

'I don't quite know what you mean by "sides," Nancy,' he said; 'but I can tell you by whom and when and why the chain was removed. The guilty one is ready to abide by the consequences. I took it ten minutes ago, and if you are anxious as to its whereabouts, it is in my pocket, case and all. Accidentally I overheard my young niece express her preference for hard cash and her doubt about finding a purchaser; so I thought I would help her out of the difficulty. If she hadn't been in such a hurry to accuse the absent, she would have discovered my cheque in the box in place of the trinket. Your stall will not lose by the transaction.'

'I consider that you have played me a very mean trick,' said Nancy, hotly.

'I might have given you the cheque openly, I admit; but I had some vague idea of sparing your feelings. And I thought that on finding the cheque you would grasp the situation without a verbal explanation, and be rather pleased about it. I intend to give the chain to Miss O'Brien, if I may do what I like with what is my own, twice purchased.'

'Really, Edward, you can be most offensive,' said Mrs. Wilson, violently fanning herself.

'Then I will try to be pleasant. By way of beginning, let me congratulate you on your son's immediate prospect of becoming engaged to my heiress.'

'What?' she half screamed.

'That,—what I have said. All my worldly goods will one day be Miss O'Brien's; and part of them on her marriage, in payment of an old debt. If there is any good in me, if I have persevered and prospered, the thanks, humanly speaking are due to James O'Brien. That is why I asked you to be kind to him. When I was a lad I was turned out of my stepfather's house on a false accusation; and, friendless, penniless, under a cloud as I was, James O'Brien sheltered me, believed in me, made a man of me. When I decided to leave England he paid my passage to New York and gave me my start in life. Though we lost sight of each other, I never forgot what I owed him. I returned with one object and aim—to find him and prove my gratitude. I learned that in old age he had fallen on evil times: that life meant pinching and struggling for him and his. Thank God it is in my power to say that he shall never know another anxious hour, that as he was a father to me in my necessity, so I shall be a son to him in his. It is my turn to help,—that is all.'

It is not quite all. He did not say that on meeting Nellie O'Brien he had for the first time in his life known what it was to love a woman. He did not say what sweet hopes had died, what bright dreams had been broken by Bernard's success. He extended his hand to his unconscious rival, without a trace of bitterness.

'Good luck to you, Bernard! If you are not happy with her you deserve to be wretched. But I think you are of the right stuff,' he said. 'It is better so,' he told himself afterward. 'I am too old, too world-worn for her. And he is manly and plucky and steadfast. Yes, it is better so.'—'Ave Maria'

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Catholic World

AUSTRIA—An Ancient Custom.

Following an ancient custom, Emperor Francis Joseph on Holy Thursday washed the feet of 12 paupers. The Emperor washed and dried the feet of each and then hung a bag of silver coins around their necks. Next, assisted by the Archdukes, the Emperor served the paupers with a three-course meal. The sum total of the ages of those thus served was 1070 years.

A Conspiracy.

The 'Kölnische Volkszeitung' calls upon the Catholics of Austria to renounce for the present the discussion of abstract questions and to apply themselves to the formation of a defensive league against the 'Los von Rom' movement. The time is undoubtedly ripe for strong action on the part of Catholics. The leaders of the Protestant agitation in Austria have disclosed themselves in their true colors. Their leader, Herr Schönerer, by calling in the Austrian Diet for cheers for the Hohenzollerns has shown that he is a traitor and a disruptionist. The 'North German Gazette' has thought well to denounce his conduct in an official communique. The Berlin correspondent of the 'Times' who cannot be suspected of any prejudice in favor of Catholics, asserts that the 'Los von Rom' movement is assuming the aspect of a treasonable conspiracy against the integrity and independence of the Austrian Empire. The 'Kreuz Zeitung,' an organ of militant Protestantism, frankly acknowledges that it cannot greet with enthusiasm a movement which, under cover of an appeal to the national unity of all Germans, is untrue to its own fatherland.

BELGIUM.

The Belgian Chamber of Representatives has, by 93 votes to seven, adopted in its entirety the Anti-Gambling Bill in the form amended by the Senate. The Bill definitely provides for the suppression of gambling clubs in Belgium, and is equally applicable to Ostend and Spa.

ENGLAND.

In honor of the new Cathedral at Westminster, the Holy See has raised the number of the members of the Metropolitan Chapter to 18, and seven new Canons have been appointed. The new Canons are Right Rev. Mgr. J. E. Crook, of Thorndon; Right Rev. Mgr. John Vaughan; Very Rev. G. Delaney, St. John's Wood; Very Rev. Langton Vere, Soho; Very Rev. W. Fleming, Moorfields; Very Rev. Michael Fanning, Pro-Cathedral, Kensington; Very Rev. Thomas Dunn, secretary to Cardinal Vaughan. Right Rev. J. L. Patterson, Bishop of Emmanus, has been appointed Provost of the Chapter.

Collections for the Holy Places.

The collections from the various dioceses of England, Scotland, and Wales for the Holy Land have this year amounted to £1081 18s 7d, a marked increase on last year. The money has been despatched to the Father Custos of the Holy Places at Jerusalem.

French Nuns.

The Hastings Hydropathic, a large building in extensive grounds at Old Town, Hastings, has been purchased by the Nuns of Perpetual Adoration, sixty of whom are coming from France to reside there.

Death of a Priest.

The death is reported of the Rev. Francis Stephen Ffrench, rector of All Saints', Glossop, in his 45th year. Father Ffrench enjoyed a more than local reputation as an eloquent preacher, and for some years he was diocesan inspector of

schools. He was a member of the great Irish family of Ffrench, of Mayo and Galway, a great-grand-nephew of the Liberator, and brother of County Court Judge Ffrench.

Temperance Work.

Father Hay's temperance crusade is being taken up with enthusiasm. His visit to Jarrow-on-Tyne a few weeks ago was an immense success. His Worship the Mayor, who presided and welcomed Father Hays, said it was 'the largest and most enthusiastic meeting of any kind ever held in the town for 25 years.' The doors of the Mechanics' Hall were opened at six, and before seven o'clock the spacious hall was completely crowded in every part. Supporting the Mayor were the clergy of the various religious denominations in the town, the Catholic priests of St. Bede's, many of the leading people and public men from Gateshead, Stockton, South Shields, Hebburn, etc. Father Hays received a great reception, the audience cheering for several minutes. The rev. gentleman delivered a remarkable speech, which lasted over two hours. He pleaded for the moral and social uplifting of the people by the removal of the terrible degradations and temptations of social vice and misery. Their work for temperance was beset by many difficulties and enemies on all sides, but it was in the best interests of God and their fellow-men that they should succeed. The living God was on their side, and what did it matter if all the world was against them. The lecturer proved from statistics that if intemperance was wiped out we might close half the asylums, nine out of every ten of the prisons and workhouses, and save the country £260,000,000 every year. The speaker concluded with a burning appeal to his hearers, and, although he had spoken for two hours and five minutes, the vast audience, large numbers of whom had to stand in the passages and entrances, cheered and urged him to continue. Mr. Hardy (Newcastle) proposed and the Rev. Mr. Pickering seconded, the vote of thanks. On the Mayor's invitation, Father Hays gave his blessing to the people who afterwards gave him a great ovation.

Blessing the Colors.

His Majesty the King has invited the Right Rev. Dr. Brindle, D.S.O., Bishop of Nottingham to bless the colors of the recently-formed regiment of Irish Guards on June 24. Bishop Brindle was formerly an army chaplain, and until the beginning of the year was auxiliary to his Eminence Cardinal Vaughan.

A Good Idea.

A very interesting scheme has been started by the Rev. Peter E. Amigo, of Waltham, England, who is founding a settlement where young men of the world who feel drawn to a clerical life may, without leaving their daily pursuits, work among the poor and gain an experience which will decide them after a year or more of life in this settlement as to whether their true vocation is the priesthood. The novices, should they be considered to have a true vocation, will be enabled to proceed to the seminary to undergo the regulation training for the priesthood.

FRANCE.—A Statue.

A colossal statue of the Blessed Virgin sculptured by M. Godebski, who accepts no payments from the subscribers for his work, is to be placed at the point on the Breton coast nearest to the place where Sir Donald Currie's Cape liner, the Drummond Castle, went down six years ago.

MEXICO.—An Album.

The monumental album soon to be presented to Leo XIII., by the Catholic women of Mexico, now contains the enormous number of 50,000 names.