

The Gift Horses

Continued from last week.

"When she was telling this to me, Marigold came in. Polly, she looked so lovely! She was paler and thinner than when she first arrived in Deersfield, but it only added to her attractiveness. Almost angrily I noted that Jean, with her renewed rosy health and sturdy strength, appeared a little hoydenish beside the visitor.

"Jean repeated what she had said and Marigold listened eagerly.

"I have never been in a convent," she remarked when Jean had finished.

"In the sudden silence that followed, Jean's gray eyes met mine in a quick, pregnant glance.

"It must be very beautiful," Marigold resumed, "living with God."

"I watched Jean intently. This room had become a tremendous battleground, my dear.

"Marigold sat absorbed, her golden-brown eyes fixed on some sweet vision.

"I shall pray for you," Jean said at last.

"But how well I could pray for myself in such a place, dear Jean!"

"Jean struggled hard to reply. I said nothing. I did not even pray, Heaven was watching, as was I.

"Would you care to go in my place?"

"Ah!"

"Marigold flung herself forward. Jean! May I?"

"If Sister Rose will permit, and I think she will."

"It was a splendid victory! I was proud of Jean Macgregor. I can tell you, Polly. Ronald had not loved a girl of little worth."

"When the first week of Advent came, Marigold left—a radiant Marigold with eyes, wistful in their vision. After her departure Jean was slower in visiting me. Tom's frequent calls kept her away.

"Tom was changing, Polly. Just as I knew, Marigold was not the mate for him and he, at last, was realizing it. He clung to me pathetically; and although he said not a word I knew what he was undergoing. Oh, Polly, why aren't men born with sufficient instinct?"

"When we heard from Marigold she told me of a slight illness threatening her. This frightened me and I ceased praying. Wasn't it silly for me, my dear? But I am so humanly frail! Then, with things dark as they were—Tom's predicament, Marigold's illness, and my fear of prayer—Jean suddenly sprang a surprise. She was thinking of entering the convent! It was the last straw. I ordered her home, saying that Heaven was arranging things for her! I was naughty, Polly! But I was so confused!

"And right after she left—the astonished and speechless—the little Sisters came to beg horses! Their mule was a cross that had grown to be a detriment. Would I help them to find a horse or two? Would I? My dear, I promised them I would. Heaven cannot be bribed, of course, but at that moment I offered my beautiful 'Lively' and 'Step-Lively' as a gift for the gift I was asking. Dear Ronald's pet! Love, it was hard—hard. You know what kind of horses they are.

"Last week finished our little drama. Marigold came home, a baptized Catholic. I heard the news through Jean, who telephoned me. Oh, how the happiness in her voice strove to subdue its misery! I was helpless—glad, Polly, but terrified for Jean and Tom.

"Then Marigold rushed in upon me, a more beautiful Marigold than I had ever seen. Again I was beseeching for help. Would I go to Tom and discover whether he would mind a great deal if—if she were to break the engagement?"

"Polly, love! She had heard and heeded the sweetest of calls. The convent life was her final choice.

"The rest is of small consequence. You will receive Jean's invitation to her marriage soon,

and some day next week we will visit St. Mary's and there you will meet Marigold. Isn't it all lovely?" Aunt Faith smiled eagerly. It was, but I could not say so. "It deserves a better recital, my dear. These are just the facts. Perhaps, though, you can imagine all that happened. And wasn't Heaven good to me? Oh, wasn't it?"

For the second time I merely nodded.

"Dear Ronald," murmured Aunt Faith tenderly, "Tomorrow we will miss him most, I know. How grieved I am that I am denied the possession of his body! My love, he never would have wished to lie in any other place than on the hills near Deersfield. Still—he knows better now. I am content."

Despite myself I began to cry. Aunt Faith rose and kissed me. "A pretty way to treat a guest, making her cry! Now we must rest awhile, love. Midnight is not far distant."

"I can't see how you, yourself, benefited any, Aunt Faith."

"Dear, I know—Ronald is happier. Is that not enough? And then Tom and Jean's happiness, and Heaven and earth richer for another worker in the vineyard. Oh, is not all of this enough? You are thinking of the horses, love! Yes, I think of them, too, but often just to laugh; for if Ronald could see that fat, old mule of our sand poor Hoskin's scandalized face he, too, would laugh. And, my dear, I was always very selfish when Ronald's enjoyment was concerned!"—Mary H. Kennedy, in *The Magnificat*.

Foreign Mission News

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

The great St. Teresa, Foundress of the Carmelite Sisters, wanted to be a foreign missionary and labor in the Celestial Kingdom, but God assured her that Europe was her China. She was a missionary at heart, and so frequent, so fervent were her petitions for the conversion of the heathen that she obtained the grace of Baptism for thousands of them. This was revealed to her before her death.

Bishop Streicher, Ap. M., has a serious task before him in making the pastoral tour of his vast Uganda district. He says in his latest letter that he has now been five months on one of these journeys, passing half the time in the jungle, and the other half bestowing the means of salvation on neophytes and encouraging missionaries. The trials of the past three years make apostolic work harder than ever, for as the proverb truly says: "A hungry stomach has no ears." However, Uganda offers no grounds for discouragement with its 152,000 baptized Christians and the number constantly growing.

Spanish Dominicans On Their Way To Philippines.

A party of six Spanish Dominican priests are now in this country. They are on their way to the Philippines, where they are to take up work. The party is made up of the Rev. Ricardo M. Vaqueiro, Ph. D., D. D., rector of the monastery of Avila, Spain, and formerly president of the University of St. Thomas, Manila; the Rev. Roque Ruana, Ph. D., C. E., superior of the monastery at Ponchatoula, La.; the Rev. Jose Garcia, D. D., formerly vice-president of St. Thomas University; the Rev. Felipe Zavala, professor of natural history at Avila; the Rev. Jenaro Perez, ex-president of the college of Tequeguas, P. I., and the Rev. Julian Silva, master of novices at Ponchatoula, La.

An Interesting Centre Of Christianity.

The third century of the establishing of the Faith in Hangchow was recently celebrated. Bishop Faveau, C. M., writing of this happy event, says that the Church in Hangchow from 1611 until the end of the 17th century was the most flourishing of all China.

Then came the persecutions of the 18th century, which completely wiped out almost every vestige of the Faith. When Bishop Delaplace began his work in 1860, taking possession of a church that had been converted into a pagoda, he found in all West Che Kiang only two small stations, counting in each about four or five hundred Christians.

The work of reconstruction has been slow and painful, but a thousand conversions have been made every year. The bones of the ancient missionaries repose in a large cave near Hangchow, and no doubt these heroic apostles intercede for their companions on earth.

A Notable Of Japan Becomes a Catholic.

Bishop Combar, of Nagasaki, feels justly proud of a new conversion in his diocese.

"The great event of the year for this congregation," he says, "was the baptism of Mr. Ono, professor of higher mathematics in the upper lyceum of the city and the former collaborator of Fr. Raguet in editing the French-Japanese Dictionary. His family has long been Catholic, but he, although persuaded of the truth of our holy religion, was putting off until later the reception of baptism, confining himself to a regular attendance at Mass. On feast days, at the request of Fr. Cavaignac, he used to entertain the Christians by his agreeable talks,

full of ingeniously deduced instruction. Moreover, he loved to explain to them the Gospel, which was his favorite book. Thus he presented the anomaly of a pagan who instructed Christians in the way of salvation and who did not follow it himself, like a signpost perpetually fixed by the wayside. Finally grace overcame his resistance, and Fr. Raguet baptized him under the name of Paul. He will be a pillar to the little congregation at Kagoshima."

K. of C. War Fund Arouses Great Interest.

The ringing appeal sent out by the Supreme Officers of the Knights of Columbus in behalf of the Order's \$1,000,000 War Camp Fund for the moral and social welfare of the Catholic men of America's new armies has received a cordial response from Catholics throughout the country. Leaders of the Hierarchy and the laity are one in their praise of the latest work undertaken by the nation's foremost Order of Catholic men. The prompt recognition of the Knights of Columbus by the War Department as the official agency of all relief work for Catholic soldiers, just as the Y. M. C. A. is recognized as the official medium for relief work among non-Catholic soldiers, has created a profound impression among millions of Catholics who had hoped and prayed that this recognition would be forthcoming, and who knew that the Knights of Columbus, by virtue of its achievements for the troops at the Mexican border, was splendidly organized and equipped to carry through this newer and far greater work to a success that will rebound to the honor of American Catholicity.

His Excellency Monsignor John Bonzano, the Apostolic Delegate, expressed the general sentiment of American Catholics when he said that the work aroused his high admiration; and Cardinal Gibbons, in a letter to District Deputy Frederick Ulrich of Baltimore, expressed in glowing and convincing terms his endorsement of the project.

"The timely and handsome patriotic gift of one million dollars to build recreation halls for the soldiers at the sixteen cantonment camps deserves gratitude, from half a million fathers and mothers, and from a hundred million Americans." His Eminence writes "The Knights of Columbus do things, and it is my pleasant duty to both thank you and wish you the most hearty cooperation from not only your four hundred thousand Knights, but also from our eighteen million admiring American Catholics.

"Soon we shall have one hundred and eighty-one Catholic Chaplains in the U. S. Armies, where over a third of the soldiers are said to be Catholics. And hence your noble gift of a million dollars to furnish decent places for these splendid young American Catholic soldiers to hear Mass and receive the Sacraments and other consolations of our holy faith, should forever stamp the Knights of Columbus as men of practical forthright, timely patriotism and true Christian charity.

"May God bless the Knights and this superb work! "God wills it."

Cardinals Farley and O'Connell, and Archbishops and Bishops of Dioceses everywhere have hastened to endorse the work in the heartiest terms in personal and pastoral letters, and have contributed liberally to the War Camp Fund, thus setting a high and practical example for the Catholics in their parishes. Individual pastors have not only contributed to the Fund, but have taken special collections among their parishioners in its behalf.

There is no doubt from the general chorus of praise and approval heard on all sides, and particularly from the generous and public editorial comment bestowed upon the work by the leading Catholic papers, that the K. of C. war relief work is regarded as the paramount Catholic undertaking in America at the present hour.

As one editor put it: "For once a Catholic organization is able to enter a field of service on absolutely even terms with its Protestant competitor in the same field." With the official recognition from the Government, the Knights of Columbus work goes beyond the bounds of a merely fraternal undertaking and becomes in fact, the standard before the world of American Catholicity's charitable endeavor in this greatest of American wars.

Since the drawing for the national army was held there in the United States that has not been affected; there is hardly a Catholic man or woman who has not a brother, son or friend enlisted in the ranks of the nation's defenders. And these Catholic fathers and mothers and sisters and brothers will rejoice that a great Catholic organization has been officially designated to care for Catholic soldiers, not only by the erection and maintenance of recreation centers at the sixteen great cantonments where the new armies will train, but in the more important work of providing for the spiritual welfare of the men.

By a recent ruling there will be 181 Catholic Chaplains appointed to the American armies, approximately a third of the total of Chaplains; but as the number of Catholic troops is conservatively estimated as well over one third of the total of enlisted men, the need for additional Chaplains to those authorized by the War Department is apparent. The Knights of Columbus \$1,000,000 War Fund will provide for these additional Chaplains, will make it possible for many thousands of Catholic soldiers training to fight and, if need be, die for their country, to hear Holy Mass and receive the Sacraments regularly during their period of training; and, beyond all else, will provide Chaplains for the American Catholic soldiers in the trenches of Europe so that on the eve of battle there will not be a Catholic fighting man lacking the consolations of his faith when these are most vitally needed.

That a work of this truly beneficent and patriotic character merits the approval of every loyal citizen, goes without saying, and that it should receive the enthusiastic support of every Catholic in this country is imperative for its success.

Reports from State and District Deputies throughout every State in the Union give great encouragement, and the Councils everywhere have taken a keen and active interest in the raising of the Fund so that the special campaign week of July 22-28 should, when the returns are finally tabulated, show an imposing amount of contributions from Catholic people who have at heart the urgent needs of our Catholic soldiers.

John D. Crimmins, prominent Catholic business man of New York, donated \$1,000 to the Fund immediately on hearing its purpose, and promised further contributions of \$500 per year for the duration of the work. J. K. Mullen, of Denver, donated \$500. President King of the Catholic Club, New York, and prominent Catholic priests and men and women in all walks of life are giving to the Fund.

The sum of \$1,000,000 is a large one; but the Knights have every confidence that it will be raised soon, as the Catholics of dozens of cities and towns have indicated through the Grand Knights of local Councils, that they will contribute more than the quota of the Fund allotted to them. It remains for every Catholic man, woman and child to contribute promptly to this distinctly Catholic work that bears the fullest endorsement of the civil and ecclesiastical authorities.

The Knights of Columbus Committee on War Camp Activities, with headquarters at Washington, D. C., is working night and day upon the Order's plans. Contributions given now to the Fund will be twice given, in effect. All donations sent to the Supreme Secretary, K. of C., New Haven Conn., or to the local Council, will be promptly acknowledged,

Late News of Ireland

At Wicklow County Council P. J. Foley, Leighlin Bridge, Carlow, was appointed assistant surveyor for the county by 16 votes to 5 for M. W. Doran, Cork, 2 for V. Pansing, Wicklow, and 1 for C. R. Walshe, Monkstown. There were 22 applicants.

Died—At her residence, 66 Tullow street, Carlow, Mary, relict of the late Michael Foley. At her residence, Ballybaun, Tullow, Carlow, Sarah, wife of the late Michael Dempsey.

Rev. J. Scanlon, P. P., presiding at a Sinn Fein meeting at Barend, Ennis, said that to follow the example of South Longford and North Roscommon in East Clare was worth 10,000 speeches in the House of Commons.

Louis Leary, boatman, Glengarriffe, was drowned by the capsizing of his boat in a squall.

John Donovan, Mourne Abbey, has been elected master of the Mallow workhouse.

Derry Diocesan Catholic Friendly society tendered an expression of heartfelt sympathy to Rev. P. Kerlin, C. C., Magilligan, and Rev. C. H. Kerlin, C. C., Derry, on the death of their father, Philip Kerlin, J. P., Garvagh.

At a large gathering of citizens of Derry a notable tribute was paid to Rev. William Doberty, P. P., on the occasion of his departure to take up the pastoral charge of Buncrana.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe, has made the following appointments: Rev. H. Kerr, P. P., Gweedore, Canon of the Chapter; Rev. C. Cunningham, C. C., Glenties, made P. P.; Glenties; Rev. J. Coyle, appointed C. C., Tory Island.

At Ederney church, by Very Rev. Father Fitzpatrick, P. P., with nuptial Mass, Francis E. Duffy, eldest son of Patrick Duffy, Ramelton, Donegal, was married to Ellen Christina (Ellie), daughter of the late Andrew Brennan, merchant, Pettigo.

Robert Moore, stationmaster, Warrenpoint, has been transferred to Goraghowood, County Armagh.

At the Catholic church, Dundrum, by the Rev. L. Duff, C. C., Patrick (P. J.) Fitzpatrick, Kilkenny, was married to Leticia Jane (Baby), daughter of the late Hugh McCann, merchant, Dundrum.

Very Rev. J. H. O'Donnell, P. P., Ballybrack, has been presented with a beautiful silver chalice by the people of Shankill district. It is of Gothic design and exquisite workmanship.

The death occurred at Oakview, Trales, of Lionel John Jermyn, sub-agent of the Provincial bank, Trales, aged 45 years. He was a native of Caherdaniel.

The profession has taken place in the Order of the Little Sisters of the Assumption in Paris of Miss Mary Clare O'Hanrahan (in religion Sister Mary Kieran), second daughter of Peter and the late Mrs. O'Hanrahan, Kiljames House, Thomastown.

At the Limerick Liberties Petty Sessions, Michael Brien was fined £2 for having, as alleged, caught a trout in the Mulcaire River, a tributary of the Shannon.

At Dundalk Quarter Sessions a vote of sympathy was passed on the death of M. Moloney, solicitor.

Right Rev. Monsignor Flavin and T. Duggan, chairman N. Tipperary Co. C., have been elected chairman and vice-chairman of Clonmel Lunatic asylum.

Died—Mrs. Ethel Mills, Curraghawn House, Nenagh, widow of the late A. H. Mills.