

## Blessings

Continued from last week.

Then in his bitterness he had cried out against God: "Yes three years had since dragged by and found him in sullen anger with himself and the world."

He groaned and pondered: "God, you might have taken Tom. He's a good boy, and as a priest—I'd have been secretly proud of him. But Lilly I wanted for myself. True, I love them all—little Bab and Anne. They are all my children, but Lilly would not have left me alone tonight in my agony of regrets! Yes, God, you asked too much from me!"

His thoughts turned to his wife, "Alice," lovingly his lips framed her name, as if he thought her listening presence was there. "Alice, I've never spoken Lilly's name for three years. I've been angry with her and with God! Why? Because she chose Him—God—yes, the God who took you from me, too! Alice, the days and years have come and gone since you left me, and the future days and years—where will they find me? With you? Heaven is with you! God!" He leaped forward, his eyes wide open, staring, and his lips parted.

He rose and strode the floor. He could almost hear his name spoken by men: "Benson's not here. He's gone—dead." They would soften it and say: "Benson's passed on." The man's lips twitched with agony. Not yet, he pondered, but the year must come and the day must come when they would say it. His work swept away—nothing would remain to him in that hour.

Then swiftly the man remembered the certainty of the Church which he had never doubted.

He turned into the hall, pulled on his coat and went out into the moonlight. The snow glistened, and patches of silvery whiteness lay along the dark road. He gazed upward toward the heavens jeweled with stars. "Tis some place far beyond there," he murmured. "I must go to meet you, Alice. How do I get there? I must find the way!"

On he walked in the clear, still night until he reached the dark shadow of the church. He hesitated, then entered. In the inner gloom he distinguished the shadowy forms of a few people. His eyes sought the crimson flame that marked the earthly thrones of the heavenly prisoner.

He stole into a pew and waited. Soon he discerned two figures—Dan Doyle and his wife kneeling side by side.

How pleased Alice would have been to have knelt thus with him! Truly he had waited too long. A tear trickled down, and the poignancy of memory thrilled him. Now he recalled his wife's half stifled sighs as she had gone on her way through life—holding on alone to that which her heart held dearest.

Dan Doyle and his wife were going out now. Tom Benson shrank back and hid his face in his hands. Unrecognized they passed him by. Still the man knelt and waited—his eyes on the throbbing flame that echoed the pulse of his heart.

Father Egan, small, bent and white haired, quitted his confessional. Tom Benson rose and followed the old pastor into the sacristy. He stumbled in the darkness.

The priest turned and hurriedly switched on the light: "Oh, 'tis you, Tom Benson!"

"Father," the man began huskily. "You married me and baptized my children—I want your help—"

"My help, Tom, you surely will have," replied the priest kindly.

And then Tom Benson related his long story and pledged his new resolution.

When he had finished Father Egan said: "Yours was one of the hundredth cases, son. You have been a Catholic at heart for years, yet you lacked—"

"I tried to fight it out with God," the man interrupted.

"With grace—"

"But it won, Father."

"Grace always triumphs if it gets but half a chance with a soul," the old priest commented gently.

An hour later as Tom Benson threaded his way through the still splendor of the starlit, wintry night, he pondered and recalled a line: "What is the fullness of joy but peace?"

He possessed peace at last. Tomorrow he would go and see Lilly and tell her what her sacrifice had accomplished, and that her prayers were answered. Even now, how he longed to see her, to feel her arms around his neck and her warm tears on his cheeks. Now he would give her the blessing so long deferred!

Suddenly he paused and the tears gathered in his eyes: "Does Alice know? But surely her hands have sent this to me, the best of all God's blessings, faith."—Mary Hayden Harkins in The Missionary.

## Knights of Columbus War News Service.

Paris.—"Your American soldiers are wonderful. It is a pleasure for us to welcome such gentlemanly young boys. I am sure that the Americans much prefer to meet the 'right kind' of French girls instead of spending their time in the street cafes," said a French hostess the other evening in a conversation with a Knights of Columbus secretary in Paris.

"Inasmuch as the Knights of Columbus were co-operating with the French ladies in providing pleasure for the soldier boys I was very curious to know what plan of entertainment had been mapped out for the lads in khaki," said the secretary. "I left the Knights of Columbus club with five young soldiers to attend the dancing party which is given each week by a society in Paris. One of the young men came from California. Another was from the Middle West. There was a lad from Georgia and two soldiers from the Atlantic Coast."

"When we arrived at the large hall on the Avenue Wagram, we found more than 50 young ladies gathered from the best French families. On one side were seated the mothers who had arranged the entertainment for the boys. We were soon greeted by the 'Belgian Rose', played by a real American jazz orchestra. It was a real treat to the boys, leaving nothing to be desired.

"Refreshments were served during the evening, and the Americans were 'mothered' in a true spirit, I talked with one of the young men after the party. 'I would have enjoyed having my mother and sister here tonight. They would then appreciate what the wonderful French people were doing for the boys. We are all very anxious to know the best people, and these little affairs each week will mean much to the boys in khaki.' His remark was typical, and I left with the feeling that the Knights of Columbus were most fortunate in being able to co-operate in a movement that will do much to bring the Americans and French closer together."

## CATHOLIC PAPER IS NECESSARY TO LOYAL CATHOLIC.

What the trade journal is to the merchant, or the literary magazine to the student, the religious paper is to the Christian.

He simply cannot do without it and not suffer loss.

He needs its reports of his own church.

He needs its solution of the practical problems of Christian life and religious work. He needs it as a school of methods.

He needs its inspiration as, like a shuttle it weaves the scattered threads of religious news and spiritual influence into one great fabric.

## Bishop Hayes Named New York Archbishop

Rome, Feb. 26.—Mgr. Patrick Hayes was to-day appointed archbishop of New York.

Bishop Hayes was born in New York, November 20, 1867. He was educated at Manhattan College, where he received his A. B. degree in 1888. From there he went to St. Joseph's Provincial Seminary at Troy, to make his theological studies. He was ordained at the Seminary in 1892 by Rt. Rev. Henry Gabriels, Bishop of Ogdensburg.

The young priest was sent by his superiors to the Catholic University at Washington, where he studied for some years. He was made president of Cathedral College, New York, in 1903, serving in that capacity until 1914, when he was made auxiliary bishop to the late Cardinal Farley, having in the meantime also served as chancellor of the archdiocese. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Rome in 1904 and was made domestic prelate to the Pope in 1907. Bishop Hayes was pastor of St. Stephen's Church while auxiliary bishop.

When the war began, Bishop Hayes became much interested in the welfare of the soldiers, and was made head of the chaplains of the expeditionary forces.

The visit of the President to the Sovereign Pontiff was, while attended with the full ceremonial of state, a visit of courtesy. It was a brief one—hardly more than of twenty minutes duration.

General Pershing has cited Rev. Francis A. Kelley, of the 104th Machine Gun Battalion for bravery and awarded him the distinguished Service Cross.

## Cardinal Gibbons' Resolution Demanding Freedom for Ireland

PHILADELPHIA, FEB. 23. Cardinal Gibbons, in introducing a resolution at the Irish Convention to-day calling on President Wilson and Congress to urge the Peace Conference to grant self-determination for Ireland, said:

"I hold in my hands a resolution on behalf of Ireland which should appeal to every lover of liberty and justice.

"My friends, there is liberty in the air. The nations of the earth are clamoring for liberty, and why should not freedom-loving Ireland join in the general cry?"

"Yes, Ireland wants freedom to breathe the air of heaven. She wants freedom to stretch her brawny and sinewy arms. She wants freedom to develop her resources. She wants freedom to develop the riches of her soul. She wants freedom to carve out her own destiny.

"And we are here to-day to plead the cause of Ireland's sons and daughters, that they may stand erect, redeemed, regenerated and disenthralled on their own sacred soil."

The text of the resolution follows in part:

"We, the delegates to the Convention of the Irish Race in America, assembled in Philadelphia, the city in which the immortal Declaration of American Liberty was given to the world, and speaking for many millions of American citizens, call upon the President and Congress of these United States of America to urge the Peace Conference now in session at Paris to apply to Ireland the great doctrine of national self-determination and to recognize the right of the people of Ireland to select for themselves without interference from any other people the form of government under which in future they shall live.

"We urge this claim, in the first place, in the name of justice—recognizing and insisting on the truth set forth by the founders of our Republic, that all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.

"We urge this claim in the name of America, insisting, as we have just shown in the case of France, that we are not an ungrateful people, and recalling that no other people have contributed more than those of Irish blood to the creation, the upbuilding, the development and the preservation and defense of our great country.

"We urge this claim in the name of Ireland because of the unparalleled struggle for now seven and a half centuries that Ireland has carried on for national existence and liberty; because all efforts to break down and destroy that existence have failed; and because of the extraordinary majority by which less than two months ago the people of Ireland declared, not alone their dissatisfaction with the government of their land by England, but also their determination to govern themselves without interference from any outside influence or power.

"We urge this claim in the name of humanity because we believe that war cannot be ended, and a just and permanent peace cannot be brought about unless the doctrine of self-determination be applied to Ireland and the people of that country be permitted to decide for themselves the form of government under which they shall live.

## Foreign Mission News

The Propagation of the Faith Society, 343 Lexington Ave., New York City

### MALABAR'S ANCIENT CHURCH.

Malabar was the scene of some very early missionary effort in India. St. Thomas, himself, being the first apostle to preach the Faith there. In the seaport town of Tellicherry, there exists an old church possessing a very interesting history, but threatened with destruction unless the intrusions made by time are stayed.

It is finely situated on a low promontory jutting out to sea, with the soothing of the waves constantly in the ears of the worshippers inside. A large black wooden cross at the extreme edge of the promontory is a conspicuous object for miles out at sea and along the coast-line.

After having survived the storms of two hundred years, and been patched in various ways, it presents an incongruous appearance.

The building stands helplessly exposed to the full fury of the terrific southwest monsoon, which pours down a relentless rain of 130 inches a year, soaking through the roof and dashing against the low walls.

The fierce rains beat in during divine service, and most of the worshippers have to kneel in little pools of water caused by the rain.

The people, though very poor, have done and are doing their level best to rise once more to the occasion. But it is in vain for them to strive, unless help comes from outside.

Rev. M. F. Barboza, S. J., is pastor of the church.

### OLD BELIEFS.

Superstition dies hard in Africa, and the missionaries must practise boundless patience in waiting for the old errors to die.

One of the strangest beliefs of an East African tribe called the Kikuyu is that they become sullied or unclean in various ways and must be purified by means of a special ceremony. For instance, if a Kikuyu touches a corpse or a human skull, he becomes unclean. If he should eat food out of a cracked pot or at a blacksmith's forge, he would become unclean. When an infant is born the father kills a sheep and, should he be called away before he has divided the meat, the babe, not the father becomes unclean. Later, when the mother is carrying it strapped to her back, if it should happen to fall, at once it becomes unclean and must remain where it has fallen until a sheep is killed. A Kikuyu mother must be exceedingly careful in preparing the meals when she knows that if a pot boils over on the fire she pays the penalty of not watching it by becoming pronounced unclean.

The annual report of the Hawaiian Branch of the S. P. F. has just come, and as usual its most interesting item is the amount credited to the island of Molokai. Here the poor lepers, nobody knows how, manage to get together an offering for the missions, and this year the sum is \$179.94. They also gave \$67.56 to the Holy Childhood Association. What an example for the 'idle rich'—those who are idle as far as helping the apostolate is concerned. Fr. Ysendorn, SS. CC., Diocesan Director at Honolulu, says: "Since the beginning of the mission in Hawaii, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith has given us a round sum of one million dollars."

## Late News of Ireland

Antrim

The 1918 shipbuilding returns show Harland and Wolff, Belfast yard at the head of the list with an output of 15 vessels, of 119,445 tons.

Cork

Rev. E. J. Fox, C.C., Youghal, son of T. Fox, Ballyhea, Buttevant, has been the recipient of a check for £190 as a testimonial from the people of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Walton, Liverpool, amongst whom he labored for six years.

Derry

The ceremony of the canonical erection of mosaic Stations of the Cross was performed in St. Mary's Church, Limavady, by Very Rev. W. B. MacFeeley, P.P., Waterlaid, assisted by Rev. J. J. M'Glade, P.P., and Rev. M. Connerly, P.P.

Donegal

Died—At Ball Green, Ramelton, Mrs. Donaghy, mother of the Rev. Dr. Donaghy, Maynooth College. Interment at Killydonnell Abbey.

Dublin

The appeal for a fund of £10,000 as a tribute to the war services of Irish nurses elicited a response of £10,180.

Thomas William Higgins, 108 Rathgar road, Dublin, left personal estate valued at £3,250. The testator left his premises, Nos. 9 and 8 Wood quay, to the Archbishop of Dublin for charitable purposes. He also left a number of legacies to Dublin Catholic churches.

Galway

Very Rev. T. A. Finlay, S. J., laid the foundation stone, recently, of a new store at Moycullen, Co. Galway, on behalf of Moycullen and Killanin Co-operative Society. Founded in 1914 by 60 members, who subscribed 2s. 6d. each, it has now 300 members, with a turnover in 1918 of £20,000.

Kerry

Very Rev. David O'Leary, V. G., Dean of Kerry, presiding at Tralee, referred to the many ties which bound Ireland to the great Republic of the West.

Kings

Very Rev. Philip Callary, P.P., V.G., has sent ten guineas to Tullamore Relief Fund, saying he will repeat his subscription if necessary.

Died—At Grange, Edenderry, Mrs. Katherine Gribbon, aged 101. Interment at Carrick.

Leitrim

The influenza epidemic is spreading in North Leitrim, and two of the curates (Rev. J. Brady and Rev. F. McCabe) in Cloaclear are victims, but are improving.

Roscommon

At a meeting of the parishioners, held outside Ruskey (Roscommon) Church, Rev. T. Lavin presiding, it was unanimously agreed that the anti-conscription fund in the parish be devoted to repairing the church. In Athy parish the money has been returned to subscribers.

Died—At Roscommon, Edward Fallon. Interment at Killynavey.

Tipperary

Sister Gregorie de St. Joseph, Little Sisters of the Poor, died at Fulwood, in the fifty-third year of her age and the twenty-sixth of her religious life. She was a daughter of the late P. O'Brien, Lr. Graigue, Nenagh, and sister of J. O'Brien, merchant, Castle street.

Died—At Upper Gladstone St., Clonmel, Elsie, wife of Roger Ryan (Greave Bros.), sister of John and William Tobin, saddlers.

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