

It was very rarely that the general asserted himself in any way, and the novelty of the spectacle had apparently deprived his wife of her usual powers of resistance. Presently the lady-help, with a somewhat embarrassed expression on her piquant face, made her appearance, followed closely by the tall, soldierly figure of her companion in crime.

Frank had confidently expected to find a wrathfully indignant mother, and a placid temporising father, but in this case, greatly to his astonishment, the situation was reversed.

Mrs. Lomer gave him a deprecating glance as he entered, and the general danced up to him and shook his fist in his face.

'What do you mean by it, sir?' he shouted, and then, without waiting for an answer he turned to Ruth. And you too, Miss? Masquerading in a cap and apron when you had every intention of becoming my daughter-in-law.'

'But I had not,' replied Ruth, looking up at him with a confiding expression in her hazel eyes. She knew he admired her—what woman was ever ignorant on that subject?—and she hoped that that same admiration would tend to soften his heart. 'May I tell you all about it?' she added timidly.

'That is why I sent for you,' he answered, seating himself in his arm-chair in a magisterial attitude.

And then, in her low, musical voice, Ruth told her story.

She had refused Frank Lomer because she could not, consistently with the religion she professed, consent to become the wife of a Protestant. Since her conversion her life at home had not been exactly a bed of roses, and she felt instinctively that her father, the Rector, resented the presence of a Catholic under his roof, so she decided—that being the role for which she felt herself best fitted—to undertake the duties of a lady-help.

An old school companion had invited her on a visit to London, and it was during this time that she made inquiries at agency offices and studied the advertisement sheets of the daily papers in search of a situation. Then one morning she saw the name of Lomer, and was immediately attracted by it. Further investigations proved the relationship of her rejected lover, and an irresistible impulse prompted her to offer her services, although she had then no hopes of Frank's ultimate conversion to Catholicity.

'H'm,' grunted the general at this juncture. 'It seems to me you were playing with fire, young lady. What did you intend to do, pray, when Master Frank appeared upon the scene?'

'He had told me he was going to exchange into a regiment in India,' she faltered, 'and—and I thought I could have asked for a holiday when he came home on leave.'

Mrs. Lomer's foot tapped impatiently on the floor. This was another blow. Her son, then, would have cheerfully abandoned his parents and his country for the sake of this—this—well, this young woman.

'It was about a fortnight ago,' continued Ruth, 'that he—your son—discovered where I was. I had neither heard nor seen anything of him since we parted, and I fully imagined he had gone to India. He wrote to me and said he was coming here as soon as he could get leave, and,' with a deprecating glance at the general and his wife, 'that he was convinced of the truth of the Catholic religion.'

Here Mrs. Lomer rose hastily with the air of one who has exhausted her stock of patience.

'There, James,' she said, 'you have heard the facts of the case; surely we need not prolong this scene! With regard to the creed Frank has chosen to adopt we can do nothing. He is of age, and though it is a bitter blow we shall have to bear it. But with regard to this—this engagement'—And she paused abruptly with her eyes fixed on Ruth's fair, flushed face.

The general's glance had wandered in the same direction, but was now hastily averted.

'If you have made up your mind to be a Papist, Frank,' he said sharply, turning to his still bewildered son, 'why, hang it all, you are old enough to have more sense, but you must do as you choose. But as for you, Miss Chester, why, God bless my soul, this sort of thing won't do. I give you warning immediately, and from this moment you are no longer in my service.'

'Very well,' replied Ruth quietly, as she turned to leave the room. Her face was pale, but her little head was as erect as ever.

'Father!' exclaimed Frank hotly, starting forward and intercepting her passage to the door. 'What do you mean?'

'What I say,' replied the general.

He was enjoying himself intensely, and his wife was gazing at him, lost in surprise at this newly-developed phase of his character.

'Mrs. Lomer and I have no longer any need of Miss Chester's services, and so—'

'James!' exclaimed his wife at his elbow. 'You are a little too severe; perhaps—'

'And so,' repeated the general, with a gleam of triumph in his eyes, 'she is dismissed in the capacity of lady-help, but—we shall hope to retain her in the role of a daughter-in-law.'

* * *

'By George,' said the general to himself, with a gleeful chuckle, when he was left in undisputed possession of his study, 'they say no man has ever been able to get the better of a woman, but it strikes me, Lomer old boy, that in this case you have been the exception which proves the rule.'—*Catholic Press*.

Evening Star, June 22, 1889, says:—"Messrs. W. Gawne and Co of George Street, have sent us a sample of Worcestershire Sauce manufactured by them, which is in no respect inferior to the imported article, so long celebrated for flavouring sauces and as an agreeable addition to grills, fish, and steaks. We can safely recommend it as a valuable addition to our rapidly developing local manufactures. The bottles are neatly labelled and ornamental, not only for home use, but for exportation; and we hope the manufacturers will realise a demand equal to the merits of the savoury article they have produced."—* * *

The Catholic World.

CANADA.—The Manitoba School Question.—Sir Charles Tupper has re-opened the Manitoba school question, and says he is going to press it forward till justice is done to the Catholics.

ENGLAND.—Presentation to Canon White.—The vacancy in the Metropolitan Chapter, through the resignation of Canon O'Callaghan, has been filled by the appointment of the Very Rev. Alfred Canon White. The appointment gave great satisfaction to his parishioners, and congratulations were received by him from a large number of priests with whom he had shared so long the work of the London mission. A subscription was set on foot in his parish and in a few hours it had amounted to £1100. This sum included the munificent single gift of £1000. With an equal generosity the Canon handed over the amount to the building fund of the new cathedral at Westminster. Canon White is one of the old guard, a veteran still full of energy and activity, performing all the duties of his rectorship vigorously and without intermission, taking part on the vestry, the Board of Guardians and at the hospital, in the public life of the locality, and winning the public esteem. He commenced his priestly career at Moorfields in Cardinal Wiseman's time in 1852. On the death of Father Butt at Hammersmith he became assistant priest to Canon O'Keefe, who became rector in 1854. From thence to 1858 he was placed in charge of Homer Row, where he continued to work until he succeeded 15 years ago to the rectorship of Brook Green. At Homer Row he spent on the church, independently of any sums received in the parish, some £6000, and Holy Trinity bears witness to his artistic taste and generous devotion to the beauty of God's house. The desire of his people is that he may live long and prosper.

FRANCE.—An Attack on Catholic Institutions.—The Budget discussions (says the Paris correspondent of the *London Tablet*) have been full of important points and have afforded a good deal of evidence of the intolerant spirit with which the anti-clerical party is carrying on the struggle against the Church. A second attack was made against the religious congregations in the debate on the Budget of the Ministry of the Interior on the question of orphanages and homes for old people conducted at the charges of private charity. The attack was led by M. Fournière, who raked up objections to the present system founded on unproved charges of mal-administration, and naturally made a special point of the affair of the Sisters of the Bon-Pasteur and Mgr. Turinaz, Bishop of Nancy. Not content with calling for a full inquiry, he revealed, in the heat of the moment, his real aim, which was nothing more or less than the complete laicization of all institutions in which old people and children are tended. The Abbé Lemire entered a dignified protest against the unproved charges brought forward by M. Fournière. As far as the nuns of the Bon-Pasteur were concerned, they had under their care no less than 47,000 children. He had received letters from all parts of France denying the charge brought against the Sisters of exploiting the work of the children under their care and abandoning them on leaving the convents. He challenged the Government to have a full inquiry into the state of affairs, and he bade them compare the results with those of another inquiry conducted by the police, into the houses into which country girls who had come to the great towns for work were decoyed and ruined.

GERMANY.—A New Church in Jerusalem.—For the Dormition Church in Jerusalem, which is to be built by the Catholics of Germany, a sum of nearly a million marks has been collected.

INDIA.—Death of a Venerable Priest.—Father Sir George Talbot Bridges, eighth baronet, of Goodneston Park, Kent, has died at Bhusaval, Bombay, at the age of 81. He was the son of an Anglican minister, the late Rev. Edward Brook Bridges, third son of the third baronet. He succeeded in 1895 his cousin, the Rev. Sir Thomas Pym Bridges, who had also succeeded a cousin, the Rev. Sir Brook George Bridges. The deceased was a member of the Society of Jesus. The title now becomes extinct, after having been in existence since 1718.

ITALY.—Success of the Catholic Schools.—It is understood (says a Rome correspondent) that the report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the condition of the episcopal *ginnasi* and *licei* of Italy and their educational results turns out to be thoroughly favourable. It shows that these Catholic schools can bear comparison successfully with the non-religious Government schools, and quite upsets the fashionable view that 'Catholicism is a hindrance to science and progress.' Even the private Catholic schools and those directed by religious are daily progressing, a circumstance recently emphasised in the Parliament by a Liberal deputy.

ROME.—A Famous Picture.—It is melancholy news (says the *London Tablet*) for lovers of religious art that Leonardo da Vinci's 'Last Supper' is fast fading away. A thick layer of grey mould growing over its surface is the agent of destruction, and its condition is so critical that a committee of experts has been summoned to consult over it. They are reduced to a choice of evils, since the original will vanish almost as completely under the hands of the restorer as under the spread of the mildew. A good contemporary copy of it, by Marco d'Oggione, hung in the Diploma Gallery at Burlington House will soon, perhaps, be the best record left of the original idea of the Master.

Proposed Address to the Pope by Nonagenarians.—An original idea has been started by the parish priest of Thun, in Switzerland, viz., to present an address to Pope Leo XIII., on the occasion of the Jubilee year, to be signed by all nonagenarians, as