

the sealed document enclosed and unfolded the sheet.

'It's from Pethuel Penny,' she said, faintly.

'Kind of a spirit letter,' asked Freeman, respectfully.

But Mrs. Penny was deep in the perusal of it.

Dear Son,—I suppose by this time you're back home, and likely your mother's managing ways have begun to grow on her as she ages. But she means well and likes to think she's running things, so you'd better do as I've done—let her have her own way when it don't matter, and go ahead quiet like when you want your own. You've seen something of the world now, and are ready to settle down. I've always had an idea from the time you were a little fellow that you'd take to lumbering. And in case you should I've been buying up timber land as I saw the chance. In case you don't want to work it it's good property to hold. The squire will send the deeds along with this. Later on, when you've got a little start in life, you may hear from me again. I needn't tell you to take good care of your mother and show her all due respect. Your affectionate father,

P. PENNY.

Mrs. Penny sat limply back in her chair. Freeman had gone about the evening chores and the setting sun was lighting up the orchard, where ripening fruit hung heavy upon the trees. She remembered suddenly how the trees she had ordered at Baldwin's had proved Northern Spies when they began to bear.

'I lived with Pethuel 19 years,' she said, reflectively, 'but I never really understood him.'

She sat opposite Reuben at the supper table a few evenings later, noting with pride his improvement in looks and manner and deferring to him with a meekness quite unwonted.

'I haven't made any plans for the winter, Reuben,' she said, 'and I didn't know just what you want done.'

But Reuben, it appeared, was quite willing to leave the farm in the efficient hands of his mother and her hired assistant, while he followed his own desire and carried out his father's plans.

Three years later, when Reuben was beginning to win success in his lumbering operations, Pethuel Penny's last letter arrived, and fell, like its predecessor, into Mrs. Penny's hands. To open Reuben's letters seemed a far more serious thing than formerly, but curiosity at last overcame her scruples. 'This is what she read:—

You are well started in life now, my boy, and I see no reason to doubt that you are living an upright life in the fear of the Lord and doing your duty by your mother and your fellow men. * * * You'll be thinking of marrying soon. I want you to choose for yourself, but think it over carefully, and find just the kind of woman best suited to you. Your mother is one of a thousand, and it would have been a heavy blow if I'd

been spared to see her taken first. But I always had a notion if it should be my lot to marry a second time, I'd try one of those soft little women that swear by every word a man speaks. Your mother is the best woman in the world, but one manager in a family is enough.

Mrs. Penny dropped the letter excitedly. 'Pethuel was always a man of excellent judgment,' she said. 'He thinks exactly as I do.'

Some weeks later Reuben and his mother, attending church at the Corner schoolhouse, met Dorcas, now home for the summer vacation and looking a little thin from her winter's work.

'Yes, it seems nice to be home again,' she acknowledged, in answer to Reuben's question. 'The city is very well for a change, but I seem to belong up here.'

They strolled along the smooth road to the Colby house near by. The deacon and his wife and Mrs. Penny were a little in advance.

'You don't think that perhaps at was a mistake, Dorcas?' Reuben said, pausing where a cluster of white birches hid the others from view. Dorcas looked steadily downward, absently pulling a rose from her belt and scattering its petals over her muslin dress.

'It was better to make it that way,' she said, shyly. 'Because, you see, the other couldn't have been undone.'—'Youth's Companion.'

Catholic World

CHINA.—Abandoned Children.

I encountered an impressive index of the extent of infanticide two years ago at Shwantse, the centre of the Catholic missions at Mongolia, the former residence of the celebrated Abbe Huc (writes the special correspondent of the New York 'Evening Post'). Here, in this out-of-the-way place in the country, far away from any city were 400 Chinese girls in the Catholic mission school, and they were as interesting and attractive body as could be found anywhere in the country, but we were told by the self-denying Belgian missionaries who had consecrated their lives to the work, that all these girls had as infants been exposed by their parents to death, from which they had been rescued and brought to the interesting state of development in which we saw them.

ENGLAND.—Diocese of Salford.

Canon Richardson, in his annual report on the Catholic schools in the diocese of Salford, says: 'We have 1814 non-Catholic children on the books of our elementary schools. This is, I am pleased to say, a smaller number than we have had for some years. I shall be glad if some day I can report that this class has entirely disappeared. We have never wished for their presence, and their absence would in no sense weaken the moral fitness of the schools they attend.'

The Trappists.

Members of the Trappist Order who are leaving France owing to the operation of the new law affecting religious associations, have purchased the estate of Wood Barton, Woodleigh, near Kingsbridge, South Devon, where they will form a settlement. It is expected that between 60 and 70 Trappists will ultimately settle at Woodleigh.

The Westminster Cathedral.

The first public ceremony in the new Cathedral buildings at Westminster took place on Sunday afternoon, April 13, when Cardinal Vaughan received in the lecture hall adjoining the Cathedral deputations from about 260 elementary schools in the archdiocese of Westminster, representing more than 50,000 children, and received from them purses of money collected by the children during the past year for the Diocesan Crusade of Rescue and Homes for Destitute Catholic Children. The hall was crowded. Cardinal Vaughan briefly addressed the children.

Catholics and the Coronation.

The resolution of the English Catholic Hierarchy that the King's coronation shall be celebrated in their respective dioceses by a High Mass and 'Te Deum' either on the day of the Coronation or on the Sunday following (says the 'Catholic Times') may be taken as a clear indication that the Cardinal-Archbishop and the Bishops do not desire that the occasion should be availed of for a formal protest by the Catholics of England against the Accession Oath. But both the Bishops and the Catholic peers are of opinion that the agitation should not cease till the offensive words are removed from the Oath. The Bishops, who have requested the Cardinal to press this grievance upon the attention of the Government, are sanguine enough to hope that another Bill dealing with it may be brought into Parliament before the close of the present session. So far as the vast majority of the public are concerned, there can be no doubt that they would like to see the offensive terms removed from the Declaration. Against the reform there is a little minority consisting for the most part of noisy fanatics.

Appointed Bishop.

The news of the appointment of Dr. George Crompton Burton, rector of St. Bede's, South Shields, as the new Bishop of Clifton, has been received with much satisfaction in the diocese, and with cordial rejoicing in the North of England, where the gentleman is best known. Dr. Burton, who was born at Hull in the year 1852, began his education at Ratcliffe College in Leicestershire, with the Rosminian Fathers, and he also professed classics there for 10 years. He entered on his studies for the priesthood about 1884, and in that year he went to Rome, and with distinction passed through his course of Philosophy and Theology, taking the degree of Doctor of Divinity at the Gregorian University. He was ordained priest in St. John

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