

## Rose Of The Cross.

BY E. M. MCCARTHY

[Continued from last week]

"I know he loves Margaret; but you will be careful; I do not wish you in any way to have any disagreeableness."

"Will Cameron, I am going simply for Margaret's sake, but she does not know it. She would not permit it I am sure. John is suffering even more than she is."

Will caught her to his heart and said: "Well, well, you are an angel of brightness!"

When Mary and her cousin, Tom Chesterfield, arrived at their friends home the day before the wedding, Mary was very anxious to see John Requa, and as it was only across the lawn, she said, "we will run in just a few moments, as John has been so ill. It is the proper thing, you know, Tom." She found that John had changed very much since she saw him last, but the sadness about him touched her deeply.

He shook her hand warmly, saying, "I am glad to see you, Sunshine." Did he want to ask her of Margaret? Yes, his eyes told her. "Oh, if I could talk to you alone," but he was in doubt. Mary read his very soul, and in her bright way she said, "we will run in to-morrow after the sublime ceremony."

They did have a few minutes alone the next day. Mary went to the music room and John followed her. "Just a little word, Sunshine," he said, "how is Margaret?"

Mary placed her finger on his lips and said: "why don't you write to her?"

"What do you mean, Mary?"

"Just what I say."

"Merciful heavens," he exclaimed, "why I have written several times since I have been up and twice before I was taken ill."

"Well, she has done the same, and has never received one of your letters."

"Oh, the darling girl. I'll find out from every servant in this house."

"Now, John, promise me that you will do and say nothing to anyone until we come to stay; and stoop down and I will tell you a pretty secret. The sweetest girl in all the world loves you and feels that there is some mistake; now keep your promise. I'm going to help you and that saint to be happy. Whatever is wrong John, God will make right, if we ask Him. I never pray for Mary, but I will to night. I hardly know how to pray." Mary said: "Just tell our Heavenly Father the feelings of your heart, and ask Him in the name of His Divine Son to make all these things straight, and He will. Good-bye, now, we are coming to-morrow, you know."

John could not understand what became of his letters and Margaret's, "but I have promised Sunshine" he thought, "and I can't wait for a few hours more. Then into Victoria's room now, you will a deep, religious feeling came over him: "My God, I thank Thee for this great news of the girl I love. Teach me to love Thee and yours, Sally can read well."

Was it Margaret's prayers and the sufferings Jesus sent to bring him to Himself? Jesus lets us carry a cross sometimes to follow Him more closely, as did His Blessed Mother. No mother ever suffered so much as she who was always under the shadow of the cross until the last breath of her Divine Son on the Cross for our salvation. "Stabat Mater!" Well, could she say, "Oh, all ye who pass by the way, look and see if any sorrow is like unto mine." The sweet Rose of the Cross, the mystical flower!

The next day Mary and her cousin went to the Requa's for the week-end. A great change had come over John. He seemed to gain new strength every day. He had received two letters from Margaret directed to Mary. His heart was beating high with anticipation for he was going back with his friends. One morning he had a talk with Mary. His sister and the others had gone for a drive. "Now, Sunshine," he said "I must investigate this affair. I

have kept my promise to you, but for my own honor and Margaret's I must find out the source of this trouble." Mary looked sad. She did not want to save him from the sorrow she knew he must endure. He, of course, would ask the mailman and then the investigation would bring disgrace upon the guilty person. The mail carrier had given all the mail to Victoria's maid, who was obliged to give it all to her. The best way out was to tell it all to him, and better still, to let him know where he could find it.

When Mary first came there the first diplomatic stroke she made was to get in favor with Victoria's maid, Sally, who was a good girl and felt so sorry for "Marse John's." She was many times on the point of telling him, but when she thought of the terrible temper of Miss Victoria, she did not have the courage, and Mary made her many presents, such as bright ribbons, and one morning she gave her a pretty new dress. Sally never had any good, but you have an erasing so beautiful in her life. This was Mary's time. She began by saying, "I am so sorry for Mr. Requa. He has some great trouble and I do wish I could help him."

That was enough. Sally came up close to her, saying, in a low tone, "I've mos' powerful sorry for Marse John. It isn't his pretty gal's letters are in Miss Victoria's room, 'cause sometimes when she's in a dreadful hurry, she forgets to look that yere drawer, and (in a little lower voice) I-I just wish I dare get 'em and give 'em all to him, the pore dear."

"Why, Sally, what do you mean?"

"Sho, Miss Mary, don't speak so loud. Miss Victoria might jus' come and hear us."

"Why, Sally, you would make a great wrong right if you could get those letters."

"O, Lawd of mercy, Miss Mary, she would jus' skin me alive and then discharge me, and I sea pore gal—all my pore ole Mammy's got. I jus' sawn in her room that yere drawer was left open. If Marse John could just go in now he could see 'em all hisself."

"A bright thought!" And Mary was wondering how she would approach the subject to John, when he called her, asking her if she would come to the music room. "I will come right away," she replied. When he began telling her he must investigate she felt she must tell him at once. She thought to protect the honor of his home, he must not make it public, so she said to him, "John, you are right, a proper investigation you should make. I came here to make two hearts happy, as I felt, in my soul some mistake had been made, and what I feel it my duty to tell you now is to prevent publicity. I discovered that Sally, the maid, has been very sorry for you and especially since you have been up and anxiously scanning the mail for news from the girl you love. She has just confessed to me and told me that if you go into Victoria's room now, you will find the drawer open which contains all your letters and Margaret's. I am sure they are all love. Teach me to love Thee and yours, Sally can read well."

"By heavens, Mary, my sister or not, if guilty of this atrocious deed, she shall suffer." He was in a rage and was hurrying to Victoria's room. Mary said to him, "John, just a moment, remember you must forget the wrong done to you, to save others. I do not wish any unpleasantness."

He saw in a moment what she meant. To have this made public would be very embarrassing. "Yes, yes, you are right, little Sunshine, I will be merciful and keep this quiet." He hurried to Victoria's room and in a few moments found all his and Margaret's letters. He almost devoured them. As he read the last one, tears ran down his cheeks, when she said she had wronged him and would love him more and more now. All he could say was, "Thank God, thank God!"

As he turned his sister was coming in the door, and in her haughty manner exclaimed, "why John, what are you doing here?" He gave her a look she never forgot, and when he could

control himself he held all the letters up. "It was fortunate for me I did come here," he said. One glance and she lost all her haughtiness. She moaned, "John, oh! my brother, I did wish to save you from marrying Margaret. I wanted you to marry a title, with distinction; with your wealth you could and hold up the Requa name. You know that was the dream of Mother's life."

"Hush," he cried, "you do not realize what you have done, or what you might have done, only for this providential discovery. He thought that she must believe it was an accident which brought him there. "You came near wrecking two lives. I suppose you would like me to be like that nonentity that is dangling after your money. Marry him, if you wish, with an empty title of 'Sir', and an empty purse and an empty head, and a heart that is like a stone, only worse. You no longer doubt thought you were doing new dress. Sally never had any good, but you have an erasing so beautiful in her life. This was Mary's time. She began by saying, "I am so sorry for Mr. Requa. He has some great trouble and I do wish I could help him."

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## Late News of Ireland

Carlow.

Carlow U. C. and Ardee Guardians (moved by J. Maguire and seconded by Mr. Caragher, J. P.), have adopted the Anti-Conscription Protest, Bagnalstown Magistrate recently adjourned the P. Sessions Court (Mr. Ryan, R. M., presiding), as a similar protest.

Married—April 17, at St. Andrew's R.C. Church, Bagnalstown William Black, stationmaster at Shankhill, son of William Black, Clologue, Camolin, to Ellie, daughter of Peter Byrne, Ballyloughham, Bagnalstown.—At Pro-Cathedral, Dublin, John Joseph, second son of the late James Bolger, Carlow, to Josephine Mary McWhey, Carlow.

Died—April 26, at Tullow, Mary A., daughter of the late Patrick Trenor, formerly of Stephen's Green, Dublin.

Carlow.

After twenty-one years' service, F. M. Gormley has resigned the Master-ship of the Fermoy Workhouse, owing to ill-health. Fermoy U. C. expressed sympathy with Rev. W. Walsh, C. C., Conna, recently stationed at Fermoy as C. F., on the death of his mother, Mrs. Walsh, Glanworth.

Residents of Baltimore district have arranged to present an address to Archdeacon Becher on his transfer to Berehaven.

Married—April 20, John F., only son of John O'Dwyer, Kilmabock, John O'Donnell, Interment at Emlygrennan.

The many friends of H. G. Gick, Royal Bank of Ireland, Kingstown, presented him with a piece of plate and a check for over £100 on his promotion to the management of the O'Connell street branch.

In the week ended April 25, 13,405 pigs were killed in Ireland, against 19,438 in the corresponding week of 1917. For the same weeks, the pig exports were 686 and 8,776, respectively.

Carlow.

At Tralee Quarter Sessions Judge Dromgoole paid a high tribute to the late C. Downing, solicitor.

Listowel Guardians and R. D. C. adjourned as a tribute to the late M. J. O'Sullivan, Ballyduff.

Married—April 17, at St. Mary's, Dingle, by Very Rev. Canon O'Leary, D.D., V.F., Patrick C. O'Donnell, M. B., Dingle, son of late Maurice O'Donnell, Cork, to Margaret, daughter of Maurice Neligan, Strand, Dingle.

Limerick County Council have appointed Most Rev. Dr. Hallinan of the University Scholarships Committee.

Died—At Convent of Marie Reparatrice, Sinay-Wass, Belgium, Mother Mary of the Seven Dolours, daughter of the late Bryan O'Donnell, J. P., Kilmallock.

Tipperary.

Most Rev. Dr. Harty, at Thurles, ordained the following for the dioceses named: Rev. W. Morgan, Farrago diocese, U. S. A.; Rev. William Dougherty, Auckland, N. Z.; Rev. H. Spain, Dulek, Australia; Rev. E. Taylor, Helena, U. S. A. The order of subdeacon was conferred on Messrs. J. Mahoney, T. Moran, J. Proux, M. Gorey and J. Delane.

E. J. Marnane, J. P., Co. Council Chairman, Tipperary No. 1, D. C., has declined to reconsider his resignation from the Council and Guardians.

Waterford.

The 'Carlow Nationalist' mentions receipt of a letter from Paul T. Kenny, New York, a native of Cappoquin, giving particulars of the 75 miles range gun which has been used for shelling Paris, of which he was the designer. The American Government turned down the patent when offered to them, but just before the war Mr. Kenny, who was then in Berlin, offered it to the German Government, and they immediately accepted it.

## ONE OF POLAND'S GREATEST MEN.

### The Jesuit Skarga, Patriot and Leader of His People.

The world flatly refuses to recognize members of religious orders, and primarily Jesuits, as patriots. Over and over again one is forced to realize that, in the popular mind, the becowled religious are considered enjoyers of Rome, who bear no true and unselfish love for their own people, and have no interest in their welfare. It is, therefore, all the more worthy of note that the "Open Court," published by the well-known Monist Paul Carus, prints the biography of a man who is venerated by his people as a noble patriot.—Father Peter Skarga of the Society of Jesus.

No one can read this article without being filled with the greatest admiration for this priest and religious. Still even this well-meant biography fails to convey a proper impression of the real importance of this great man, of whom Prof. Ignatius Chrzanowski, historian of Literature, writes: "... At that time there arose a man in Poland, who loved his country with such a consuming love, who was so painfully affected by all that happened to his native land, who was more solicitous of its future than any other man living in the 16th century; a man, pure as a tear-drop, saintly of heart and in his deeds, and gifted with surpassing knowledge; a man, who determined to arouse his people once more and to win them to reform and charity by conjuring them in the name of God. This man was a priest, the greatest preacher Poland has produced, and one of the greatest in the wide world, a man of plain birth, Peter Skarga (1536-1612), the author of the immortal 'Diet Sermons' ('Kazania sejmowe')."

In the article appearing in the "Open Court" entire passages are quoted from these sermons and the proof advanced for their partly prophetic character; Skarga had predicted the decline and fall of Poland some 200 years before the end came, so that he has aptly been surnamed the "Prophet of Poland." A part of his prophecy has come true, and the Poles hope that the second part, which treats of the resurrection of Poland, will become a fact also.

Skarga was moreover—and this fact interests us particularly—the pioneer social reformer of Poland, who not only expressed in words but also in deeds the thought of Catholic social action. It is worthy of note, especially at this time, that this priest prepared a prayerbook with "wonderfully beautiful prayers and meditations" (Chrzanowski) for soldiers, thus evidencing at that remote time, his understanding and appreciation of Soldiers' Welfare work. But this one instance of loving care and social activity cannot claim as much consideration as four other distinctly social undertakings of the priest-patriot. These were so carefully planned and so prudently executed that one of them, at least, the "Confraternities of Mercy" (Bractwo milosierdzia), continues to exist in many cities of Poland after 300 years, with a practically unchanged constitution. By founding these organizations, and especially by the erection of the "Confraternities of St. Lazarus", which undertook to care for beggars and cripples, Skarga became the precursor of St. Vincent de Paul, who founded similar institutions in Paris some 40 years later.

In the year 1586 Skarga founded the first "mons pietatis" in Cracow, which he named "chamber for the needy". He drafted the regulations, and provided that no profit should be gained from the transactions of this "chattel loan bank" for the poor. This bank was also the first savings bank and served in various ways to prevent exploitation of the needy by usurers.

The so-called "Ghosts of St. Nicholas", well-known in Poland, owe their beginning to this exceptional priest also. Skarga was inspired to carry out this work during an "adlimina" visit; in

Rome he witnessed the good works of a society founded by the Cardinal de Turroremata for the purpose of providing indigent but worthy girls with a dowry, enabling them to marry, and of saving them from immorality.

The broad vision and noble heart of this Polish priest, as exemplified in these institutions and in the whole life of the man, are but a few of the expressions of his many qualifications. One of his biographers, the poet Woronicz, later Archbishop of Warsaw, in recognition of the universal genius of the noble-minded Jesuit, writes: "If thou wouldst become a good preacher, read Skarga; if a philosopher, read Skarga; a theologian, read Skarga; a politician, read Skarga; if a Christian, read Skarga; Skarga has become all things for all men." And we can safely add: "If thou wouldst be efficiently active in social work, read the writings of Skarga and the history of his social and charitable endeavors."

And yet, how few Catholics know aught of Skarga! Let any hazy-brained critic come and advance the trite attacks on the Jesuits and the monks and nuns, and they listen in silence. How easy it would be to perform our duty as defenders of these servants of the Church, if we but informed ourselves on the lives of the great men who have lived and toiled in the orders and in the Church.

C. B. OF THE C. V.

## TROY'S BELLS

Rang Out the Prosperity of The Town—Played a Part in the Commencement Exercises at Columbia University—Tostly Chimes for the Cadet Chapel at West Point.

The 2,000-pound bell, which was made at the foundry of The Meneely Bell Company, Troy, N. Y., and recently installed in St. Paul's Chapel, Columbia University, New York, as the gift of the class of 1893 of the School of Arts, was formally presented to that institution during the Commencement exercises held on Wednesday, June 5th, the speech of acceptance being made by President Nicholas Murray Butler. Cast in relief, the bell bears the following inscription:

TO RING OUT THROUGH THE AGES FOR TRUTH JUSTICE AND LIBERTY PRESENTED TO COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY BY THE CLASS OF 1893—SCHOOL OF ARTS COLUMBIA COLLEGE ON ITS TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY JUNE 5TH 1918.

The Meneely Company also furnished the bell that was recently placed in the new cupola of the New York City Hall, and is soon to make shipment to the Cadet Chapel at West Point of what it is said will be the most costly chime of bells in America.

## WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

JUNE

The Sacred Heart. 4th Sunday after Pentecost 16 S St. John Francis Regis C. 17 M St. Avitus Bp. 18 T SS. Mark & Marcellian M. 19 W St. Juliana Falconieri V. 20 T St. Silverius P. M. 21 F St. Aloysius Gonzaga C. 22 S St. Paulinus Bp. C.

The National Convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, its Ladies' Auxiliary, the Educational Convention, and other conventions will meet this year in San Francisco.

The Bishop of Hartford dedicated a new Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor in that city some days ago.

Seven of the churches of Rheims are ruined by bombardment.