

her strong enough to do anything for the sake of Him who had come to dwell within her soul. No, she would not go where the tempting voices called her, she would die sooner than stain her soul, and so, faint and weak and terrified, she stumbled onward, repeating the 'Memorare,' which her mother had taught her, in the far-off year, by the old hearth at home.

But the darkness became more intense and terrible, the black figures came nearer and nearer, she felt their cold fingers gripping her arms, and in the loudest voice she could command, she screamed, her last thought centered on home, 'Eamon, Eamon, come to me, save me, save me!'

'Norah, do not scream so, I am here. Good heavens! you are shaking like a leaf, and you are whiter than the snow outside. What is the matter? What has happened?'

Nora started and looked around, trembling and dazed. She had awakened with a scream, and for a moment could not believe that she was really at home and that she had been only dreaming. Eamon Fitzgerald was standing beside her, holding her hand in his own, speaking in rapid tones, and gazing at her anxiously, the fire was blazing as cheerily as ever, and everything was unchanged.

Norah breathed a long sigh of relief and shuddered slightly at the thought of her recent terror.

'Oh, Eamon,' she said in a low tone, 'I have dreamt a terrible dream, and I can scarcely make myself believe that it was unreal. Listen for a moment and I will tell you all about it, and you will not blame me for my terror.'

In hurried words she told him what had passed before her mind's eye, not even the least portion was left unrecanted, for it was all stamped clearly upon her mind.

'Thank God!' said Eamon, fervently. 'Would to heaven that a thousand girls all over Ireland to-night could listen to what you have told me, or have dreamt your dream. I think it is a picture, Norah, placed before you by an all-wise Providence as a timely warning. And it is a true picture whether or no. Many a poor Irish exile, boy and girl, has met with even a worse fate than that portrayed in your dream. And what of America now, Norah?'

'Oh, Eamon, I would not go there now if all the wealth of the world were waiting for me beyond. I have been foolish and vain and headstrong, but God has been merciful to me in sending me a warning this holy Christmas Eve. I will stay at home.'

'You will never repent these words, Norah. If there is wealth beyond the seas, there is also misery. There is work to-day at home for the women of Ireland. Our land has been in a dream as you were, and God has shown her a picture of the black future before her if she continues walking in the paths of the stranger. She has heeded the warning, she has set her foot once more on the way that is her own, and she needs all her daughters, even more than her sons, to help her along that way, until the goal of freedom comes in view, and the power of the stranger is broken forever.'

Norah's story was a pleasant surprise to Mike Dillon and his wife when they returned home, and there was at least one pleasant fireside group in Ireland that Christmas Eve.

The branch of the Gaelic League, whose hard-working secretary Eamon was, and is, for he would accept no higher post, has prospered and extended its labors since then. I see by a local paper received the other day that a women's branch has recently been established in the same place, whose members are by no means few. The name of the president is Mrs. Norah Fitzgerald.—'New Ireland.'

The Catholic World

BELGIUM.—A Visitor's Impressions

In the course of an article on Belgium and its people in the 'American Catholic Quarterly Review,' Mr. Bryan J. Clinch makes the following interesting statements: In Belgium to-day the administration and parliamentary majority are distinctly Catholic, and it seems likely that this state will continue indefinitely. It may be changed, however, from unexpected causes without any sensible change in the general attitude of the people towards the Church. The religious Orders are well represented in Belgium and enjoy as much popular consideration as among American or Irish Catholics. The teaching Orders appear to enjoy exceptional favor and their schools are largely attended. At one church in Brussels the building was filled every day at nine o'clock Mass by pupils of a Christian Brothers' school. The attendance at daily Mass of grown people of both sexes was very large at nearly all churches in Brussels,

Antwerp, and Malines equally. It was larger than in Dublin and very much larger proportionately than among the Catholics of any American city. The proportion of men was less than that of women on week days, but nearly equal to it at the Sunday Masses and Vespers. The behaviour of the congregations everywhere was attentive and devout, and very much resembled that of Irish congregations at home.

ENGLAND.—A Privilege

A concession or privilege (says the 'Catholic Times') has recently been accorded to the Catholic dioceses in England by the Pope enabling them to have honorary Canons, to the number of three, attached to the Cathedral Chapters. In accordance with this regulation, Canon Wood, who retired from active work at SS. Peter and Paul's, Bolton, about three years ago, has become an honorary Canon. In succession to Canon Wood, the members of the Salford Chapter have elected the Rev. Peter Lonsdale, Rural Dean, Chancellor of the diocese of Salford, and Rector of St. Alban's, Blackburn, to the vacancy. Monsignor Canon Maglione, of St. Joseph's, Blackburn, who has been in failing health for some time, has also accepted an honorary Canonry. The selection for this vacancy in the Chapter falls, by rotation, to the Pope, and is expected to be made within a few weeks.

The Gregorian Chant

The 'Tablet' states that the commission appointed several months ago by Pius X. to supervise the preparation of the Vatican edition of the Gregorian Chant assembled recently at Appuldurcombe Abbey, Wroxall, Isle of Wight, and held its first sitting there in the afternoon of September 6. There were present the Right Rev. Dom J. Pothier, Abbot of S. Wandrille, president; the Rev. Father de Santi, S.J., secretary; Signor Guilio Bas, assistant secretary; the Rev. Dom A. Mocquereau, Prior of Solesmes; Dom Janssens, Prior of Sant' Anselmo, Rome; Dom Raphael Molitor, of Beuron; Dom Michael Horn, of Seckau; Dom A. Gataud, of Fainborough; Dom Wilfrid Corney, of Downside, O.S.B.; MM. les Chanoines Perriot, of Langres, editor of 'L'Ami du Clerge'; Moissenet, of Dijon; Gaborit, of Poitiers; M. l'Abbe Grespellier, of Grenoble, editor of 'La Revue du Chant Gregorien'; the Rev. M. Moloney, of London; Dr. Wagner, of Fribourg; M. Gastoue, of Paris; Mr. Worth, of London; Mr. Booth, of Liverpool.

FRANCE.—The Holy Father and Mgr. Geay

Monsignor Geay, who has resigned the Sec of Laval, says that when he was received by the Pope and intimated his wish to satisfy the Holy Father his Holiness said: 'Thou knowest not what sleepless nights I have passed in prayer for thee, but now the good God has granted my prayer. Thou hast come. Thou wert my son, but now thou art my brother. Wherever I may be thou shalt have thy place, and if one day I should be reduced to a single mouthful of bread, I would, nevertheless share it with thee.'

INDIA.—Catholic Missions

From a tabular statement issued by the Apostolic Delegation for the current year (says an exchange), we gather that out of a total population of 286,302,029, there are 2,217,076 Catholics in India, or including catechumens, 2,262,985. Of this number, 34,751 are Europeans; 57,061, Eurasians; and the rest natives. The figures for Catholics show that since 1889 we have been increasing at the rate of 38,121 a year. And if we assign one-half of this number to births and immigration, the balance will give a fair idea of the steady progress of the work of converting India. But to this there should be added a proportion of some 20,000 infants of heathen parents baptised 'in articulo mortis,' which will give a fair average of 40,000 souls saved from the clutches of paganism every year. The work of our Missions is carried on by 2691 priests, assisted by 1329 monks and 3117 nuns. Of the priests, 990 are Europeans or Eurasians, and 1701 natives. And here it is of interest to note that of the native priests, as many as 1378 are found in the four Portuguese dioceses and three Syrian Vicariates, and but 323 in the 30 other Missions in India.

ITALY.—A Stolen Cope

The 'Giornale di Bologna' says that it has received from New York a letter from an intimate friend of Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, affirming that the latter was most painfully surprised to learn from the Italian newspapers that the famous Nicholas IV. cope, purchased by him in London and now exhibited at the South Kensington Museum, was stolen from the Cathedral of Ascoli. Mr. Morgan has decided to return it to Ascoli.

ROME.—Apostolic Delegate to the Philippines

A Rome correspondent, writing under date September 18, says: Monsignor Agius, the new Apostolic Delegate to the Philippines, was to-day consecrated titular Arch-