

sat engaged with a coarse kind of knitting. She looked up at the stranger's approach and smiled. It was wonderful how the smile softened an otherwise set and stern face. In a few minutes the two were conversing freely.

'Thou hast a strangely familiar look to me, young mistress,' Dame Elinor said. 'May I inquire your name?'

The stranger hesitated an instant ere she replied.

'My name is Mostyn—Alice Mostyn.'

Dame Elinor raised her hands.

'But the child of the late lord was a boy,' she said, 'at least I have heard so.'

'I am that boy's wife,' Alice Mostyn replied with a smile and a blush. 'We were wed in Rheims two moons ago, Piers Mostyn and I.'

'Thank God! I have waited long for this.'

Alice looked at her in amazement, and Dame Elinor said:

'You will have heard of the last Lord Mostyn's death?'

Alice inclined her head.

'It was an evil deed, and it brought its own punishment. But where is thy husband?'

'In London. There are matters concerning which he had occasion to see the Queen, and I and my old nurse journeyed thither. We are unused to Courts. As soon as may be—when Piers hath Queen Mary's permission to resume his title—he will join me.'

'Aye, those were evil days,' Dame Elinor muttered, more to herself than her companion, 'and Richard Caryl suffered for his crimes.'

'Richard Caryl?'

'My husband He—alas that I should tell it—gave up his belief at Cromwell's bidding, and aided in the murdering of monks and plundering of monasteries. He it was who burned the house of thy husband's race and—but why tell of those horrors. Suffice to say that a grievous illness fell on him after his acts here, and he died in terrible agony. I believe he repented, for in his last moments he begged me to make atonement to the heir of Mostyn.'

'Yes?'

'But what could I do? My husband's brother succeeded to his estates, and I was powerless to an extent. I have indeed the Mostyn jewels and some gold in my care. When my husband was buried I fled with them and settled here, hoping that the person for whom I held them might one day come this way. I was careful to keep my name a secret for several reasons.'

'And your kindred?'

'I have none. My mother died long since. She feared I should be won over to adopt my husband's opinions, and she did me a great wrong, but it was in kindness. She sent my child across the sea that her faith might not be tampered with, and before she could inform me of her whereabouts she died.'

'And you never heard aught of your child?'

Alice inquired in a sympathetic tone.

'Never. Margery Fenton, my mother's own maid, went with her.'

'Margery Fenton? She is here, she is my nurse, and I was called by her name.'

In a few minutes all needful explanations were given. Margery Fenton had given her solemn promise to keep charge of her mistress's grandchild till she received further notice from her. Margery was well supplied with money and she did not hear of her mistress's death till long after the event. Then she wrote to Dame Elinor, and sent her note by a trusty messenger, but the latter came back to France with the tidings of Richard Caryl's death and of his wife's disappearance. Margery had grown fond of her charge, and decided to do nothing further in the matter, and Alice never knew her parents' name.

Piers Mostyn took possession of his home, and in part restored it, and a large family of boys and girls often listened to their granddame's story of her own atonement—'Catholic Fireside.'

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The Catholic World

ENGLAND.—Diocese of Clifton

The Bishop of Clifton has nominated the Rev. David O'Brien, of Holy Cross, to the stall in the Cathedral Chapter of Clifton, rendered vacant by the resignation of the Very Rev. Canon Scoles. The new Canon was born at Mitchelstown, County Cork, on June 8, 1861, and received his early education from the Irish Christian Brothers.

A New Church

In the absence of the Archbishop of Westminster, through illness, the Most Rev. Dr. Bagshaw officiated at the opening of the new Church of the Holy Ghost and St. Stephen, which has been built at Shepherd's Bush, London, from designs by the Rev. Canon Scoles, of Basingstoke. It is in the early Gothic style of architecture, and has cost about £4000. Under the will of the late Hon. Mrs. Charles Petre a sum of £2000 has been left to the church, and this will be devoted towards erecting the high altar and completing the chancel.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

The annual report of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in England, of which the Marquis of Ripon is the president, has just been issued. The total number of accredited conferences is 183, with 2,380 active members (an increase of 184) and 1,040 honorary (an increase of 17). The number of visits paid to poor families was 98,157, an increase of 1,389 on those of 1902. The net receipts were £8,160, an increase of £273, the payments being £8,106. The annual meeting of the present year will be held in Liverpool during July, when the Marquis of Ripon and Dr. Bourne, the Archbishop of Westminster, will attend.

A School of Theology

Archbishop Bourne has decided to establish a school of theology at St. Edmund's College, Old Hall, Ware, and to transfer there some 25 ecclesiastical students now being educated at Oscott College. Increased accommodation is now being provided at St. Edmund's, to consist of a common room, lecture-rooms, and about 25 private rooms.

Out-door Preaching

The Bishop of Southwark, Monsignor Amigo, while serving the populous and poverty-stricken London mission of SS. Mary and Michael, Commercial Road, London, was the first to institute a system of out-door preaching in the numerous courts and alleys of the district. On his leaving to accept the Rectorship of a mission at Walworth, this phase of the work was and is carried on by Father Bernard Vaughan, a brother of Cardinal Vaughan, and now attached to the Jesuit Church in Farm street.

An Italian Colony

Six years ago Father Bamun, Rector of the Italian Church, Hatton Gardens, London, decided upon introducing in connection with the mission the old Italian religious custom of carrying the Blessed Sacrament in procession to those of his parishioners unable through illness to attend Mass about Easter time, and on Easter Sunday this striking ceremony was witnessed in the neighborhood of the Italian colony. Preceded by the cross bearer, Father Christofaro, one of the priests attached to the church, walking under a white satin canopy borne by six Italians, carried the Blessed Sacrament, while fully one hundred persons with lighted candles walked behind, a bell being rung to announce the advent of the procession. Through the small streets that go to make up 'Little Italy' the procession moved till the first sick house was reached, and the priest having entered with his attendants those outside knelt down on the pavement and in Latin recited the Litany of the Blessed Virgin, after which a start was made for the next house at which a call was to be made. In this way the different streets and alleys were visited, till all had been attended, the procession returning to the church. To anyone who had never previously witnessed the carrying out of the custom it was a particularly impressive ceremony, and, needless to add, in the district where Italians abound the utmost reverence was shown as the solemn procession passed along.

FRANCE.—Appointment of Bishops

Although the 'Nobis nominavit' difficulty (writes a Paris correspondent) has been settled, the difficulty connected with the appointment of bishops in France is by no means over, and there are now in consequence five sees without bishops, viz., those of St. Jean de Maurienne, Bayonne, Vannes, Nevers, and Ajaccio. As I explained when M. Combes first raised the difficulty,