

\$1 a Year The Catholic Journal \$1 a Year

Twenty-eighth Year, No. 34.

Rochester, N. Y., Friday, April 27, 1917

\$1.00 Per Year, In Advance

MADONNA MIA

Continued from last week.

"May I ask why you have taken such unwarranted liberty with my private property?" I questioned with all the stinging irony I could master into my voice.

"Yes," she answered unflinchingly. "Yes, I am a Catholic, Mr. Stanley, and I do not intend to contaminate my eyes with sights that are not fit objects for even a pagan's."

"Why, girl, I paid a fortune for them. They're the finest originals of the highest modern art."

"They may be very high in the scale of what you call art, sir, but they're very low in the scale of morality," was her rejoinder.

"And have you left me anything that is worth while?" I ventured with an attempt at bravado; but I must confess her reply had made a deep impression upon me.

"Yes," she said, with a spirit of exultation, "there are two which are worth while. One is a picture of an old lady in a black lace cap. The very wrinkles of her lovely face are formed in the lines of a motherly smile. Her eyes are like two liquid gems of blue, and her silver hair falls in waves of whiteness over a forehead as noble as that of a princess or a queen."

As she spoke, she had led me, like one entranced, to a corner of the room, and we stood before the picture she was describing. Ah! the flood of memories that rushed over me before that painting. I was a boy again, and the years were all before me. The longings of a lifetime, the joys and sorrows of an idle pleasure-seeking youth had not yet deadened all instincts of love and honor. The clutching after bubbles of happiness that burst as soon as they were touched and left in the eager hand dampness, and in the heart despair, had not, as yet, choked up the well-springs of pure affection. I saw her, not as she stood revealed in that picture before me, but as I had often looked up into her loving eyes in those distant days, and called her the sweetest and tenderest of names, "My Mother."

"You have a queer inscription under that picture, Mr. Stanley," the girl at my side remarked.

I could hardly speak. For the first time in fifteen years my eyes were veiled with a mist of tears. I felt that I should sob if I tried to answer, but my eyes turned toward the little gilded slip of wood and read, "Madonna mia."

"That is one of the paintings worth while," she resumed, and her words sank into my soul, stirring it to its very depths. "Here is the other. See the strange coincidence! This is also entitled 'Madonna mia' but it has not the same face as the other. I know this face, as I know the figure of the tiny Babe she is holding. Ah! Madonna mia, what a desecration to have put you in the midst of all this filth," she murmured in apostrophe to the painting now before us. "See the tender eyes that gaze in love on her Child and her God! There's a tear just beginning to trickle down her cheek. The tiny outstretched arms of Our Blessed Lord, the happy smile on His infant countenance—what a telling contrast to the pathos and sad resignation on the face of His Madonna. Oh! Mr. Stanley, when I am gone you will probably rehang all those other pictures, but if you have a speck of honor in your soul, I beg you take down these two, and don't defile them by keeping them in the room with those shameful specimens of so-called art."

I don't know just exactly how it happened; I don't know why I did it; but almost before I was aware that I had spoken she was blushing and staring at me with pitying, but indignant eyes.

"What, Mr. Stanley," she exclaimed, "marry you!"

"Yes, Miss Morrison; I have not much to offer, for I know how little you value money when offered to you by the hand of a man such as I have been. But I assure you if I ever marry, I must marry a girl like you."

"And I assure you, Mr. Stanley, if I ever marry, I must marry a man whom I can love, a man who can respect women and whose life has been pure and upright."

I knew she meant what she said. But she had taught me a lesson which began to work at once and soon produced results in the form of a sale of paintings by the modern masters. Departing upon my recovery, she left behind her a little book called "The Faith of Our Fathers."

Though I was enlightened by the perusal of this volume and understood its teachings, something seemed lacking; I could not believe. I had not the gift of faith. Finally I determined to go to the Catholic priest down town, and lay open my state of mind. I told the good man my story and explained my difficulty. I soon found that, like everything else which this world of sense cannot touch, my darkness was lifted by fervent prayer.

Did I ever meet the nurse again? Do you see those three paintings over there? The one in the center is Our Blessed Lady, looking down on her newly born Babe. The one on the left is a painting of my mother; and the one on the right, the beautiful lady with big brown eyes and a wealth of dark brown hair is the nurse. As you notice they all three have the same inscription: "Madonna Mia." That's the name of endearment I've taught our children to call her, and she seems to like it. I do. —J.H. Stratford, in the Messenger of the Sacred Heart.

Knights of Columbus

Past District Deputy J. David Enright, of Syracuse, put a class of seventy-five candidates through the second degree Wednesday evening. Thirty of the number were from the Columbus Club of the Genesee Valley, and represent Lima, Genesee, Avon and Mount Morris. Later Mr. Enright told of the completion of a new \$125,000 clubhouse in Syracuse, which was opened April 18, free of debt. Following the degree work a luncheon was served.

At a meeting of the Membership Committee it was reported that the busiest parish in the campaign had been the Immaculate Conception, which reported four hours old, had already taken eighty signed applications. Wm. H. McDonald represents the parish on the General Committee. He told the officers he thought his territory would yield at least a fifth of the expected increase of membership.

The General Committee in the Immaculate Conception parish has Thomas Brannigan for its vice-chairman and Arthur Connor for secretary, and eleven sub-committees directed by the following: Nicholas J. Deveaux, T. B. Mooney, T. A. Huber, John J. Swift, John C. Graham, P. P. Larkin, C. J. Austin, Frank R. Quinn, Thomas E. Carroll, Dr. John M. Foley and Charles H. Cameron.

Hibernians Organize A Baseball Club.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians of Monroe County for the first time in their history will be represented in the field this season with a ball team. They have secured a place in the Catholic League, and it is expected will cause their opponents much worry. All Hibernians and other young Irishmen of Rochester desirous of becoming Hibernians and who have ability to play good baseball are requested to get in touch with J. A. Sullivan, 507 Ellwanger & Barry Building immediately.

A. O. H., Hold Dance.

The annual reception and dance of the Monroe County Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians was held in the auditorium of the Rochester Business Institute on Wednesday evening. A large number of members and their friends attended. American flags decorated the rostrum upon which an orchestra held sway.

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ATTITUDE OF CARDINAL MANNING TOWARD THE POOR, AND THAT OF AN ANGLICAN BISHOP.

Contrast as shown by an Anglican Social Worker.

Sympathy with the poor and an intimate feeling with and for its many needs is accepted by all men as a natural trait of a religion based upon the teachings of Him who chose to be born poor and to be known as the son of the Carpenter Joseph.

How far this sympathy for the poor animated the Established Church of England during the great Dock strike which convulsed England in 1889 is vividly brought home to us in a recent book from the pen of James Adlerly, Hon. Canon of Birmingham and entitled "In Slums and Society, Reminiscences of Old Friends."

Retailing a bit of gossip about a certain Anglican Bishop who was present at a conference with the strike leaders Canon Adlerly tells us that "The Bishop sat drinking endless cups of tea in Dr. M... 's drawing-room at Trinity square. 'My heart, he said, is with the dockers, but my head is with the directors.'"

How different the picture which Canon Adlerly himself gives us of the Catholic representative when he tells us: "Cardinal Manning, on the other hand, was bold in the other direction. One of the most picturesque scenes during the strike was his visit to the directors, when the old man stood and preached a little sermon to them about the sufferings of the poor." And he concludes his observations on Manning by saying: "I have often thought that if Cardinal Manning had preached a Mission in East London immediately after the strike, he would have made a harvest for the Roman Catholics. He was the hero of the moment, and everybody felt that it was his religion that had made him do what he did."

Nor have we far to seek to understand the peculiar attitude of the Bishop whose heart was with the strikers, but whose head was with the directors. For from its very birth in the days of the Reformation the established Church was but part and parcel of that sinister system which then began its soulless exploitation of the peasantry and poor of England. All of its interests were wrapped up with and controlled by the class which has made possible the pitiable condition in which, since the fateful days of separation from Rome, the poorer classes of England have found themselves.

That this is the case we can deduce from the very frank admission of Canon Adlerly already quoted. Still stronger corroboration, however, we have from a voice long since forgotten, which speaks to us from the middle of the last century and tells us in quite forcible terms, though somewhat different manner the very thing our present day spokesman admits. In "English Traits" by Ralph Waldo Emerson we find many very telling observations noted while he was lecturing in England. So, for instance, he tells us in the Chapter on English Religion: "I do not know that there is more cabalism in the Anglican than in other Churches, but the Anglican clergy are identified with the aristocracy." And again "The Anglican Church is marked by the grace and good sense of its forms, by the manly glance of its clergy. The gospel it preaches is 'By taste are ye saved.' It keeps the old structures in repair, spends a world of money in music and building, and in buying Pugin and architectural literature. It has a general good name for amenity and mildness. . . . But its instinct is hostile to all change in politics, literature, or social arts. The Church has not been the founder of the London University, of the Mechanics Institute, of the Free School, of whatever aims at diffusion of knowledge."

Of the democratic status and origin of the clergy Emerson informs us that "The curates are ill paid, and the prelates are over-

paid. This abuse draws into the church the children of the nobility and other unfit persons who have a taste for expense. Thus a bishop is only a surpliced merchant. Through his lawn I can see the bright buttons of the shopman's coat glitter."

Scathing indeed is this arraignment made by one who had little reason to make propaganda for Rome. At the conclusion of the chapter already quoted Emerson goes on to say: "England accepts this ornamental national church, and it glazes the eyes, bloats the flesh, gives the voice a stertorous clang, and clouds the understanding of the receivers." "The English (and I wish it were confined to them, but 'tis a taint in the Anglo-Saxon blood in both hemispheres)—the English and the Americans cant beyond all other nations. The French relinquish all that industry to them. What is so odious as the polite bows to God, in our books—and newspapers? The popular press is flagitious in the exact measure of its sanctimony, and the religion of the day is a theatrical Sinal, where the thunders are supplied by the propertyman. The fanaticism and hypocrisy create a satire."

We cannot conclude without but touching on the beautiful tribute paid by Emerson to the Catholic Church in the days when the Anglican Establishment was yet unborn to its artificial life of pretense and untruth. "In seeing old castles and cathedrals," he writes, "I sometimes say, as today in front of Dundee Church tower, which is 800 years old, 'This was built by another and a better race than that now look on it.' . . . 'England felt the full heat of Christianity which fermented Europe, and drew, like the chemistry of fire, a firm line between barbarism and culture. The power of the religious sentiment put an end to human sacrifices, checked appetite, inspired the crusades, inspired resistance to tyrants, inspired self-respect, set bounds to serfdom and slavery, founded liberty, created the religious architecture, — York, Newstead, Westminster, etc., works to which the key is lost with the sentiment which created them.'"

Thus, out of the mouths of prophets, not of our own household, comes the meed of appreciation we ourselves often cannot give, because we know so little to understand the glories which are ours by right of inheritance from so ancient and worthy a mother.

C. B. of C. V.

Foreign Mission News

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

The little mite box can do a wonderful lot of work for the mission cause in a remarkably short time. Its little mouth is always open and takes in whatever you wish to give it. It is really marvelous how it devours nickels, dimes, quarters, and even half-dollars.

Fr. Joseph Truarrriza, Franciscan, says that North Shenai must be permitted to add its note to the great sound of lamentation that is going up from the missions. All the things said of other centres are true of this one "owing to the war." But there is one cause for rejoicing even in afflicted Shenai. The priests have opened a little seminary for native clergy, and it possesses three students. This baby among its kind will no doubt grow slowly but steadily and in time present to the world its own quota of native apostles.

FRANCISCANS IN ARIZONA

The Franciscans have long been identified with missionary work among the Indians of Arizona. The beautiful San Xavier church near Tucson, lovingly called the "White Dove of the Desert," is pointed to with pride by the faithful converts who come from far and near to visit the place, and other edifices scattered through the State show the development of religion among the tribes of that region.

Fr. Bonaventure Oblasser, O. F. M., labors in Indian Oasis, and he says of an offering recently sent by the Propagation of the Faith Society:

"My most sincere thanks for the generous gift. It will be used on our mission school at Cowlic, in order to complete some most necessary improvements. The money has helped our little seat of learning, which enables Indians to become self-supporting. Divine Providence clearly inspired the donor."

GRATITUDE FROM THE PHILIPPINES.

While letters of entreaty are numerous, those expressing sincere gratitude and explaining clearly just what our money has accomplished, come frequently. Here is one from Rev. Laurence Rogan, E. F. M., who fights various foes in the Philippine Islands.

"May the kindness of American friends be abundantly rewarded. I am pleased to be able to report real progress in my difficult mission. My church is far too small for the devout congregations that come to the Sunday Masses. The number of confessions and communions have increased greatly in the past two years. My school is well attended. Very many schismatics have returned to the True Fold.

"This part of Iloilo was formerly a stronghold of schism, and the Pseudo-Bishop lives here in the same street as myself. But grace is enlightening the souls of the poor people that were led astray, and the majority are back again. Providence will abundantly bless the good souls that so generously help us."

Catholic News Notes

Domestic. The Catholic press of California says that the new anti-Catholic society, the "Stonemen," has been organized in San Francisco.

After several weeks in St. Agnes' Hospital, Philadelphia, Bishop Garvey, of Altoona, Pa., will return to his diocese this week.

Rt. Rev. Santiago Sancho, D. D., secretary to Bishop MacGinley, of Nueva Caceres, has been appointed Bishop of Tuguegarao, Philippine Islands.

A very handsome church, in the Italian style, costing about \$75,000, will be built at Irwin, Pa.

The Georgia convent inspection law has proven such an egregious failure that the press in that State now say the law will be repealed.

In Buffalo, N. Y., a branch of the National Converts' League has been formed.

Very Rev. Charles M. Driscoll, O. S. A., rector of St. Rita's, Philadelphia, has been elected Provincial of the Augustinians, in this country, Cuba and the Philippines.

The parishioners of St. Francis Xavier's Church, Brooklyn, gave Father D. J. Hickey, a purse of \$7,000 in honor of his 40th anniversary of ordination.

A Carmelite convent costing \$200,000, as a bequest from the late sister of the late Senator Phelan, is in course of erection at Santa Clara, Cal.

Mgr. Bornemann, of Reading, Pa., has celebrated his 50th anniversary as rector of St. Paul's. Archbishop Prendergast presided.

Rev. Michael Becker, of the diocese of Cleveland, is dead at the age of 86 years.

It is stated that a citizen of Humboldt, Ia., has given \$125,000 to the pastor of the Visitation parish with which to erect a church and residence.

News From Ireland

The Carlow U. D. C. have called on the government to stop potato export, and asked the farmers to send supplies to the towns. Mr. Brennan said factors were secretly buying potatoes through the country for export purposes.

The death took place at her residence, Bridge street, Cavan, of Eleanor Caroline, wife of Patrick A. Galligan, U. D. C., merchant.

At St. Mary's church, Feakle, John Hanrahan, Ballymynogue, Scariff, was married to Helena (Nell) Duggan, Laccarow, Feakle.

Rev. James Barry, C. C. 71, whose death occurred at Middleton, was a native of Lisgoold. He held curacies at Freemount, Glaswirth, Ballycotton and Lisgoold before his retirement owing to infirmity some years ago.

Most Rev. Dr. Cahalan has appointed Rev. J. Cahley, C. C., Bandon, P. P., Driscoll, C. C., and Rev. J. McSwain, chaplain, Little Sisters' Convent, to be C. C., Bandon.

Rev. Father Cahalane, appointed C. C., Leap, has been succeeded in the management of Ballymore Fishery school by Rev. Father Lannin, C. C., Sheekin.

The staff of the Munster College, Ballingarry, for the coming session will consist of the Rev. R. O. Daly, D. D., Ph. D.; Rev. Gerald O'Nolan, M. A., B. D., professor of Irish, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth; Dr. Edmund O'Leary, Tadhg, O'Seannail N. T.; Seaghan O'Shea, N. T.; E. Chroinin, and Annie O'Reilly.

Dead.—Mrs. Mary O'Brien, Ballybrader, Ballycotton.—Mrs. Ellen O'Connell, Carriganey, Queenstown.—Mrs. Maryanne O'Donovan, Mizenan, Donagh.

M. F. O'Connell, B. A., principal of St. Patrick's N. S., Carrondagh, has been promoted to the highest grade. He is a native of Kerry.

Daniel Loughhead, for twenty-two years guard on the Donegal railway and the Strabane and Letterkenny line, has retired.

Testimonials were recently given J. P. Quinn and W. Gungling, Enniskillen, by the Humane Society.

Dr. S. F. Charles, Lishallow Dispensary, has resigned.

While attending customers in her shop in Church street, Lishtowel, Mrs. John O'Donovan was seized with a heart attack and died almost immediately.

Rev. S. Connolly, Adm., has been appointed chaplain, Limerick asylum.

James Gilligan, Limerick, fishing at Corbally, landed three salmon whose aggregate weight reached 99 pounds.

Messrs. E. Cummins, J. P., and W. F. Mullally, J. P., land commissioner, Mullinabone, have been appointed Lillige inspectors under the food production scheme.

Mr. Gleeson, outgoing chairman Tipperary G. A. A. Board, has resigned in favor of Rev. M. K. Ryan, C. C., Thurles.

At St. Bridget's church, Donaghheigh, (with nuptial Mass), by Rev. Matthew Ryan, P. P., Knockavilla, assisted by Rev. J. Murphy, C. C., New Inn, Andrew, eldest son of the late Andrew Hennessy, Knockgraffon, Cahir, was married to Mary, eldest daughter of James O'Dwyer, Curraghpoor, Tipperary.

The following deaths have occurred: At Ballagh, Banah, Tipperary, Edmond Quinn, N. T.—At Clonee, Fethard, Mrs. Cahill, aged 108 years.

Waterford County Council have elected Thomas Boyle their accountant, in the room of his late father, who held the position for many years.