

'Do not think of that part of it,' she said. 'Think only of her waiting for you, and loving you. Life is so short. We have an eternity in which to be happy!'

Pennyroyal listened, and for the first time in six months his look lifted. But he said nothing at all.

'I should hear from Ruth to-day,' Mrs. Vibart was saying that afternoon, as they drove home, Mr. Smith chatting gaily. 'How one does appreciate letters when one is away from home! Are you sure you asked at the office this morning, Margaret?'

'Yes, mother; there were none.'

'A post comes in at five,' Mr. Smith said: 'we'll all hear by that. I expect a letter, too; I'm longing to hear if James has passed his examination. Bless that boy! how he did work!'

Once launched upon 'James,' the conversation remained in that channel till the huge facade of the hotel was reached, and then Margaret saw her mother go upstairs, while she went to the office to inquire for letters.

Quite a number of people were waiting, and she could see Pennyroyal look at them dully as he strode past, a head taller than all the other men. He never even inquired; apparently no one wrote to him—now.

And then Margaret got near, and after finding the desired letter from Ruth, she suddenly caught sight of a square, white envelope, very much re-addressed, and she read the name:

'John Pennyroyal.'

'I'll take it to him,' she thought. 'It seems to have followed him about a good deal', and then, after giving her mother the long-wished-for epistle, she went into the reading-room.

Pennyroyal was there alone, standing idly at the window, and looking out at a row of dahlias which were beginning to hang their heads. Margaret held out the letter to him.

'I found a letter for you, Mr. Pennyroyal.'

He took it listlessly, thanking her in his usual absent way. 'His gaze fell on the envelope. He started wildly, as if pierced to the heart.

'It's a trick!' he cried, then, brokenly, 'a cruel trick! Her hand! Mary's hand!'

And then he tore the envelope open with a sudden wild energy, and he read, ghastly white, and with big drops on his forehead.

Margaret waited, and it seemed an hour till he looked up. And ah, the joy, the radiance, the glory in the dark face, and his voice was hoarse and broken still, and his strong hand trembled till the letter shook.

'It was all a horrible mistake!' he said. 'It wasn't my missus at all! It was a poor woman she got in to work. And they reported it was my Mary, and she was lying ill with fever at the station, and couldn't deny it! They told me she was dead and buried; and I took out my passage and set sail the next day. And they hunted me ever since, and through my travelling about like this, and leaving no address, they never found me, and she's waiting—she's waiting for me at Sydney!'

Margaret did not see Pennyroyal again that night. He dashed wildly from the room to cable to his wife, and he left early next day.

But before leaving she met him in the hall, and he came up to her eagerly—a new man—with such a light of joy and hope on his brown face, and he wrung her slender hand in his till Margaret winced inwardly, though she only smiled.

'I didn't thank you yesterday,' he said, 'maybe you thought I didn't hear—or take it in, but I did! Catholic and all as I am, my heart was like stone until you spoke. And then your voice was so like hers it made me think I heard her. And it was all true, Miss! I've got her back, but death'll never seem so black to me again. I'll remember, and I'll tell her all about it. She'd thank you better than me for these kind words. And she isn't a bit like me—my missus—not a bit like me! Don't you think that?'

'Car is at the door, sir.'

He wrung her hand and was gone.

Margaret and her mother left Killarney next day, and they were seen off by Mr. Smith, beaming all over. 'Never had such an enjoyable time in my life—never! And we were a pleasant party, all except poor Pennyroyal. And now he is all right! Odd story that! Good-bye, good-bye!'—Benziger's Magazine.

The Catholic World

AFRICA—Murder of Missionaries

A cablegram from Berlin under date August 18 states that the report of the massacre of the Right Rev. Mgr Spies, the Catholic Bishop, and his party of two male and two female missionaries in German East Africa has been confirmed. Hearing of an insurrection, the party were returning to the coast, when they were attacked. All the natives accompanying the party fled. Bishop Spies tried to persuade the assailants as to the peaceful nature of the mission, but without success. All the bodies of the victims showed many spear wounds. The nuns covered their faces with their veils and calmly awaited their fate.

ENGLAND—Catholic Young Men's Societies

The Catholic Young Men's Societies of Great Britain, represented by about 220 delegates, opened their annual conference in Leeds on the first Sunday in August. The conference was favored with the presence of Archbishop Bourne, and the occasion was availed of by his Grace to utter words which may be taken as an augury of future progress. Not only did he most cordially recommend the Society, but he promised to do all that he could to strengthen it in the south, where it has a very large field for extension. The papers read at the conference were eminently suggestive. Father Day, whilst subjecting the Socialistic programme to a keenly critical analysis, was progressive in his demand for the application of Christian principles to social conditions. Canon Kendal showed luminously that the power of religion in England is far from being what it was in former days. Father Norris set forth the Christian ideal of Labor, which we are in danger of forgetting amidst the stress of industrial competition. Dr. Sparrow gave voice to the Catholic view on Education, sounding a decisive note of warning to the Liberal party. Mr. Cruise contributed a paper on mental culture which was at once graceful, instructive, and useful. In the annals of the Society the Leeds Conference will rank amongst the most successful.

The Rights of Catholic Parents

The Leeds Conference of the Catholic Young Men's Society unanimously adopted a resolution declaring that no settlement of the education question can be accepted by Catholics which deprives Catholic parents of the power of having their children taught by Catholic teachers. A resolution advocating the formation of a committee in connection with each society in Great Britain to ensure registration was unanimously carried.

Golden Jubilee

The golden jubilee of the priesthood of the Very Rev. Canon Northcote was recently celebrated at Stoke-on-Trent, when many addresses and presentations were made to the venerable jubilarian.

FRANCE—Expulsion of Nuns

On the 1st of September the Dominican Nuns were to be expelled from their House at Bar-le-Duc. This prospect has elicited a letter from Monsignor Dubois, Bishop of Verdun, to the nuns. The Bishop deeply deplores their departure, brought about by 'those who have dreamed of the destruction in France of religious instruction and Christian education, and who are carrying out their projects in opposition not only to the rights of the Church, but to those of the citizen, whose freedom and whose property are attacked.'

ROME—Papal Anniversary

August 4 being the anniversary of Pius X's election to the Pontifical Chair, his Holiness received many letters, telegrams, and addresses of congratulation from Italy and abroad.

The Biblical Commission

The London 'Tablet' announces that Father David Fleming, the secretary of the Biblical Commission in Rome, has been obliged to return to England owing to prolonged ill health. Father Fleming has been elected Provincial of the Franciscans in England.

The Holy Father and Catholic Action

His Holiness Pope Pius X. has followed up his Encyclical to the Italian Catholics on 'Catholic Action' with a letter to Count Albani, Professor Toniolo, and Commendatore Pericoli, leaders of the Italian social movement. The Pontiff says that he has derived great consolation from the address in which such a large number of Italian Catholics have expressed their gratitude for the Encyclical. He rejoiced at the docility with which they accepted his instructions and the promptness with which they declared themselves ready

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