

when we were alone I told Mathom all. He was horrified and wanted to denounce the murderer then and there; but a moment's reflection showed him that moral conviction was not enough; it was necessary to have substantial evidence. My plan was simple.

When about to retire, Alys was told to go into her dressing-room, and, after dismissing her maid, to stay there and look the door communicating with her bedroom. At the usual hour—perhaps a little earlier—we separated. When all was quiet Hamet stole into Alys' bedroom and placed beneath the lotus bud a little puppy which was condemned to drowning. It was no cruelty to give it a painless death. The Colonel and I waited in his room, which was near Alys'. At one o'clock deep silence reigned throughout the house—when suddenly a very faint sound told us that it was time to enter the laboratory. We glided thither noiselessly; Hamet unlocked the door, and we concealed ourselves behind a large Japanese screen which stood near the deadly apparatus. One gas jet diffused a faint light.

We waited in breathless silence for more than half an hour. Then the door was noiselessly unlocked and with a light step Lady Featherstone entered, carefully closing the door behind her. She turned up the gas, and through the crevices of the screen we saw her plainly. She had changed her dinner dress for a long, grey dressing-gown; her face was pale, her eyes glittered with a baleful light, and every movement showed a merciless deliberation. Without an instant's hesitation she screwed the orifice of the tube into the reservoir of carbon, and then adjusted some interior mechanism which was evidently meant to pump up the gas more quickly. As she stooped over her diabolical contrivance, Mathom and I glided from behind the screen and stood a few paces from her, in the full glare of the gas lamp. When all was arranged to her satisfaction she drew herself up, emitting a sigh of satisfaction; as she did so Mathom placed his hand on her shoulder and by a short twist brought her round to face her accusers and judges. I have seen many criminals of various nations, but the expression of baffled rage and malignity that distorted that awful woman's face will never leave my memory. One glance showed her all was up; and, folding her arms, she allowed Mathom to lead her to the library, where he pointed out to her the dead puppy which had just met the fate that had been intended for his ward.

I shall not write down the scene that followed. Lady Zara met Mathom's scathing denunciations with the most revolting cynicism, and dared him to bring to the scaffold the bearer of the Featherstone title. Her triumph, however, was short-lived. In a few biting words he told her that he had placed a detective on her track when he first began to suspect her; and the previous day had obtained conclusive proofs that she was no widow, as she pretended when she married Harold Featherstone; but the wife of the convict and brigand Shakouloff, who was still alive. He gave her and her son (whose complicity was evident) 48 hours to leave England forever, declaring that Hamet should be her jailer until she landed in France. If she refused to go he would at once give in to Scotland's Yard the proofs of her bigamy and attempted murder. That settled the matter. She was liberally treated, and departed with all she could lay claim to and much more. May I never meet with another woman of that evil stamp!

There is little to add to the Doctor's Diary. Alys was told the facts, and legal steps were taken privately to nullify any future claims Harold Featherstone or his heirs might make on the family properties. Later on Dr. Neilson brought a fair young wife to the Oaks. Alys married Lord Netterville. They founded a Benedictine Monastery at the Manor, and built there a beautiful church, dedicated to the Angel Guardians; so that a centre of Catholic life was formed, which shed and still sheds its beneficent influence on all that district.—*The Ave Maria.*

The Catholic World.

BELGIUM.—Disastrous Fire in a School.—A disastrous fire broke out on January 29 in the Institute St. Joseph, a great religious school at Louvare, Central Belgium, containing several hundred boarders. The institute was destroyed, a fireman and a policeman being severely injured in rendering aid. All the inmates escaped.

ENGLAND.—The Preston Catholic Charitable Society.—The acting committee of the first Catholic Charitable Society established in Preston in 1731 sent to his Majesty the King, on behalf of their members, a telegram expressive of their deep sympathy with him and the Royal family at the death of the Queen, and the expression of their fervent loyalty to his Majesty King Edward VII. and his consort.

Aid for a Liverpool Mission.—The officials of the Catholic mission at Moor Lane, Ashton-in-Makerfield, have received intimation that a grant of £6000 will be made to them for the purpose of erecting a church. This is a portion of a bequest left by the late Mr. John Mercer for the purpose of promoting Catholicism in the Liverpool diocese.

FRANCE.—New Year's Decorations.—The New Year's decorations of the French Government (writes a Paris correspondent) are just published, and some of them are particularly interesting. Sister Candide, the Directress of the Ormeson Hospital for 22 years, is made a Knight of the Legion of Honor, as well as the Bishop of Nice and the parish priest of St. Etienne (Meuse), M. l'abbé Remy, who has filled his post for 40 years. The Bishop of Nice has since declined the nomination in consequence of the attitude of the Government towards the Church.

GERMANY.—The Kaiser and the Pope.—Emperor William, of Germany, wrote a most affectionate New Year's letter to Pope Leo XIII.

ITALY.—Death of a Great Composer.—As was reported by cable at the time Signor Verdi, the famous operatic composer, died early on Sunday morning, January 27, at Milan, after a brief illness. The Pope expressed profound regret at the death of Signor Verdi. Extreme Unction was administered to the dying composer by Don Alberto Catena. Writing of the great composer's death a Rome correspondent says:—Through the death of Verdi has passed away one of the glories of Italy. And the Italians of all classes are showing how highly they honored the distinguished maestro. The Holy Father, King Victor Emmanuel, and the Chambers have been feelingly indicating their regret at his death, and in every part of Italy there is keen competition in devising the happiest means of paying tributes to his memory. It is interesting to note amidst this universal desire of his fellow-countrymen to pay homage to his genius, how extremely simple were Verdi's own wishes with regard to his funeral. In a document which he left for his niece, Signora Carrar, he wrote: 'I desire that my funeral be very modest and take place at daybreak or at the Ave Maria in the evening, without singing or instrumental music. Two priests, two candles, and a cross will suffice. On the day after my death let a thousand lire be distributed to the poor of St. Agatha. The deceased composer made many other charitable bequests. The retreat for poor musicians which he founded by the expenditure of £120,000, receives by his will the magnificent sum of £340,000. His generosity was as noble as his musical talent was brilliant.'

ROME.—The Pope and Christian Democracy.—There are two features (says the *Catholic Times*) of special importance in the Holy Father's Encyclical on Christian Democracy. In the first place, his Holiness is most urgent in impressing upon the clergy the importance of social activity. He has, he states, often made the recommendation in addressing the bishops and other ecclesiastics, and now he desires to repeat it in the most solemn manner. He asks the sacred ministers to keep before their minds as examples worthy of imitation the zeal of the poor and humble St. Francois and the energy of St. Vincent de Paul, the father of the wretched, both of whom made religion a vital power amongst the toiling poor. In the next place, the Holy Father suggests a federation of Catholic societies under one general directing authority. It seems to us that the adoption of this suggestion will signally increase the utility of the societies. Hitherto they have acted more or less as isolated bodies. For the future when great questions arise they will pursue a perfectly harmonious policy. If it were merely for the directions on these two points the Encyclical 'Graves de Communi' will long remain memorable.

The Proto-Martyr of Oceania.—The cause of canonisation of the Blessed Chanel, a Marist priest and proto-martyr of Oceania, was recently before the Congregation of Rites, who investigated two miracles attributed to his intercession.

The Pope and the Queen's Death.—The Holy See decided, in accordance with its traditional custom, not to send an official representative to attend the funeral of the late Queen Victoria; but will send a representative on the occasion of the coronation of King Edward VII. On hearing of the Queen's death the Holy Father at once telegraphed his sympathy to the King, from whom he received a message expressive of cordial thanks.

The Next Consistory.—It is understood here (says a Rome correspondent) that the Holy Father will hold a Consistory in the first half of the month of March, when the oft-deferred creation of new Cardinals will take place. The vacancies in the Sacred College being now abnormally numerous, amounting to nearly one-fourth of the *plenum* or full number, it is expected that the list of new *Porporati* will be longer than is usually the case. Besides the Papal Majordomo, Mgr. Della Volpe, the Archbishop of Florence, Mgr. Mistrangelo, and the Substitute to the Secretaryship of State, Mgr. Tripepi, it is now almost certain that the Very Rev. Father Hildebrand de Kempptinne, Prior-General of the Benedictine Order, will receive the purple, as the Holy Father has more than once expressed the wish that each of the great monastic Orders should have a representative in the Sacred College.

The Pilgrimages during the Holy Year.—The pilgrimages during the year (writes a Rome correspondent) were 163 in number. Their members are calculated to have been about 500,000, the which number would be immeasurably swollen by any reckoning of private pilgrims coming in parties or alone. During the last holy year, that of 1825, 94,159 pilgrims were entertained at the hospice of the Trinita. This number represents the largest part of the poor pilgrims coming from places more than 60 miles distant from Rome. The view which it affords of the total does not put to shame the total of the holy year of 1900. About 25 countries were represented by these poor pilgrims from distant parts entertained at the great hospice. Rather 75 than 50 countries were represented among the officially reported pilgrimages of 1900. The only English-speaking pilgrims on that list of 1825 were two from Ireland. In the year of jubilee just ended there came two pilgrimages from the United States, one from Canada, one from England, one from Scotland, and one from Ireland—many thousands in all.

SCOTLAND.—Presentation to an Edinburgh Priest.—The members of the Bathgate Catholic Young Men's Society, in order in a small measure to testify their deep sense of indebtedness to their spiritual director, Father Peter McDaniel, for all he has done for their spiritual and temporal welfare, recently presented the esteemed rev. gentleman with a handsome tea set and silver service, suitably inscribed.

The Death of the Queen.—In all the Catholic churches in Scotland on the Sunday following the death of the Queen, sym-

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