

A MINISTER'S CONVERT WIFE

A CURIOUS SITUATION AND ITS SEQUEL

The *Campbelltown Courier* (says the *Glasgow Observer*) prints some interesting particulars regarding the resignation of a United Free Church minister in Arran, who has been obliged to resign his position because his wife has become a Catholic. The United Free Presbytery is at least to be commended for its candor. The resignation of the minister, it is admitted most frankly, was occasioned solely by his wife's change of faith. 'One thing alone had come between them—Mrs. Grant's entry into the Roman Catholic Church.' The following is the complete report, as printed in the *Campbelltown Courier*:—

The resignation of the Rev. A. J. Grant, of Lochranza, was laid before the Presbytery.

Rev. John McQueen and Rev. John Kennedy reported having met with the minister and congregation at Lochranza in connection with the matter, and their inquiries had impressed them with the fact that the step taken was the most advisable in the interests of the congregation. They had also been impressed with the real sorrow manifested by the congregation at the circumstances which had arisen to bring about the separation of minister and people, and were convinced that one thing alone had come between them—viz., Mrs. Grant's entrance to the Roman Catholic Church. Rev. Mr. Grant, who was present, made a statement regarding the circumstances which had necessitated the step he had taken, and expressed the grief he felt in resigning his stated work and charge over a people he loved, for work amongst people whom he could not so well know or sympathise with. He was deeply attached to his people, and it was with much sorrow he found it necessary to sever the tie.

Rev. Mr. McQueen having engaged in prayer, thereafter moved that the resignation of Mr. Grant be accepted. It was with deep regret the Presbytery concurred in the step he had taken, and with sorrow they prepared to bid him farewell. Of Mr. Grant's fellowship with the brethren and his work within the bounds of the Presbytery, they would have the most pleasant recollection. It was with deep sorrow they viewed the action Mrs. Grant had found it necessary to take, especially after the good work she had done in Lochranza, and the fortitude with which she had borne the ordeals of the recent trying years of crisis.

Rev. A. McLaren Young, in seconding, also spoke of the excellent work Mr. Grant had done in Lochranza and in the Presbytery, and expressed his deep regret at the events which had arisen to interfere with that work.

Other members of the Presbytery having spoken in appropriate and feeling terms, the Moderator intimated acceptance of the resignation, and commended Mr. Grant and his wife to the guidance of God.

The brethren afterwards shook hands with Mr. Grant and bade him farewell.

Rev. J. M. Macnaughton was appointed interim-moderator of the Lochranza congregation, and Rev. John McQueen was instructed to preach the charge vacant on the 22nd inst.

A *Rothsay* paper, in an article, 'The Arran Perversion,' writes:—

'The latest sensation in Arran is the perversion to the Church of Rome of the wife of the U.F. minister at Lochranza. It is stated that the "pervert," who is considerably younger than her husband, is English, and that previous to her marriage she belonged to the Church of England, and that her sympathies were with the High Church party. Her husband and she, it is said, first met each other at Moffat Hydropathic, and marriage soon followed. During her recent absence in England she notified her husband and the elders of the church of her intention to join the Church of Rome, and it is stated that the rev. gentleman "wired" his wife to delay confirmation until he would reach her, but on proceeding south he found that confirmation had been duly carried out. On returning to Arran they continued to live together as before on the most friendly terms, but the bulk of the congregation ceased to attend the church, and in consequence the rev. gentleman felt it incumbent upon him to resign.'

A writer in the *Glasgow Evening News* bears testimony to the fact that Mrs. Grant had done excellent work in connection with her husband's charge. The *News* writer says: 'The minister's wife at the time of the church crisis, by visiting the people and talking with them, did good service to her husband and his church, counteracting in not a few instances strong "Wee Free" influences; but, despite that memory, and that of many years of cordial and helpful relationship with the people, the altered circumstances created an unbridgeable gulf between cot and manse, the upshot of which is the resignation of the minister.'

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Domestic

By MAUREEN

To Brighten Paint.

Kitchen paints will soon acquire a shabby, dull look from the frequent cleaning that is necessary. The use of soap only increases the difficulty, especially if the paints are varnished. A good plan is to boil lib of bran in a gallon of water for an hour, then wash the paint with this bran water, and it will be kept not only clean, but bright and glossy.

To Sweeten Rancid Butter.

It is frequently found that when butter that has been potted for some time is required for use the flavor has become strong and unpleasant. To overcome this, cut as much butter as is wanted, and before using it put it to soak for a couple of hours, or even longer, in cold water, to which a good pinch of carbonate of soda has been added. The effect is quite wonderful; the rancid taste will disappear, and the butter be as good as ever.

A Garden Sand-heap.

Most children simply revel in digging, and it is an excellent plan to have a small load of clean, soft sand dumped down in a hidden corner of the garden for them. Then make them some sort of warm, dark, cover-all garment, provide each with a pail and a wooden spade, and they will play for hours, and be the happiest little mortals under the sun. The sand-heap has another great advantage: it is far cleaner than ordinary garden soil, and will keep the children in the air, happy, amused, and out of mischief the whole morning or afternoon long, when the weather happens to be fine and dry.

To Make a Fire Last for Hours.

If you are leaving your house for a few hours, and want to keep the fire in, instead of throwing a lot of coal on, it is much better and safer to put two or three pieces on, and then throw a handful of table salt over them. If this is done you will find a good fire at the end of four or five hours. Another equally good method is to allow the fire to burn until it is quite clear and rather low. Then lay some nice sized lumps of coal on it; flatten these well down, and on top heap a good thick layer of dust and ashes, which should be slightly moistened. Press this well down with a shovel. A fire like this will last for hours, and if made up last thing before going to bed often burns right through the night.

Insomnia.

Sufferers from insomnia should try cayenne pepper sandwiches. Cut a slice of thin bread—a plain biscuit may be used—butter it generously, and add a liberal sprinkling of cayenne pepper. Cover it over with a thin slice of bread or a biscuit, as the case may be. It is surprising what little unpleasantness is experienced; merely a slight smarting sensation in the mouth, which is soon over. The sandwich should be eaten immediately before retiring, and soon after the sufferer will be asleep. The pepper acts as a stimulant to the stomach, drawing the blood from the excited brain, and inducing refreshing sleep. A cayenne pepper sandwich is much less harmful than drugs, and, when taken in small quantities, is a good tonic for a weak stomach. Bilious headaches have also been known to yield to a cup of hot water to which has been added a generous pinch of cayenne pepper and a piece of soda as big as a pea.

Wrinkles.

Wrinkles and grey hairs are said to come mainly from crossing bridges we never reach, worrying about things that may never happen, and fearing all sorts of things that may never be our lot; but, according to a well-known beauty doctor, excessive novel-reading is responsible for the bad complexions, wrinkled foreheads, and sunken eyes of many young women. He says: 'Many young women cause premature wrinkles to form on their foreheads by reading exciting novels. They sit for hours, often in an imperfect light, their brows furrowed, and, if the book is a thrilling one, expressing on their faces unconsciously the emotions it excites.' The advice is given that every young girl should get up and look at her face in the glass after reading an exciting novel. She will not know herself. She will look five or ten years older than she really is.

Maureen

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