## VILLANELLE OF A FLORENTINE GARDEN.

Within Lorenzo's garden long ago Between green myrtles and dark cypresses Down a mysterious path I saw you go

With hair of starlit gossamer and so Strange eyes—your curvéd mouth of tenderness Within Lorenzo's garden long ago.

Seemed like a flower some gracious God might throw To earth to heal the Spirit's weariness. Down a mysterious path I saw you go

A live flame in the darkness. Like the snow The lilies brushed against your golden dress Within Lorenzo's garden long ago.

And I who watched beside the fountain's flow, Heard then its mocking song of silveriness. Down a mysterious path I saw you go.

"O heart, O heart, now weep, for well I know Thou'rt snared within her fingers' sweet duress!" Within Lorenzo's garden long ago Down a mysterious path I saw you go. CYRIL CREVEQUER, in New Ireland.

### CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN CHINA.

Some very interesting details regarding the Catholic missions in China are offered by Father Peter Chan, S.J., a native Chinese priest who has just completed his studies in Europe and is conversant with French, Spanish, Portuguese, and English (says America). China, with its 430,000,000 inhabitants, is at present supplied with only 2267 priests, while Protestant missionaries number more than 25.000. The total Catholic population is about 2,000,000, and there are about 400,000 Protestant Chinese. The time for reaping a rich harvest of souls is now at hand, and the total number of conversions to the Catholic Church during the past year was 130,000. There is need only of priests, nuns, and the necessary financial aid. Chan thus describes his own special mission field:

"In the year 1912 a new mission was established in the south of China, with headquarters in the town of Shiu-Hing, 70 miles from the great city of Canton. In this district the pagans number 6,000,000, and the Catholics 1000 only, with 300 catechumens preparing for Baptism. The mission is the work of Portuguese Jesuits, exiled from their native country, and illustrates the truth that persecution results in spreading the faith to other lands. There are five Jesuit Fathers and one secular priest, and six native Chinese scholastics of There are also six nuns, Franthe Society of Jesus. ciscan Missionaries of Mary, two being Irish, who carry on a school for girls and a house of the Society of the Holy Childhood for the rescue and education of abandoned children. Up to the present time, in the territory of 6,000,000 inhabitants, there is no church worthy of the name, but only two poor and very small chapels.

Father Chan is anxious that a church should be erected in honor of the Sacred Heart, together with a small college and seminary for the education of boys and the preparation of candidates for the priesthood. It is estimated that 25,000 dollars might accomplish this purpose. The family to which Father Chan belongs has been Catholic for 250 years, clinging to the faith during more than a century of persecutions and afflic-They now have the joy of seeing the ancient faith resuming new life and vigor.

#### BY WHAT RIGHT?

In the light of the many utterances that one hears of England's right to govern Ireland, there occurs the query: If a just cause for aggression, physical occupation, and an acquiescence of the inhabitants are necessary to establish any right to govern that might grow out of conquest, has England any right in the face of facts to exert such government? There never was any just cause for aggression (comments the Boston Pilot). The history of the invasion of the twelfth century For centuries after the establishes the truth of this. invasion there was no physical occupation of Ireland, and there was only partial occupation at any time. As to the acquiescence of the Irish people in the rule of the English, the cry of the Irish for the restoration of their stolen sovereignty has been incessant through seven and a-half centuries. Where, then, did England get her right over stricken Ireland? Prescription has no value when it is made a title against the united protests of an entire people and in defiance of an inherent right that the national consciousness of a whole people continuously claimed from the beginning of its nationhood. Did Britain, then, gain this right over Erin through treaty? This treaty was called in history a piece of "base turpitude." It was obtained through the worst corruption that has ever blemished English diplomacy. The treachery of the Union of 1800 was and is unique in the history of the world. Where, then, does England find a title for governing Ireland? She finds it in might. And we went to war with the avowed purpose of crushing might and emancipating small nations that were cursed with its unscrupulous exercise.

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