

## The Sign

The early spring day was drawing to its close. The air was damp and heavy with approaching fog, but inside the little cottage of the Vincents everything looked cozy and snug. The scene was replete with happiness—no shadow over any part, except on Mrs. Vincent's face.

"Does your head ache?" Mary asked. "Or are you especially troubled over something?"

Mrs. Vincent shook her head. "No, dear one," she answered gently. "Just the same old burden. Perhaps it feels heavier today because your father and I had another argument over it last night."

"Concerning Paul?" asked Mary, with a note of anxiety in her voice.

"Yes, as usual," answered her mother, sorrowfully. "Paul and religion are the only things upon which we disagree."

"Mother," asked Mary, timidly, "will you tell me how it happens that father is so bitter against our faith? I have often wondered over our divided belief. It seems strange—not right, somehow."

"Mary, my child," the mother said gravely, "you are fast approaching young womanhood, and it is time that you understood just how things are. Your father and I were married twenty-five years ago this month, and in all that time we never quarreled, save on two topics. We were married before the Church so strictly forbade mixed marriages as she does now, and in spite of the advice of my parents and our good priest, Father Simmons, I married your father, who was a free thinker. We loved each other dearly then, and we love each other now. I have never regretted my choice, for he has been a kind husband and father, but when I think of Paul my heart aches. I knew that your father's belief was not mine, and that the Church did not approve. But I thought such scruples were nonsensical and unworthy of notice. Now I see only too plainly that in this as in everything else, the Church knows best. I felt sure that my husband would in time grant my petition, and become a Catholic, but his early training, or lack of training, was too strong. The years passed, and the distance between our faiths was as great as ever. Then Paul was born. I had agreed, during the glamor of courtship, that if a son was born to us he should be raised according to his father's belief—and if a daughter, she should be a Catholic, as I was. When I held my little first born in my arms, God knows how bitterly I repented of my promise. But your father was obdurate, and my pleading was of no use. Our first quarrels began when I had to see my little son instructed in a faith in which I had no share. I tried to teach him on the quiet—made him say little prayers—and as he grew older I tried to make him feel as I did about God and our Church. But his father's influence was too strong. He taught the child that belief in any faith was womanish, and that one's own will was the ruling power. Paul would listen to me respectfully, and then with a toss of his handsome head, would walk away leaving me with the miserable conviction that my words were mere empty sounds."

"Then you came, my Mary, bringing a fresh ray of hope to my tired heart. From the very first you seemed to absorb all the beauty and impressiveness of our faith, and I had no doubt that your little hands would lead your brother into the way of right thinking. But you, too, failed. Not through any fault of yours, my dear one, but because Paul had grown completely away from us all, and is wrapped up in his own egotistical belief. It was of his hot-headedness and independence that I spoke to your father last night, but he was tired and cross, and accused me of always harping on one subject—religion. Surely God has dealt bitterly with me for ever having put worldly love before the love and approval of my Master. I have prayed, I have done penance. I have done

everything which lay within human power, but have accomplished nothing. If it were not for you, my Mary, my whole life would seem a waste." The poor woman covered her face with her hands and wept bitterly.

Mary threw her arms around her mother.

"Dearest mother," she whispered, soothingly, "don't give up like this. God will surely listen if we only have faith in Him."

"Oh, Mary," sobbed the mother, "I am losing my faith in spite of all I can do. Whenever I plead with your father, or try to convince him of the surety of our belief, he says: 'Show me one little sign—just one—why your faith is the true one, and I will adopt it as my own. If your God is all-powerful ask Him to send one sign that I may know Him.' He has said this time and again, and though I have prayed with all my strength, I have no sign to show him. Does it not seem hard?"

"Yes," admitted Mary, "it does. But we are only mortals and the power of performing miracles belongs only to God Himself. Let us have patience just a little longer, and He will surely send the sign in His own good time."

"Oh, Mary—well named—what a comfort you are to me! God has blessed me beyond my deserts in giving me a daughter like you!"

The soft shadows of twilight closed around them, and mother and daughter sat buried in thought, till a well-known step sounded on the porch. Then they sprang up, a welcoming light on both faces. A genial, kindly-faced man stepped into the fire-lit room. He gathered both women into his arms, with wordless affection, and they formed a loving circle around the dinner table.

The meal was served by a trim little maid. Mr. Vincent picked up the carving knife, then hesitated, glancing at the one empty chair.

"Where is Paul?" he asked suddenly.

Mrs. Vincent hesitated; then— "He must be with young Morgan, or in Foley's place," she said. "He has not been home all day."

Mr. Vincent frowned, but all further conversation was checked by the entrance of Paul himself.

To be continued

## All Priests Are Not Smooth Shaven.

Very few priests of the Latin rite—especially European and American priests—wear beards and mustaches. The Capuchins, an independent branch of the Franciscan Order, and some contemplative monks are directed by their rules to grow beards as a mark of austerity and penance. The Benedictines also wear beards, although numerous individual Benedictines are clean shaven. Individual priests who desire to wear beards for medical or other reasons, must obtain the permission of their Bishop or religious superior.

Throughout the history of the Church there have been bearded and unbearded Popes, bishops and priests. The Apostles are for the most part represented as bearded; though not uniformly so. The Jews, and most eastern people, cherished the beard as a sign of manhood, and looked upon a smooth face as a mark of effeminacy or lack of virility.

In the fifth century a ruling of a council decreed that the clergy must allow neither hair nor beard to grow freely. In England, throughout the Middle Ages, it was considered contrary to the rules of the Church to grow beards. The clergy were commonly known as shorn men. A ruling under King Edgar reads: "Let no man in holy orders conceal his tonsure, nor let himself be misshaven nor keep his beard for any time, if he will have God's blessing and St. Peter's and ours." One of the standing reproaches of the Greek Church against the Roman after the eighth century was that the Romans systematically cut off their beards.

In the twelfth century Pope Alexander III. decreed that any cleric who nourished his hair or beard was to be shorn, by force, if necessary. Short beards seem to have been worn by many priests in the sixteenth century, although laws were framed at that time to the effect that the clergy should not be aping the fashions of military folk, or wearing flowing beards like goats, or allow the hair on the upper lip to impede their drinking of the chalice.

Many Popes wore beards in the sixteenth century, and some were long and flowing. In 1576 St. Charles sought to bring back the clergy to the ancient practice and addressed a pastoral letter to them "On the Shaving of the Beard." It was not, however, until the end of the seventeenth century that the clergy returned to the earlier usage. In 1865 the Holy See rebuked the Bavarian clergy for an attempt to introduce the wearing of beards.

The great St. Mary's Industrial School of Baltimore, in charge of the Xaverian Brothers had 1,600 boys last year in addition to 1,000 on parole. Sixty of the school's boys are in the bands of the U. S. Army and Navy, about 145 are on the Mexican border.

Splendid is the Peter's Pence this year in the Archdiocese of Chicago—\$100,000. Last year it was \$30,000.

In attendance at the various Jesuit colleges and universities of the United States, are 2,732 students.

Within twenty-four months the Santa Maria University of California has been endowed to the extent of \$300,000.

The Catholics of New York, in the collection taken up in the churches for the Irish Relief Fund, contributed \$18,000.

President Wilson sent the Sisters of St. Joseph, in charge of St. Malachy Orphanage, \$25 as a donation expressing his pleasure at the playing of the Orphan boys' St. Ambrose Band on the occasion of the illumination of the Statue of Liberty.

It is also said that forty thousand French priests are in the trenches in France.

## Foreign Mission News

Special correspondence by The Propagation of the Faith Society, 318 Lexington Ave., New York City.

Lent is a time of penance, repentance and atoning. In our charities do not forget the poor missionaries who are working in the midst of unspeakable difficulties and privations for the conversion of infidels.

Our missionaries frequently add their names to those who have attained eminence as scientists. Recently we recorded the obituary honors accorded to Fr. Laurie, P. F. M., a noted botanist in Japan. The Jaffa Guardian now announces the loss of a Sacred Heart missionary who had entered the field of wireless telegraphy.

"We regret to observe chronicle in our Australian exchange, the death, at the early age of forty-three, of the Rev. A. J. Shaw, M. S. H., who has done splendid work in wireless telegraphy. Born in Australia, the deceased priest, before entering the priesthood, was in the telegraph department of the Post Office in New South Wales. The Federal Government, prior to Father Shaw's death, decided to purchase the land, plant and machinery of Shaw Wireless, Ltd."

**STILL ANOTHER DISASTROUS FIRE.**

The missions have been very unfortunate this winter in regard to fires. Those of our own country have suffered severely, due no doubt to the cold weather which has brought about over-heated stoves.

Sister Mary of St. Labre's Mission, Ashland, Montana, is the latest to report the loss of the asylum and its furnishings. Indeed it was little short of miraculous that no fatalities occurred. The Sister, who states they are all much in want of immediate help, says:

"We were burned to the ground on January 12, only saving our lives and what we had on, so we are much in need of clothes. We could not secure anything for ourselves or boys and girls—all went in less than two hours. With a supply of shoes, bedding and wearing apparel the work can go on in the church, but without those necessities we are helpless. Will someone come to our assistance?"

**ANOTHER GOOD WORD FOR NATIVE PRIESTS.**

India as well as China is able to prepare young men for the priesthood and they amply repay the time and money expended on their education. One to testify to their value is the Right Rev. Paul Perini, S. J., Bishop of Mangalore, who writes:

"The six native priests educated in my local seminary and ordained last September, have taken up work in various stations and show great zeal and ability. Thus the many sacrifices I had to make to maintain them during their nine years of seminary life are fully recompensed by the excellent work these young missionaries are doing. If I had money to maintain a larger number of students in the seminary, this mission would soon make much greater progress."

**OUR MESSENGERS OF LIGHT**

Very Rev. C. Daems, Prefect Apostolic of S. Kam-see, says that the little post-cards coming from New York, bearing the announcement that an offering is on the way are like messengers of light. It has been necessary to place much confidence in Divine Providence of late, but the alms sent by Americans help to sustain this faith.

It is truly little less than miraculous that some missions have been able to sustain their works during the past two or three years, but the miracle has been performed. Fr. Daems says that many posts in his district resemble

## News From Ireland

Carlow.

Rev. Brother Michael, Superior, Christian Brothers' schools, Bagenalstown, has been transferred to Castlebar.

Died—At his residence, Kilmacrim House, Borris, Rev. Father Foley, C. C., formerly at Rathfriland and Tinryland.—At his residence, Tullow street, Carlow, John Kelly, aged 75 years.

Clare.

Rev. W. Scanlan, P. P., Tubber, died suddenly a short time ago. He was formerly a curate in Kilmaley and Sixmilebridge and took an active interest in Gaelic and athletic affairs.

Derry.

Charles Coulett, seaman, Clyde Shipping Company's tug Flying Sportsman, was accidentally drowned at Queenstown recently.

Derry.

Alderman Anderson has been re-elected Mayor of Derry.

J. P. Rutherford, LL. B., son of R. Rutherford, Derry, took fourth place in the final examination for the bar.

Derry Infirmary committee have re-elected R. Lee Hogg, J. P., chairman and Mrs. Reed, vice-chairman.

Dougal.

At St. Patrick's church, Crossroads, Killygordon, by the Rev. N. Duggan, C. C., John, eldest son of Joseph Corr, Lissau, Cookstown, was married to Agnes (Aggie), fifth daughter of George Harold, Ballincor, Killygordon.

Dowry.

Newry allotments committee has got several offers of land for four years at very reasonable rates.

A widow named Curran was fatally burned near Newry.

Dublin.

Michael Delaney, 24, assistant engineer with Messrs. Guinness, was drowned in the Liffey.

Alderman Laurence O'Neill, recently elected Lord Mayor of Dublin, was imprisoned in England after the rebellion.

Kildare.

Rev. T. Mahony, brother of R. Mahony, R. D. C., Rathnash, Tralee, has celebrated the 30th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Kilkenny.

At the Catholic church, Kingsway, London, by the Rev. E. M. Daniell, P. P., Henry Walter, only son of the late William Lewis, journalist, of Kennington, was married to Marie, second daughter of John Lee, Ballymore.

Kilkenny.

At Clodiagh Catholic church, by Rev. Father Keogh, P. P., Instigoe, with nuptial Mass, James Francis, brother of Edward J. Bolger, J. P., Ballinabarna House, was married to Susanna, third daughter of Charles Lynch, Clodiagh.

Lettistim.

M. Carter Co. C., president, has been presented by the members of the Lettistim A. O. H., with an illuminated address and valuable gift on his recent marriage.

P. Earley, D. C., Rantogue, Carrick-on-Shannon, died suddenly after attending a council meeting.

Lisburn.

At the London College of Music examinations, Miss M. Slatery, 45 Henry street, Limerick, was awarded the teachers' diploma, L. C. M.

Lisburn.

P. J. O'Rourke, Kiltimagh, has been appointed solicitor to the National Health Insurance Commission for North Mayo, succeeding M. V. Coolican.

Monagh.

Rev. F. J. O'Neill, Ardee, has been appointed C. C., Haggardstown.

Sperrin.

Rev. J. Kenny, C. C., Haggardstown, has been appointed P. P., Lissau.

## Knights of Columbus Fund Growing.

Having passed the half-way post in its endeavor to raise \$50,000 for the erection of a new club house on the site already purchased in Main Street East, the campaign of the Knights of Columbus is expected to be governed with added energy for the three weeks which remain to be covered. The 10 teams of members, each of which is presided over by a "governor" with his staff and coterie of "senators" hope to make the latter half of the race even more successful and enthusiastic than the first has been.

**ANGELO NEWMAN**  
Executive Secretary K. of C. Building Association.

A weekly meeting will be held each Monday evening for the next three weeks in the council rooms to report on the growth of the fund and stir up additional enthusiasm. The first of these gatherings, next Monday evening, will be called a "Whoop-or-Up" meeting. In the meantime, all eyes are turned toward the big clock at the corner of the Triangle building, whose hands record the advancement of the campaign each day.

Knights of Columbus living in or near Rochester, who have never joined the Rochester Council, are especially requested to attend these meetings, as a movement to increase the membership is going hand in hand with the amassing of the building fund.

Archbishop Szeptycki is a prisoner for nine months at Kutza, and is now interned in the monastery of Soudal.

Cardinal Serafini consecrated in Rome Mgr. Blondi, the new Delegate Apostolic to the East Indies, titular Archbishop of Diocletia.

The full number of the Sacred College of Cardinals is seventy. The recent Consistory raised the present number of Cardinals to sixty-eight.

Not long ago the Italian Army erected on one of the almost inaccessible heights of the Alps, a bronze statue to the Blessed Virgin.

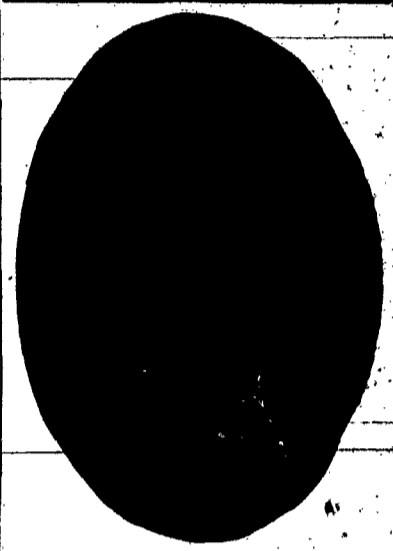
The explosion of a gasoline lamp at Seven Islands in the Province of Quebec destroyed by fire the Bishop's residence, the parish church and the Sisters' Convent, and burned to death one of the Sisters.

The Lord Mayor of London, Sir William Henry Dunn, is a zealous member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The monastery of Mt. Carmel, in Palestine, which was under French protection, has been placed in charge of the German Carmelites.

The ancient and yet great University of Salamanca, Spain, will be made a center of Hispano-American study. In its Irish College are now a number of Irish-American students studying for the priesthood.

Send us your printing.



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