

"Don't mind him, darling," said the Colonel, caressingly; "he is a crabbed fellow—a terrible early disappointment made him so." The tears dropped upon the work which she had taken up. "He shall not bring his moroseness to trouble you," he added, rising, "and I'll tell him so."

"O, please don't speak to him about it," said Rosine, drawing Colonel Hartland down by her side. "It is something in connection with Laura that makes him angry with me."

"He has no right to be angry with you on any account. I'll not have such ungentlemanly conduct in my house!"

"Please don't speak to him about it, father," she pleaded, using the paternal title as a sure passport to his heart, "it will pass over soon, and he will be as kind as ever."

Only a few days went by before Laura came to pour out her heart to Rosine, and to say farewell. Somebody had been to her father with the tale of her misdoings, she was sure it was Ned. At any rate, Captain Marten had insisted upon her quitting Le Compté's society at once: this she found almost impossible, as he met her everywhere. Only the day before, her father while threatening to shut her in solitary confinement, saw Le Compté pass the window, bowing and kissing his hand to her, which so exasperated the old sailor that he bade her pack and be ready for her aunt's at once, where she should stay till she could behave herself and mind her father. She had tried, again and again, she said, and wept while she said it, to be rid of the man; she did not care for him; Rosine knew she was faithful to Aleck! The young girl looked up doubtfully at this assertion. "Truly I am," she reiterated. Le Compté knows of our engagement, and seems so perfectly to understand our position, that I really think it very old fogish in my father to make such ado about nothing." She laid her head in her friend's lap and wept heartily, wished she had never seen Le Compté, was afraid of him, and yet drawn towards him. "What should she do?" was her inquiry.

Rosine begged renewedly that the secret might be made known at once to her father. "What, without Aleck to help her bear the consequences? No, never. Captain Marten would," she knew, "be more indignant than ever." Rosine summoned her moral courage for a desperate venture; her timid nature would hardly have brought her to the step, but for the counsel and blessing of Father Roberts, which she had sought during her indisposition. Weary with the long contention between her will and conscience, she had at length submitted to rightful guidance, and given the required promise that the intimate friendship should be given up; and now when she was ready to yield, though Laura was as dear to her as ever, Providence opened the way that made the effort she had dreaded for so many weeks comparatively easy. Once bring the rebellious will into a state of submission to known duty, and myriads of obstacles that before seemed insurmountable, take flight directly. She told Laura decidedly that she could no longer be bound by the secret; she had sinned by her share in it, lost the Doctor's friendship, and was suspected of double-dealing, and she avowed her intention, if an opportunity offered, to tell what she knew; she thought it would be better for Laura as well as herself. Her friend was very angry, accused her of treachery and meanness, said it was like all Catholic priests, interfering between friends. Rosine in her turn, incensed by the reflection on Father Roberts, recriminated, charging Laura with using her as an instrument to her own ends, and in a moment of time the chain of friendship was ruptured between the two.

ALLEGED LIBEL ON THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CLERGY OF DUNEDIN.

(Concluded from our Supplement.)

he has commenced this action without the slightest regard to every rule of courtesy and good taste. He did not take the slightest action to ascertain how the paragraph appeared. He did not give any opportunity to Mr. Bell to contradict the report, which no doubt he would have done, if requested.

His Worship: What does Lord Campbell's Act say upon that?

Mr. Howorth: It goes to the root of the whole question of libel.

His Worship: Does the Act allow the newspaper to apologise? Your argument is that there is no libel.

Mr. Howorth: My argument is that there is no libel. I submit that Mr. Bell should have had an opportunity given him of retracting the statement. That opportunity was never offered to him, and I think I am perfectly justified in stating that the ordinary rules of courtesy and good taste have not been followed in this case. A criminal information has been rushed at, as it were, without even the poor preliminary of a lawyer's letter.

Mr. Macassey: That is a very poor one.

Mr. Howorth: Well, in a case before the Lord Chief Justice in England, he drew attention to the omission of the usual preliminary letter, and said that nothing could justify such a course without absolute necessity. That course has been followed. His Lordship admitted an evident animus against the defendant when he stated that he supposed Mr. Bell would not contradict the paragraph if he had been asked. Mr. Bell, in his statement, says that Bishop Moran's letters have always received prompt attention at his hands, and your Worship has heard his denial that Bishop Moran has any just ground for stating his request would not meet with the same attention on this occasion. Your Worship will see, in reviewing the evidence, that no effect can be given to it when taken with the surrounding circumstances. I have now exhausted all the principal points. And, in conclusion, I would ask your Worship to bear in mind that no possible good can result from sending this case to the Supreme Court. There is already a feeling which, but for this unfortunate and, I submit, ill-advised proceedings, would never have been raised, and the public mind is agitated to an unnecessary degree. My client and all other persons, so far as I am aware, desire to live in peace and harmony with our Roman Catholic brethren. But I submit that these

proceedings are calculated to create a very wide breach. At all events, a state of feeling will probably arise which we must all deplore. Bishop Moran said in his evidence that if the historical portion of the case were gone into, it would never end. Unless your Worship is prepared to dismiss this information, I submit that a very grave responsibility rests with your Worship. We cannot possibly foresee what angry feelings may rise amongst the various sects in this Province, and what bad feelings may be engendered. Bishop Moran has brought the case into the Court. He has given his version of it, and I submit that no possible good can result by sending it to a higher Court. There is no libel involved in it, and the body of persons mentioned in the information are not affected by it. I submit there is no *prima facie* case made out for the prosecution. I have therefore to ask your Worship to give full consideration to the whole of the evidence and to the statement of my client, Mr. Bell; and I confidently ask that this information should be dismissed. I have one witness to call:—

Frederick George Wetham, reporter, deposed: I am temporarily acting as sub-editor in the 'Evening Star' office. I was so employed on the 3rd July. I have read the paragraph complained of. Mr. Bell was not consulted as to its publication. To my knowledge, he has acquiesced in, or consented to, its publication. The paragraph was cut out of the 'Tuapeka Times.' It was there I first saw it.

Cross-examined: When I say that Mr. Bell did not acquiesce in its publication, I mean that Mr. Bell did not see it before, and neither expressed approval or disapproval after its publication. No expression of regret has appeared in the 'Evening Star' concerning the publication of that paragraph. I have been connected with newspapers for upwards of three years. Readers of newspapers are supposed to be fond of "spicy morsels." When I saw the paragraph it did not strike me that it would cause a great sensation. I looked upon it as an ordinary paragraph. I know the gentleman referred to as Pere Hyacinthe by hearsay. I know that the reference to Father Hyacinthe had relation to the marriage of a Catholic priest, and that it caused a great sensation; but I was of opinion that after the example set by Pere Hyacinthe the sensation caused by the marriage of a Catholic Priest would not be so great. I saw that the event forming the subject of this charge was stated to have occurred in Dunedin, or referred to a Catholic clergyman residing in Dunedin; but it was not importing Dunedin news from Tuapeka, as a thing might be known in Tuapeka and not in Dunedin. I first saw the paragraph on the morning of the 3rd in the 'Tuapeka Times,' which is published on Friday or Saturday. The supplement of the 'Tuapeka Times' is published in the 'Star' office, and consists of telegraphic, Parliamentary, and other matter reprinted from the 'Star.' I am positive I did not see the paragraph before it was published in the 'Tuapeka Times.' The local was cut from the body of the paper and not from the supplement. I know who inserted the paragraph in the 'Star.' I will not say who inserted it because I might criminate myself. I made no inquiry as to the truth of the statement before I saw the paragraph in the 'Star.' I thought if it were untrue it would be contradicted. The paragraph was cut out in the ordinary way. I have been on the 'Star' about three years and a-half, and am acquainted with the spirit and style of the paper. I do not think Bishop Moran is one of the Deities the 'Star' worships. The Bishop is often hit pretty hard by the 'Star'—blows are freely exchanged. I don't think the 'Star' usually exercises an editor's privilege of having the last word, though some papers do. The attitude of the 'Star' has not been generally hostile to Bishop Moran—there have been differences of opinion between the editor and Bishop Moran on certain matters, but I do not know that the tone of the 'Star' has been hostile to Bishop Moran personally. I don't know that this paragraph has been telegraphed from the 'Star' office to any other paper.

Re-examined: Neither Bishop Moran nor any one else asked that this paragraph might be contradicted. If I had received a letter asking that it might be contradicted, it would have been inserted. Bishop Moran's letters have always received attention and been published in the 'Star.' They may possibly add to the circulation of the 'Star,' but they are not inserted with that intention.

This closed the case for the defence.

His Worship, in summing up, said: At this stage of the proceedings, the first part I have to consider is—Has there been a libellous paragraph published, a misdemeanour committed, or is the contention of the learned counsel for the defence correct, that the publication of the paragraph in question is in no sense libellous? The law of the matter is laid down with sufficient clearness to enable me to come to a right conclusion in regard to what my duty in the matter is. I may notice that once or twice counsel has suggested that I was apparently indulgent to the one side in showing favour. I must repudiate anything of the kind. I am here to administer the laws to the best of my ability without fear or favour or affection to anyone. He concluded by explaining that he was bound to send the case to the Supreme Court, a *prima facie* case having been established.

The defendant was committed for trial at the next session of the Supreme Court, and admitted to bail, himself in £100 and two sureties of £50 each.

Much has been said lately about the fatality of the letter B, but in the Southwest M seems to be bearing a prejudice. The Vicksburg 'Herald' reports that while the steamer Mary Peel was wrapped in flames, Captain Hicks, who stood looking on with an air of mingled sorrow and admiration, exclaimed, "Never, never will I give another steamboat a name commencing with an M. I am not superstitious," he added, "but a strange fatality seems to follow boats whose names begin with an M. I'll never do so again."