

## The Broken Crucifix

Preaching recently at the reception of candidates into the Order of the Poor Clares Collettines, at St. Clare's Abbey, Carlow Graigue, Ireland, Father Paul, O.S.F.C., after dwelling upon the triumphs of the Cross among savage peoples, said it was not necessary to go into uncivilised parts nor centuries back to find miracles of God's tender mercies.

Who, he asked, in recent times has not heard of that advanced leader of the Socialist party in France, M. Jaures, a more notorious enemy of the Church and of the crucifix than ever were the cannibals of Brazil. Well, only a few months ago an incident was going the rounds of the Parisian papers that brought tears to many eyes and sent a thrill of joy to many hearts. One evening, when M. Jaures had returned from the Chamber of Deputies after a hard day's work, in which he had endeavored—and to his mind successfully endeavored—to kill the Church in France, he threw himself into an easy chair in his study and heaved a sigh of relief that the debate was over and that he had some time for repose.

Suddenly a gentle knock was heard at the door; a graceful hand pushed aside the rich hangings, and there stood before him the tall, slight and handsome form of his daughter. Leaning on a chair close by, she sweetly said, 'Father, you must be very tired.' 'Yes,' he replied, 'I am.' 'Oh, then, I should not have come,' she continued. 'Oh, don't say that,' he returned, 'I am very pleased to see you. What is it?' 'Well, father,' she timidly spoke, 'for a long time I have been anxious to enter a convent and consecrate myself to God.' 'Oh, nonsense!' he ejaculated. 'What put that into your head? Have you spoken to your governess about it?' 'Ah, no,' said she, 'the governess has no religion, and she does not know anything about such matters.'

'Well,' he continued, 'some one must have led you to this brink of the abyss, and I am anxious to know all about it.' 'Father,' she went on, 'it was this way. About four years ago the governess and myself were out for a walk in the country. We strolled away on a lonely road till we came to where one of the wayside crosses had been pulled down and the crucifix broken to pieces. The governess and myself set about putting the pieces together as best we could, just as children build houses from little blocks. Soon we had every piece in its place, and the crucifix was complete. But, oh, from that day to this the look from the eyes of that broken crucifix has caused a harvest of ideas to spring up in my soul that no one ever sowed there. Its vision has ever haunted my mind and inspired me to make some reparation for all this sacrilege. I have been held back, and my heart torn at the thought of leaving you, but then the sorrows of Jesus crucified have been my strength and consolation. I have prayed Him to let me share His sorrows, that I may win for you the light to know Him, that we may both live and love Him together.'

Her voice was choked in her sobs; she could say no more. He, too, broke down; he shuddered; he grew pale; he motioned her to leave; he wished to be alone.

Oh, what a mysterious incident! How irresistible the voice of Jesus from the cross. Well has the Scripture expressed it, 'The heart of man disposeth his way, but the Lord must direct his steps.' What a shattering of the proud conceits of this notorious persecutor of the Church! He had banished from his home every symbol of religion, everything that could remind his fair child of God and His kingdom, but the broken crucifix on the lonely wayside had frustrated all his wicked designs and had stamped the image of Jesus so deep on her heart that nothing could blot it out.

She is gone from her home to weep by the crucifix in solitude, and may we hope that her prayers and her tears will win for her father and for the land of her birth the light of faith and the glory of the ancient Church of France.

## Domestic

By MAUREEN

### To Whiten Woodware.

The following ingredients, worked into a paste, will make floors, deal tables, and all kitchen woodware beautifully white, with very little trouble:—Half a pound of softsoap, half a pound of sand, and a quarter pound of lime. Rub a little on the scrubbing brush and apply; then rinse the wood well with clean water.

### A Simple and Effective Medicine for Children.

Children in general have a horror of medicine, and it is often difficult to know what to give them. Muscatels stoned and soaked in salad oil for a few hours make an excellent aperient for children, and one they are generally very willing to take. One or two in the morning, half an hour before breakfast, is usually enough, and the fretting brought about by the very mention of medicine is dispensed with.

### Tender Feet.

Relief may often be obtained by smearing the soles with tallow and fuller's earth. When feet perspire freely a frequent change of footgear is necessary. Boracic acid in pulverised form is a good dusting powder for the soles of the feet, and another powder greatly used in these cases is composed of four parts of lycopodium, one part of powdered alum, and one part of tannin.

### To Clean a Gas Stove.

Every housewife is more or less annoyed by the facility with which her gas stove becomes soiled, if not, indeed, clogged with splatterings of grease. An easy method of removing this will probably be acceptable. Immerse the separable parts for several hours in a warm lye heated to about 70 degrees, the lye to be made of nine parts of caustic soda and 180 parts of water. These pieces, together with the fixed parts of the stove, may be well brushed with this lye, and afterwards rinsed in clean warm water. The grease will be dissolved away, and the stove restored almost to its original purity.

### Borax.

Many housekeepers who have used borax in other ways have never known or appreciated its medicinal uses. Nothing is better for a cut or a rough jagged wound than to bathe it with a solution of borax and water, and keep cloths wet with the same solution around it. If the baby is troubled with thrush, which is a common and sometimes dangerous disease of babyhood, mix one part of borax with eight parts of honey and apply it to the inside of the mouth. For common sore mouth a weak solution used as a wash every morning will soon effect a cure. It possesses wonderful antiseptic powers, purifying and cleansing everything upon which it is used.

### To Renovate Velvet.

Never attempt to smooth velvet by ironing it, or the result will be a failure. This applies also to velveteen and plush, as all three have a pile, which if flattened must be assisted to rise again. A simple way to clean either is the following:—Have at hand a stiff whisk broom, a pan of boiling water, and some one to brush up the nap as you hold the goods taut over the steam, the wrong side to the water, and after a few applications the materials will look like new. This process removes wrinkles, brightens the color, and makes the crushed nap stay up when brushed against the grain, and will also answer for black or colored pile fabrics. If the velvet has a grease spot on it, remove it with French chalk before steaming. A sticky spot may be lightly touched with clean cold water before the steaming process.

*Maureen*

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time. No rubbing, no drudgery; washing just a PLEASURE. Housewives of many years' standing emphatically endorse these statements. Total cost of wash for family of ten, twopence.—J. HARRISON, Manufacturer, 184 Kilmore street, Christchurch.