

THE TIE THAT BINDS

The man shifted uneasily in his chair, dreading the result of the interview his wife had asked for that evening. Without, the bleak wintry winds blew persistently, moaning dismally and beating upon the window panes as though trying to penetrate the cosy cheerfulness within; but the chill that settled upon the heart of the man was not caused by this outside influence. Unconsciously he drew his chair closer to the grate, seeking the warmth and comfort of spirit that his body enjoyed and in the leaping, blue flames of the gas logs he pictured other days, so full of happiness that, though apparently gone from him forever, they would never be forgotten.

Today was the second anniversary of his wedding. How happy he and Helen had been for one full year, unbelievably happy when viewed from the present estrangement! Always so sweet, loving and joyous as she presided over their home and his heart!

And then came that great day when he humbly knelt beside her and gave thanks to God, who in His wonderful goodness brought her back from the very brink of death and gave unto them their little son!

With a smothered sob the man sprang away from the glowing flames and paced the floor in agony as he thought of the days of sorrow that followed. The baby grew into a beautiful child, just cooing his first "Dada," when the dreaded croup signaled him out for a victim, and in a few short hours only his cold, lifeless little body lay in the mother's arms.

Wearied with the stress of his emotions, he again sank down before the fire.

What a change had come over Helen! He leaned forward, his eyes following the fiery tongues as they leaped up the chimney, as if to search there for the meaning of it all. She became restless, dissatisfied, unhappy, no longer content with home and husband; she flitted from one thing to another. First it was society. Always a favorite, for a time she reigned supreme as social queen; but soon tiring of that, she turned to religion as a disciple of a "New Thought Advocate." Bridge, equal rights, votes for women, engrossed her thoughts in quick succession, even socialism holding sway for a short two weeks.

"Why? Why?" he continued to demand, man-like, groping in the distance for the reason that lay at his very threshold.

Ah! the answer was simple enough. He with the sublime faith of a Catholic, had taken his sorrow to the Divine Healer and received consolation there. And as the days passed he ceased to think of the lifeless body of his boy; it was the thought of that angelic little soul, filled with supreme happiness, enjoying the presence of God Himself that enraptured him and spurred him on to better and nobler deeds, that he might one day be worthy of joining him in Eternal Rest.

But, alas, for his wife! She had no religion firm enough to bear this weighty anchor of suffering. Often, in the first days of their married life, he asked her to come with him to church, and sought time and again to interest her in the Faith that was so dear to him, but all to no avail.

"I do not wish to go to your church, Jack. There is nothing there to attract me," was her unflinching answer.

And after so many rebuffs he became silent, and religion was never mentioned between them.

A rustling of skirts broke his reverie and he drew back from the fire, watching his wife as she crossed the parlors under the soft shaded lights, stately, graceful and beautiful.

With an inward groan he wondered what he had done, or perhaps left undone, to hasten this catastrophe that menaced their happiness. Catching sight of her husband's face as she entered the library, Helen read the discontent and unhappiness written there, and knowing nought of the thoughts that had ragged within him, she blamed only herself.

"I hope you had no previous engagement, Jack?"

He shook his head, almost impatiently, for the travail of soul that he had endured for the past hour made conversation impossible. Again his wife misread the tense expression.

"Jack, I am going home to father."

He gripped the arms of his chair tightly but uttered no word. He knew it was coming and was prepared, he tried to tell himself.

His wife continued:

"We have reached the parting-of-the-ways; there is no longer either sympathy or love between us, and it is but mocking our former happiness to continue as we are. You can get a divorce, for desertion, or go on, unhampered by me, to seek life's peace and success elsewhere."

And he believed that she once loved him! He smiled at the utter impossibility of such a thing, and she noticed that smile, with a queer tightening of the heart.

"If you wish to go to your father, Helen, I will not deter you."

He was surprised at the calmness with which he uttered the death sentence of all his great hopes and plans, wondrous dreams that could never be culminated away from her side.

"If a divorce will bring to you the happiness I have failed to give you may have it; but I beg of you, Helen, wait a little while. Would to God I could tear away the breach that seems to have grown between us!"

Was it a gleam of her former love that shot into his wife's eyes for just the fraction of a second? No, surely he was mistaken, for her cool, even voice bore no trace of emotion.

Before he could answer, the bell at the front door rang resoundingly and each looked inquiringly at the other.

"Rather late for visitors," he commented. "I will answer."

The exclamation of surprise that burst from her husband's lips sent Helen hurrying through the rooms into the hall.

"What is it?" she whispered.

"It looks like a bundle of clothes!"

Then for a full, breathless minute the woman grasped her husband's arm and held it tightly as she peered, unbelieving, into the darkness from whence came the weak but unmistakable whimper of a young babe.

"Oh!" Now she was down beside it and with another drawn "O—h!" the little form was smothered tightly to her breast. Holding the baby close, she scrambled up and passed quickly back to the library, followed by the bewildered man.

To be continued next week.

MARYKNOLL TO CHINA.

Four priests of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America left Maryknoll, Ossining, N. Y., Saturday evening, September 7, for China.

They were Rev. Thos. F. Price of North Carolina, Superior; Rev. J. Edward Walsh, Cumberland, Md.; Rev. Bernard F. Meyer, Stuart, Iowa; Rev. Francis X. Ford, Brooklyn, N. Y.

The ceremony of departure had been scheduled, as desired by his Eminence Cardinal Farley, to take place in the Cathedral, but on account of his Eminence's serious illness it was anticipated and held in the Seminary chapel.

The day before, the new missionaries went to Scranton to salute Bishop Hoban and to say farewell to their confreres of the Venard Apostolic School. That evening they assisted at the Cathedral on which occasion Bishop Hoban made known their presence and asked for prayers. The church was thronged and hundreds received blessings from the new missionaries.

The following day they returned to New York, arriving at Ossining in the afternoon.

The ceremony took place at 8 P. M. It was simple, brief, and deeply edifying to all who were privileged to witness it. Immediately afterwards the missionaries left for the metropolis to get the night train for Baltimore from which point they proceeded to San Francisco.

Their boat, the Equador, of the Pacific Mail Line is scheduled to sail September 21 from San Francisco and will arrive in Hongkong before the end of October.

The new American mission is located in the Kwang-tung province of which Canton is the capital. It is bounded by about 100 miles of coast line on the South-China Sea and runs inland nearly 150 miles to the West River. Its principal centres are Yeong-kong and Lo-tung.

American Catholics will rejoice to note this epochal event in the history of the Church in this country. Some of the flower of our youth have gone over Atlantic Seas to fight for high ideals and we admire them. We witness now another group of heroes, the vanguard of an ever-growing army. Let us hope, that will go over Pacific Seas to wrestle with the Prince of Darkness and his cohorts for the souls of men.

The prayers of American Catholics, the country over, will follow these apostles.

They're Getting Too Prominent.

More or less uneasiness is likely to be caused in the camps of the Guardians of Liberty if the Jesuits continue to attain prominence in the running of this war.

There is not enough that Marshal Foch has a brother among the sons of St. Ignatius; now comes the news that Lieutenant Colonel Hugh A. Drum has been appointed by General Pershing to the important post of chief of staff of the First American Field Army, and he, too, is likely to be open to Jesuit influence, inasmuch as his brother, the Rev. Walter Drum, is a prominent member on the staff of the Jesuit College at Woodstock, Md. What is to be done, if these relationships continue to multiply?

Catholic Charity Guild Conference.

At a meeting of the Catholic Charity Guild held last Sunday afternoon at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Prince street, the Rt. Rev. Thomas F. Hickey gave an address on the work of the section which teaches catechism and visits the homes of foreign born children attending the public schools. There are eight centers where classes are held Sunday afternoons and more than 250 women are engaged in the work.

There died recently in China a missionary Sister, who for twenty years has labored there in hospital, school and orphanage. She was Sister Claire—formerly, in the world, Lady Fielding of England and sister of Lord Denbigh.

Foreign Mission News

The Propagation of the Faith Society 843 Lexington Ave., New York City

A PARISH FOUNDS A BURSE IN A CHINESE SEMINARY.

A few weeks ago we had the agreeable surprise of receiving a check for one thousand dollars for the education of native clergy in the Far-East. The sum had been collected in the parish of St. Eloi, Ghent, Minn. (Diocese of St. Paul), under the direction of its zealous pastor, the Rev. H. V. Van Walleghe. It will constitute a foundation, the annual interest of which will provide for the needs of a native seminarian during one school year, and thus every few years a new priest will be placed at the Altar through the generous assistance of the parishioners of St. Eloi.

The assignment of the burse was left entirely to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, but knowing that Father Van Walleghe and most of his generous parishioners are Belgian or of Belgian descent, we thought it would be pleasing to the donors to place it at the disposal of a Belgian Bishop. Consequently it was sent to Mgr. Van Dyck, who, with his valiant missionaries, all members of the Belgian Society of Scheut, evangelize the province of Mongolia, China. Although the seminary is of recent foundation it has already given three priests to the mission, and there are five other natives preparing for the priesthood.

St. Eloi is a small country parish and its members are not overburdened with the goods of this world; furthermore, they are probably helping the victims of the war in their dear motherland. Nevertheless they raised this considerable sum in order to give a priest to the Church. Such charity, the worthiness of which it is difficult to exaggerate at the present time, will have its reward. "Blessed are ye poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God!"

1918 A BAD YEAR IN LANG SON.

Fr. Cothonay says that when neither floods nor droughts interfered, there are two good crops in Tonkin, every year. But very often this happens, and 1917 brought an inundation and 1918 a dry spell that completely destroyed the harvest. Wherever he goes he meets afflicted natives, who cry out, "Father, have pity on us; we are seeking work everywhere in order to get the price of some food. But we cannot find work and are dying of hunger. We have heard you are founding new parishes; if you will receive us we will be wholly yours and will do exactly as you direct. Save us before we perish."

Whole families come to the mission seeking shelter. I have built about a dozen huts for them, but I need a hundred or more. But a shelter is not enough, the men work, so that they can support their families.

Times, then, are hard in Lang Son, and our only hope is that Providence will not wholly forsake us, but will renew the fruits of the soil and permit us to secure the means of existence.

STRANGE ADVENTURES IN HANGCHOW.

Fr. Tisserand, C. M., of Hangchow, W. Che Kiang, relates the story of one family he baptized who became converted on account of the persecutions of the devil; clothes, money and other articles disappeared, but the thief remained invisible.

Acting on directions from his bishop, Mgr. Faveau, Fr. Tisserand went to the haunted dwelling and read the exorcism of the ritual against the apostate angels, displaying prominently at the same time a picture of the Sacred Heart. The depredations ceased, but a great stone fell into the house through the roof, which nevertheless had no opening. In China the Evil One does much to torment his subjects, especially when he feels they are about to escape his toils.

Late News of Ireland

Carlow.
Eggs are very dear in Ireland for this season of the year. At the Carlow market eggs were sold at 4s. 3. per dozen.

Cork.
Most Rev. Dr. Brawne has appointed Rev. L. Madden to be P. P., Charleville; Rev. P. Casey, C. C., Mallow; Rev. E. Fitzgerald, C. C., Fermoy; Rev. J. Kelleher, C. C., Buttevant; Rev. M. Bowler, C. C., Kanturk; Rev. D. Barry, C. C., Buttevant; Rev. N. Smyth, C. C., Donoughmore, and Rev. E. Fox to be chaplain, Youghal.

The late Edward Geary, Prince's street, Cork, left estate which it is estimated will amount to about £400,000. In addition to personal legacies of an inconsiderable amount he left £5,000 to build a church at Carrigaline, his native place; and the residue, it is understood, has been left in trust to Most Rev. Dr. Cohalan, W. Murphy, solicitor, and Mr. Healy, Cork Gas Company, to apply at their discretion in aid of the charities of Cork.

Coal merchants in Middleton are now selling turf, which realizes £215s. per ton, as compared with £3 12s. for coal.

Dublin.
The Registrar General's return for the week ended July 20 is accompanied by an intimation from the Public Health Department of the Dublin Corporation that the influenza outbreak in Dublin is rapidly subsiding. The total number of deaths in the city during the week was 48, as compared with 78 in the previous week.

Kerry.
The Guardians passed a resolution welcoming the Oireachtas to Killarney, greeting in particular Eoin MacNeill, to whom an address is to be presented. Board checks and orders are in the future to be issued in Irish.

Mayo.
Most Rev. Dr. Naughton, Bishop of Killala, opened a bazaar at Laherdane, in aid of the MacHale Memorial Church, which has been erected in the parish near the birthplace of the patriot prelate.

J. Flood was unanimously co-opted to Ballinrobe District Council in room of the late P. Garvey.

The annual pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick on July 28 was very largely attended, notwithstanding the fact that railways charged full fares and ran no excursion trains. Masses were said from early morning in the Oratory on the summit. At 10 o'clock a sermon in English was preached by the Rev. Father Walsh, Redemptorist, and at 11 o'clock a sermon in Irish by the Rev. Father Connolly, Professor, Maynooth. The weather was fine, but a haze shut off the surrounding country from view. When once or twice the haze lifted a magnificent panorama met the view, particularly on the sea side.

Tipperary.
County Tipperary's voting strength is doubled, some 3,000 additional claims having been lodged, bringing the register to about 69,000.

Wexford.
The late Most Rev. Dr. Browne left personal estate valued at £3,464. Among the bequests for public purposes mentioned in his will were £200 to his trustees for charitable purposes in the diocese; £200 for the support of infirm and sick Catholic clergymen; £150 to the Superiress of the Convent of Perpetual Adoration, Wexford; £50 to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Wexford, and £50 to the same society in Enniscorthy.

Wicklow.
The late Colonel C. G. Tottenham, D. L., Ashford, County Wicklow, left £40,520, and bequeathed to W. C. Motony, solicitor, Dublin, and Rev. H. P. Husband of Surrey, executors and trustees, £200 and £250, respectively; confirmed family settlements and left annuities and bequests to his daughters and nephews; his timber to be sold to the government for £1,500, and a similar sum to be expended on replanting.

Interesting Notes Of Catholic Affairs.

Denver now has a Catholic Woman's League.

Thirty-two thousand, one hundred and forty-five young men of the Archdiocese of Boston are in Army and Navy service.

Archbishop Kenrick presided over the First Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1852; Archbishop Spalding presided over the Second Plenary one in 1866, and Archbishop (Cardinal) Gibbons over the Third in 1884.

The Diocese of Brooklyn, so far, has furnished twenty chaplains.

Timothy Foley and Charles Smith, of St. Paul, Minn., and L. S. Donaldson and Moris McDonald, of Minneapolis, have been made Knights of St. Gregory by the Sovereign Pontiff.

Very Rev. Emil Strenski, of Green Point, L. I., has been made Papal Chamberlain.

At Carroll, Iowa, the new Detention Hospital erected jointly by the Franciscan Sisters and the county, is ready for use.

The whole St. Vincent de Paul Society of Boston recently attended Mass in the Cathedral and breakfasted and met in the Cathedral Hall.

The heads of all religious orders have been reminded that their Constitutions must be amended in all points not in conformity with the new Code of Canon Law. The prescription is contained in Canon 488. The heads of Orders are required to submit their rules to the Sacred Congregation of the Affairs of Religious for approval.

Captain Frank B. McKenna has been promoted to the rank of Major. He is a graduate of West Point, served in the Philippines, and is Justice McKenna's son.

From thirty to forty masses are celebrated at Camp Zachary Taylor, Louisville, on Sundays.

Pittsburg has a diocesan director of sodalities.

The secret agreement between Italy, France and England, excluding the Pope from the future peace conference, will remain in force. It provides that no neutral sovereign will be allowed at that prospective peace conference.

His Holiness Benedict XV., has purchased two large and very ancient mosaic portraits, which are the only mosaic portraits so far found in the Roman Catacombs. According to Prof. Marucchi they date from the early years of the Fourth Century.

Paris, France, is exercised over the loss, on battlefields of many promising young priests.

In the City of Mexico it was officially announced that the property of the Catholic Church and clergy in the State of Jalisco had been sold by the Government for \$4,000,000.

The War-Prisoners' Bureau of the Vatican, established by Pope Benedict XV., is accomplishing considerable good. It is doing the war's corporal works of mercy.

At present the Catholic population of England and Wales is 1,900,000. The clergy number 4,000. In 1916 the number of conversions in England and Wales was 8,500 out of a total population of 36,200,000.

In Rome recently, the Clerk of St. Peter, solemnly consecrated itself to the Sacred Heart. It is said that wonderful are the results so far, of the consecration of families to the Sacred Heart, Italy.