

Mr. Brown patted her hand as she helped him with his overcoat.

'You are a good girl,' said he.

And in his secret mind he determined to put up with any deficiencies in the cooking of the girl who had such excellent business principles. But to his infinite amazement there were no deficiencies to overlook. He ate and relished and wondered by turns.

'My dear,' said he at last, when the cloth was removed, 'all is very nice. I'll concede you are a tip-top housekeeper. But of course you ordered all this from Monerato's restaurant?'

'But of course I didn't, Cousin Brown,' said Nelly, decidedly. 'I cooked it myself.'

Mr. Brown closed his eyes and made a hasty calculation. His life had been 'worried out of him,' to use a common expression, by capricious housekeepers, inefficient cooks, and untrained servants. At last there was a gateway out of all his tribulations.

'My dear,' he said, 'I should like to have you come and live here.'

'As a cook, Cousin Brown?'

'No; as my adopted daughter and housekeeper. I need someone to take the helm of my affairs.'

'But my mother,' hesitated Eleanor, 'and my sister Lucetta.'

'Let them come, too; there's plenty of room in the house. Can they cook, too?'

'No, Cousin Brown,' confessed Nelly.

'Well, perhaps, it's just as well,' said Mr. Brown. 'There can't be more than one head to the household.'

So the Torrance family found a comfortable refuge for the soles of their feet, and Nelly's despised accomplishment proved the sword wherewith she opened the world's oyster. Lucetta sighed and wondered why she, too, had not taken cooking lessons.

'Nelly is the old man's favorite,' said she. 'He'll leave her his money when he dies. And all because she accepted the ridiculous offer of turning cook for a living!'

Mr. Brown, however, looked at the matter in a different light. He said: 'Nelly is not like the typical young lady, too lazy to work and too proud to beg. She does with her might whatever her hands find to do.' — *Woman's Journal.*

The Catholic World

BELGIUM.—Worth Imitating

Father Edward Goethal's letter to the press refuting the charge of bigotry made against the Belgian Catholics by Pastor Anet, of Brussels, at the Pan-Protestant Synod in Liverpool and pointing out that in Belgium, an overwhelmingly Catholic country, Protestant clergymen are paid by the State, that Belgium did not require its King to abjure Protestantism, and that its first King Leopold I. was a Protestant, has been reproduced by the Brussels 'Patriote' under the heading 'Bigotry in which England may envy us.'

CANADA.—Twelfth of July Resolutions

The 'Daily Chronicle's' Toronto correspondent says that the Orange celebrations throughout Ontario on the Twelfth of July were remarkable for their unanimous condemnation of what was called 'French and Catholic ascendancy' in Canadian politics. In more than one speech an attempt was made to prejudice voters against the Dominion Government because Sir Wilfrid Laurier is French and Catholic.

ENGLAND.—A South African Visitor

The Hon. Mr. Wilmot was one of the most effective speakers at the Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Liverpool. He has a good deal of practice in the art, for he is a legislator in South Africa, and in that capacity has often spoken on behalf of Catholic institutions, his service in this respect earning from the Holy See the recognition of K.S.G.

Catholic Procession in London

Thousands of spectators witnessed the annual procession in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, which took place from the Italian Church in Hatton Garden, and, as compared with previous years, the numbers taking part were greatly augmented. The procession, which was witnessed by the wife of the Italian Ambassador and several members of the Italian Consulate, passed through the principal thoroughfares of the district, several of the houses in which were brightly decorated. Banners and statues were carried by the processionists, and, the weather being gloriously fine, the whole made a brilliant and impressive spectacle. Religious airs were played by several bands which took part in the procession, and at intervals the Rosary was recited.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

The annual general meeting and conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was held in Liverpool this year. Those attending the meeting included the Brother President, Lord Ripon, Count de Torre Diaz (vice-president), the Archbishop of Westminster (Dr. Bourne), the Bishops of Leeds, Liverpool, Shrewsbury, Menevia, and Salford, and the Hon. A. Wilmot, M.L.C. (South Africa). Archbishop Bourne alluded to the excellent work done by the conferences wherever they existed. The great desire was to see them strengthened not only in the more populous centres like London and Liverpool, but in every part of the Catholic Church in England. Lord Ripon said the fundamental principle of the Society was that they could work under the direction and with the most cordial co-operation of the clergy. The essential work of the Society was visiting the poor in their own homes, giving them such pecuniary aid as lay in their power, and also instructing them in the matter of sanitation. The Hon. H. A. Wilmot spoke of the good work that was being accomplished by the Society in South Africa.

FRANCE.—A Compliant President

One wonders whether M. Loubet signed the proscription list of M. Combes with a good grace. For it contained the name of a school which must be dear to his Catholic daughter. Mademoiselle Loubet, now Madame de Saint Prix, was educated at the Convent of the Visitation, Montelimar. She must have known of M. Combes' intended proscription; yet her own school, where many happy years of her life were spent, figures among the institutions proscribed! Did she make any attempt to save it? Or was her father powerless against his own Minister? No doubt, as M. Leon Chaine says in his brilliant book, the French President is in the position of a constitutional king; he reigns through his Ministers, on whom, and not on him, falls the responsibility of the Government's acts. And no doubt, too, M. Combes would object to any exception on grounds of mere sentiment. His work is urgent. He has suppressed this year about 2400 schools belonging to the Congregations, leaving for next year or years only 2000 more. With so active a Prime Minister and so compliant a President, France must soon be stripped of all facilities for religious education. A third list, numbering about 38 schools, may be followed by yet others even this year.

The Organic Articles

Next often say that the power of the Church in France (remarks the 'Catholic Times') is crippled by the Concordat. It is not, however, of the Concordat so much as of the Organic Articles that the Church has to complain. These Organic Articles, seventy-six in number, were presented for acceptance to the French Legislature at the same time as the Concordat, and were promulgated with it as a 'law of the Republic.' Against them the Holy Father decidedly protested, for it was clearly Napoleon's intention to use them for the purpose of reducing the Church to a state of servitude. They prescribed that no Bull, Brief, or other communication from the Holy See, even if it concerned only individuals, should be received, published, printed, or put into execution without the authorisation of the Government. The bishops were bound to reside in their dioceses, nor could they leave them without the First Consul's permission. The present rulers of the Republic are endeavoring to give effect to the Napoleonic ideas with regard to the Church in their most offensive and most hurtful forms, and it is pretty certain that the abolition of the Concordat is close at hand. Such a measure may, however, really prove beneficial to religion in France. That it would do so appears to be the opinion of his Holiness Pius X.

ROME.—A Significant Visit

The Roman correspondent of the 'Catholic Weekly,' who is a high-placed Roman ecclesiastical, referring to the visitation of the Military Hospital on Monte Coelio by the Cardinal-Vicar of Rome, says: 'I make special mention of this particular visit because it was an official visit of the ecclesiastical authorities to a Government building—no such visit has taken place in Rome since 1870. I venture to look upon it as a further sign of some coming understanding between the Vatican and the Quirinal, in which the Vatican will lay down clearly its claims and its rights, and which the Quirinal will accept. How and when this 'modus vivendi' will be arrived at only the omniscient Lord and Master of all things can tell. The many indications of its coming which we have seen during the last few months would make many amongst us feel that the date cannot be far off.'

Coming Events

It has been definitely decided (says the 'Tablet' Rome correspondent) that the first canonisation of the