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A Woman's Way.

At his desk, writing slowly and with difficulty, sat Jason Ray. He looked old, and worn, and sad. The room was rather scantily furnished, but it still gave evidence of a former prosperity, which was confirmed by something in the appearance of its occupants. Mr. Ray had indeed been a successful business man in a thriving town of Westfield, which still preferred the real distinction of remaining one of the largest towns in the state to the doubtful honor of becoming a small city. He had retired from business five years before with what he supposed to be ample means; but since that time he had been one whom "Unmerciful disaster Followed fast and followed faster," until now he was reduced to absolute poverty. "What are you writing, Jason?" asked his wife, who sat plating her needle by the stove. The old man kept at his task for a moment longer; then he laid down his pen, and turned slowly in his chair. "It's a letter to the selectmen," he answered. Then, seeing the startled look in her eyes, he said, gently, "I will read it to you and then tear it up if you say so. But you know how it is with us. We shall owe no one after everything is settled, but we shall have hardly fifty dollars in the world. With my rheumatic arms and legs, I cannot earn enough for our support. I really see but one thing to do, Mary."

He hesitated, and then, turning to the other selectmen said: "Do you mind my telling Miss Winn? She can be trusted, besides, it will be known to everyone soon. Well, Mr. Jason Ray has written—or, here you may read it yourself." Miss Winn adjusted her eyeglasses. "Why, I can hardly make it out," she said, as she glanced over the letter. "The old gentleman certainly does write a wretched hand. It seems to be an application—"

MEXICO

By Eber Cole Byam Part III.

HUMAN SACRIFICE AND CANNIBALISM. For the Aztec confederacy especially war was a means of subsistence, for by it they obtained not only a generous supply of food and clothing, but also forced labor for whatever service might be required. In addition, war was for all the tribes of Mexico a religious duty, for thereby they obtained the supply of victims for sacrifice to their numerous deities whose spiritual existence was dependent upon the constant flow of human blood upon their altars. Incidentally, the meat of the victims' bodies served to please the palates of the victors, for the Mexican Indians were cannibals. Not all the tribes enjoyed the abundant feasts of the allies of the Valley. It is recorded that in 1487, at the dedication of the great temple in the island city of Tenochtitlan, to which all the surrounding tribes were invited, twenty thousand men were sacrificed in a four-day carnival of killing. It has been estimated that the deaths by sacrifice in ancient Mexico far outnumbered all the deaths from all other causes combined. That men were killed and eaten was not enough. The Indian delight in the physical suffering of his enemy has been described at length in American stories of the frontier and earlier colonial days, where the savage tribes of the forest compelled their victims to undergo frightful tortures before being burned at the stake. Amongst the Mexican Indians these tortures were systematized into religious ceremonies in which each deity was distinguished by some particular detail different from the rest. One cheerful preliminary consisted in decorating the victim with black speckles made by dropping melted and burning rubber on his naked body. The usual method of sacrifice was to chop open the victim and tear his beating heart from his living body. Victims offered to the God of Fire were bound and thrown into a bonfire, where they were allowed to become well roasted, and were then raked out before life was extinct and their hearts torn out. Some of the victims were flayed and their skins worn by certain individuals, who were looked upon as especially holy men while encased in these envelopes of hideous corruption.

NEWS FROM IRELAND

Dr. Michael McCarthy, son of J. D. McCarthy, clerk of the Crown and Peace, Carlow, has passed his final medical examination.

Miss J. Kirwan, Carlow (Sister M. Alphonsine), has been received into the order of the Faithful Companions of Jesus, Newtownbarry, County Wexford.

Rev. Father E. A. Byrne, son of J. Byrne, Abbey View, Ennis, was presented with a cheque for £58 on his transfer from St. Joseph's, Longsight, Manchester, to St. Anne's, Stretford.

John Cashman, Knockraha, Glanmire, has been received into the Congregation of the Brothers of Charity, taking in religion the name of Brother Kieran.

While Michael Doyle, aged 12, was practicing an Irish jig for a coming entertainment at the Christian Brothers' schools, Middleton, he collapsed and expired.

D. Young, C. P. S., Newtownards, has been elected clerk of the Comber district.

The Down Committee of Agriculture has been notified that £10,000 has been bequeathed to Queen's college, Belfast, to be invested as a "Gibson Scholarship Fund" for the encouragement of agriculture in the county.

"Death from drowning" was the verdict at the inquest on Michael Hanrahan, teacher, Meath street school, Dublin, whose body was found in the Liffey.

Seriff fair was not held this month owing to the impassable condition of the roads.

The late Captain M. J. Collins Sandes, Tralee, killed in action, left estate valued at £45,102.

Michael P. Stack, N. T., Balindine, son of the late Robert Stack, Knockanure, Listowel, died suddenly a short time ago.

Rev. Father Hipwell, C.C., has resigned his membership of the Naas Gaelic football club.

John F. Manning, 91 Cavendish Street, Belfast, who died recently, was a nephew of Very Rev. Canon Manning, Cloghan, King's county.

Robert Craynor, 42, clerk, Limerick prison, died suddenly in his home.

Dr. C. McDonnell has been unanimously elected ophthalmic surgeon to the Limerick Union.

After forty-two years as a teacher, F. Byrne, principal St. Malachy's N. S., Dundalk, has retired on pension, being succeeded by J. Martin, his chief assistant.

The death took place at 3 Thomas place, Dolphin's Barn, of Kate, relict of the late James Little, late of Drogheda.

A price at the rate of 127 years purchase was realized for a farm near Kiltimagh; sold by P. J. Killeen, auctioneer, Claremorris.

Foreign Mission News

Special correspondence by The Propagation of the Faith Society 338 Lexington Ave., New York City.

"To save souls" is an expression often on the lips of many people, but how few give a thought to all that lies hidden in those words! To save a life is an act of heroism which wins the admiration of every man. The saving of an immortal soul often passes unnoticed in the world.

"By the help of Divine Grace our mission continues to gain souls for the Faith. The Chinese no longer feel their former antipathy for our religion and conversions are correspondingly easy and more numerous. The lack of schools is the only impediment we meet in our work." This is the expression of Bishop P. Dumond, of Tientsin, and it agrees with the testimony of all the bishops of China. Money only and not good-will is lacking in this part of the East.

RECENT NEWS FROM THE NORTH.

In the few and simple words with which missionaries clothe the accounts of their heroic deeds, Bishop Charlebois, O. M. I., of Kewatin, up near the Arctic circle, tells the story of a recent trip through the wilderness:

"I have just got back to LePas after an apostolic journey of three hundred miles made on snow shoes and by dog teams. Many nights I spent in a snow-bank or rather in a hole dug out of a snow bank with the stars over me. I am still rather weak from fatigue, but this will soon pass and there will remain only the consolation of having accomplished my duty and of having comforted my dear Indians. Some of them had not seen a priest for a year and you can imagine their joy at receiving a visit from 'The Great Chief of Prayer.'"

ANOTHER GOOD USE FOR TWENTY DOLLARS.

The malarial fever season in India and Ceylon is a trying one, not only for the European, who is almost sure to succumb, but to the natives as well, who, weak and poorly nourished, die in numbers.

Fr. Francis, O. M. I., has been sent to Adampan, Ceylon, which he says is well known as a fatal spot. Several priests have died there or been incapacitated. The natives who have become Christians like to have the rites of the Church when very sick, and they send for Fr. Francis. His needs in this direction are best voiced in his own words:

"Last Thursday a sick man came at half-past ten. My poor bull has rheumatism. I could not hire a cart near. The way was long and painful. He did his best and I managed to reach the place by one o'clock. By that time the patient had gone to meet her Maker. Sick calls are frequent now, and they will continue to be so until summer, and I have about forty villages to visit. The offerings I get here can hardly suffice to meet my ordinary living expenses. To tell the truth I am really in need of another bull to draw my poor cart so that I can make calls that are of some value. I can buy the animal I require for twenty dollars, and how much good can then be accomplished for the sick and doing. I feel sure someone will send me this amount."

In a sermon in his Cathedral at Scranton, Bishop O'Connor praised the work of the American Red Cross and urged his diocessans as Catholics, now that the Red Cross is directed by the Government, to become members of it.

A Wonderful Showing

Of Crucifixes, in gold, silver and bronze, with ebony or walnut Cross, priced as low as \$3, at the Henry Oemisch Co., 56 East Ave. —Adv.

Bring us your Job Printing.

AGAIN THE POOR REMEMBER THE MISSIONS.

The touching letters that reach the S. P. F. officers are innumerable. Now it is an orphan child who sends her little Christmas gift "to some poor missionary," now a working man who walks to the shop in order to put his carfare in the mite box; now a group of boys denying themselves candy or toys and proudly forwarding an offering to buy a Chinese baby. Another communication of the same nature has been received through the Pastor of St. Augustine's Church, Washington, D. C., revealing stern self-denial on the part of the generous giver:

"Enclosed you will find check for \$40, which I have been requested to forward to you by a member of the Sodality of the B. V. M. She wishes to be enrolled as a perpetual member of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

I feel that you will appreciate this contribution to your noble work all the more when I tell you that the donor is a poor, hard-working colored woman, and that it represents a sacrifice on her part. At the same time I can assure you that it is given very cheerfully."

In Milwaukee are 64,816 in-Germany-born citizens; 11,553 in-Austria-born; 5,571 in-Hungary-born. In Poland-born are about 100,000. Native-born number about 112,026.

Rosary and Rosary Cases in gold or silver, with gold, silver or stone mounted Rosaries, \$2.50 to \$80, at the Henry Oemisch Co., 56 East Ave.—Adv.

MISPLACED SYMPATHIES.

The sympathy of modern "humanitarians" expressed for the destruction of these fetid Mexican temples and hideous idols besmeared with coagulated blood, is much misplaced, because the Mexican Indians seem to have had little regard for temples or images as such. Their forays upon each other were murderously destructive, and the temple, because of its elevated position, was the last rallying point of the defenders, and consequently the point where the combat reached

GAELIC ASSOCIATION CLOSSES SEASON

The closing session of the Gaelic Literary and Musical Association at the "Fitzhugh" on last Friday evening was largely attended and was one of the most enjoyable events of the season.

President D. C. Ryan who, owing to domestic bereavement, was absent for the past few months, was warmly applauded on his reappearance among the members. He addressed a few well timed remarks to the Association, congratulating the success achieved during the past season and thanking the members for the many expressions of sympathy in his recent affliction.

After enjoying a selection of Irish reels, quadrilles and a few of the American dances by way of variety the merry company adjourned until next October, when they will open another season at the Fitzhugh.

A college of the Dominican Order is to be established at Providence, R. I.

Of all the Bishops constituting the large ecclesiastical Province of Cincinnati this year thirty years ago, but one survives—the venerable Dr. Chatard, of Indianapolis.

For the European war sufferers, the diocese of Davenport, Ia., recently took up a collection resulting in \$3,112.

The late Pontiff Pope Pius X. created Mrs. Penfield, a Catholic lady of Philadelphia and wife of the Ambassador to Austria, a Marchioness. The Marchesa is the daughter of the late Walter Weightman, and is said by the press to be the wealthiest lady in America.

There is now printed in Berlin a daily newspaper in modern Greek.

The Australian Catholic Truth Society reports that, during the year, 92,500 pamphlets have been published and 10,000 assorted booklets added from other truth societies.

In Holland the necessities of life have increased in cost between fifty and sixty per cent. Bread cards are issued.

In Rome, St. Patrick's Day, this year, was celebrated in the new church dedicated to him, in St. Isidore's Church, and in the Irish College.

He hesitated, and then, turning to the other selectmen said: "Do you mind my telling Miss Winn? She can be trusted, besides, it will be known to everyone soon. Well, Mr. Jason Ray has written—or, here you may read it yourself."

Miss Winn adjusted her eyeglasses. "Why, I can hardly make it out," she said, as she glanced over the letter. "The old gentleman certainly does write a wretched hand. It seems to be an application—"

She stopped suddenly, and stared at the selectmen with a look of both wonder and reproach in her eyes.

"Do you mean to tell me," she said, slowly, "that Jason Ray has asked you to let him into the poor—into the Municipal Home? Well, I don't wonder you looked ashamed! After all that that good, generous man has been to this town!"

"But my dear Miss Winn," said Mr. Talbot, "we are not to blame. No one is to blame. I happen to know that Mr. Ray has refused financial aid on the ground that he could not repay it. He is really a proud man, and I suppose he prefers—"

"Yes, I know," interrupted Miss Winn. "I don't say that its any disgrace to Jason Ray or to poor dear Mrs. Ray to go to the Municipal Home; but I do say that it will be a burning shame to this town to let them go there. It is the duty of you gentlemen to prevent their becoming paupers."

To be continued.