these, wholly or in part, from its funds."

In accordance with this avowed purpose the China Medical Board appropriated during 1915, \$451,683 for the aims and purposes set forth above. Part of this sum was spent in taking over the various schools already maintained in China by the Medical Branch Schools of several American Universities. On July 1, 1915, the China Medical Board took over full charge of the large Union Medical College in Peking, which till then had been the common center for the medical activities of six of the strongest mission organizations of England and the United States. \$53,000 are allowed for the budget of this institution, a sum enormously in excess of any at the disposal of any Catholic institution in China.

Since then, as the report details, the board has been engaged in extending the grounds and equipment of the college till today it is one of the show places of the Chinese capital. The board has furthermore, with the ample funds at its disposal, made an extensive tour of all the principle cities of the empire with a view to selecting suitable centers for the establishment of further schools and hospitals. For the Hunan-Yale Medical School at Chagsha the board has made provision of a yearly sum of \$16,200 for five years, surely enough to place it upon a secure footing.

Nor is all this lavish expenditure of money without palpable results. The board's report sums them up in this wise: "Hundreds of physicians are now practicing in China under the auspices of these societies (missionary societies of the various sects). Their patients number tens of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, annually... Half a score of medical colleges have been started, partially manned and equipped, and these colleges are being availed of by hundreds of Chinese students, with such preparation, more or less adequate, as circumstances have admitted."

What an enormous lever this fund means to the cause of Protestantism in China! We who have the cause of truth to champion and propagate must needs bestir ourselves and rouse ourselves to offset in some small way this great disadvantage under which our Catholic missions must struggle. And right now, during Lent, we have ample occasion to do so, and that effectively. Were each single one of us to stint himself in some slight manner by way of penance and to put aside the little tributes of curiosity or love of sweets to charity, how large a sum we could total for the help of the missions which now, during the world war, are dependent almost entirely on our generosity. A movie foregone or a sundae or candy foregone will soon help to fill our mission mite boxes.

Where love is great the eyes of love see far. Zeal is the generous mother of many apostolic inventions. The eagerness of our non-Catholic brethren to win new fields for their causes should really shame us into apostolic self-denial, if love of our own cause be not strong enough to move us.

C. B. of C. V.

Foreign Mission News

Special correspondence by The Propagation of the Faith Society 348 Lexington Ave., New York City.

"No one who catches the spirit of foreign missions can fail to realize that this spirit, spread through the United States, will strengthen the Church against the rising tide of selfishness and luxury that to-day is threatening."

An acknowledgment of favors received comes from Bishop D. Vismara, of Deccan, India, in these words:

"We owe a great debt of gratitude to the American Catholics and clergy; they have been very kind and generous towards us, especially during this war. They are helping us to go on with our work, and with their donations we are even able to extend our field. The movement towards our holy Faith, especially in the Kistna District, is really extraordinary; entire villages come to us and ask for baptism."

The advantages to be derived from Catholic instruction is beginning to be recognized even by pagans. Japan's schools conducted by religious, are crowded with non-Christian pupils. The Superior of St. Mary's Presentation Convent at Peshawar, India, also writes:

"Our school is very well attended by Catholics, Protestants and Parsees, the last a very well behaved class of natives, most docile and obedient and extremely studious. They generally adopt European manners."

Rev. John A. Lynch, C. S. S. R., states that there are six Redemptorists in his mission at Mayaquez, Southwest coast of Porto Rico, and that everything is plentiful but money. His report for 1916 reads:

"Children in Mission Schools, 1900; 30 Sisters and graduate teachers; 1500 children baptized in 1916; 46,000 Holy Communion given. Present number of souls in Mayaquez City, 18,000; country and mountain jurisdiction, 20,000."

Bishop Seguin, P. F. M., of Kouy theou, China, says that he is to insure the future of his mission he must strain every effort to prepare a native clergy now. This is the view taken by all the bishops of the mission districts. Without these aids it is not too much to say that many mission posts will have to be deserted. Needs are pressing for the material things of life, such as food, clothing and medicines but among the spiritual necessities stands foremost the call for native apostles. A few hundred dollars will secure the education of a young man of whose fitness for his high office there will be no doubt, for China has already produced a rich harvest of worthy missionaries.

A Franciscan Nun Finds Herself In Straits.

In Busoga, B. E. Africa, there is a community of Franciscan nuns that try to improve the condition of the women and children around them as much as lies within their power. The best way to do this is by founding a good school.

Mother M. Capistran aims at establishing this school and has toward that end the sum of twenty-five dollars. Now even in Africa twenty five dollars will not erect a school building so she writes to us:

"Our convent was opened a few months before the war, and unfortunately we have been terribly hampered in our work for lack of funds. We need a school badly, as the children are very numerous, and it is in them we place the future of a good Christian community. If you can help us to find a few benefactors I cannot tell you how much it would mean to us. At present we have only \$25 towards the necessary amount. Anyone subscribing to the school will share in the children's daily prayers."

News From Ireland

James Dempsey was found frozen to death in a bog at Ballymena, adjoining the road from Ballymena to Antrim.

In a collision in Belfast Lough between the SS. Wheatstear of Cardiff and the Miss Hughes, a 65-ton schooner of Aberystwyth, the latter went down, but her crew were saved.

Canon J. J. McCarten, P. P., Donaghmore, County Down, whose death is announced, was born at Tassagh, near Keady.

The death has taken place at St. Clare's Abbey, Keady, of Agnes Mary (Sister M. of Our Lady of Angels), daughter of the late P. Earley and Mrs. Earley, Balistrane, Lusk, County Dublin, in the 55th year of her age, and the 36th of her religious life.

Cornelius Fitzsimons, whose death took place at his residence, Aughacastle, Virginia, was father of the Rev. J. Fitzsimons, New York, and Rev. Cornelius Fitzsimons, Portchester, and brother of the late Rev. J. Fitzsimons, New York.

An interesting lecture was delivered in St. Michael's Hall, Coothill, by Very Rev. E. Maguire, D. D., professor, All Hallows' College, Dublin, the subject being "The Rise of Grattan's Parliament." Father Maguire is a native of Cavan.

A marriage was celebrated at Douglas church by the Rev. W. McCullagh, P. P., between Matthew Molony, Drumquin, and Nellie Murphy, The Cottage, New Catriline road, Douglas.

His parishioners at Kinsale have presented a testimonial to Father Carmody, C. C., on his transfer.

Cork and Passage Railway introduced women ticket collectors. Sister M. Christina Ronayne, who passed away at the Loretto Convent, Fermoy, in the 38th year of her religious life, was a daughter of the late Dr. Ronayne, Youghal, and sister of Dr. C. O. L. Ronayne, N. U. I. She was an authoress of some note and a contributor to Catholic magazines.

Died—At the Presbytery, Rev. P. Condon, P. P., Stonehall.

Lough Foyle, for the first time in a generation was completely covered with ice recently.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell has appointed Rev. J. Rogers, C. C., Ballyshannon, to be P. P., Ballintra; Rev. J. Deeney, C. C., Colymbkille, to be C. C., Ballyshannon; and Rev. P. Boyle, to be C. C., Glencolumbkille.

The Council of the Irish Medical Association have passed a resolution urging the need for an increased number of able medical men in Parliament.

Died—At the Presbytery, Ballybrack, Very Rev. Michael Canon O'Hea, P. P., V. F., in his 73d year.

The late Michael Kirby, drapery merchant, Listowel, whose death is announced, was father of the Rev. T. J. Kirby, Glenties, and of three other sons in Holy Orders in America and Australia. Listowel U. C. has passed a vote of condolence with the relatives.

At Our Lady of Dolours, Dolphin's Barn, by the Rev. T. Barry, C. C., Thomas, eldest son of P. Meyers, Mile Mill, Kilcullen, was married to Annie, second eldest daughter of the late Patrick O'Connor, Westpalstown, Oldtown, County Dublin.

Miss Geraldine Graves, granddaughter of the Protestant Bishop of Limerick has been received into the Catholic Church.

Rev. T. Simington, son of the late D. Simington, stationmaster, Drogheda, has been appointed pastor of North Rockhampton, Australia.

The St. Boniface Club.

The annual meeting and election was held at St. Boniface Club last Wednesday evening. The following were elected:—Jos. Bieber, Pres.; Jos. Schenk, Vice-Pres.; Henry Bienenbach, Sec'y.; Jos. Frank, and John Kreckel, and Ed. Schoenherr, directors for two years. Bill Hohman was overwhelmingly elected as sergeant-at-arms, receiving 38 out of 90 votes. The young man is well adapted for this office having all the natural requirements for same. Bill has done much to make the club supper and special "feeds" so successful in the past. He is also the originator and promoter of the judisch pinocchio game at the club.

Gussie Schreiner, the well-known "alley-boarder and wood-chopper was chosen to be chairman of bowling. He has arranged bowling matches with most of the Catholic clubs for the coming season. As an individual bowler Gus is the most remarkable in the club. Although "Gussie" has had more bad breaks to contend with than any other bowler, he still managed to lead the club in general average, which proves clearly his skill in picking bad splits. He also uses the typical bowling language on the alleys when things break badly for his team and it is common to see Gussie "yank out" at least a half dozen men when the team needs a shaking up. Gus is known as the man without a smile and is popular among the boys.

The old stand-by, Jack Lawrence was easily elected manager of sports and games, for another five years. Jack's record as a trainer of the basket-ball and indoor team is well known in this city. He has turned out such men as Joe Frank, the well known pitcher, Ray Brown and several others in the field of sport.

Geo. Klee, the well known jeweler was awarded the prize for being the most popular married man in the club. The club hopes that others will follow his example and mix in a little more with the boys. Wm. Schenk, the retiring president, was given a rising vote of thanks for his good work in the past year.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS START WITH \$30,000.

Sum for New Clubhouse May Be Made \$250,000.

Rochester Knights of Columbus made a flying start toward a new clubhouse Monday evening, Feb. 25th when more than \$30,000 was announced as the total subscription secured, at a meeting held in Convention Hall annex. About four hundred members and guests were at the gathering, with John J. McInerney presiding.

The Building Association already has in the treasury \$40,000, and the site in Main street east was purchased last year, so that the sum needed comes nearer to \$100,000 than \$150,000. It is whispered, however, that the real goal of the association is \$250,000 with which amount the order could build one of the finest homes in the state.

Of the ten states that are racing for the privilege of bringing in the greatest amount, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Oklahoma were ahead Monday night. Their governors are, respectively, John O'Callaghan, George Weining and Dr. W. B. O'Neill. Governors of all states were on the program for talks.

George C. Donahue, secretary of the Automobile Club of Rochester, who has not yet been transferred from Utica Council, told of the campaign that was held there. Edward Fitzgerald, secretary of the Olean Chamber of Commerce, was the principal speaker. Others were James P. Jones, and William E. Maloney, chairman of the Finance Committee.

It was said that a membership campaign would follow that for a clubhouse. Several applications were received Monday night.

Always beready to lend a hand.