

with itself?

She did not move as Laura approached, only smiled. And she kissed her crucifix and kissed the hem of the garment of the Mother of fair love. Then with a exultant tenderness, she half-chanted, half-recited:

'Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

'Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo.

'Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae: ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes.'

For she had gone down into the valley of humility, and God had looked upon her and given her joy and peace.

Perhaps the knowledge of power having failed, the consciousness of the memory no more to be trusted, the weakness where vigor used to be, is one of the things most difficult to face with courage and good cheer. The realisation that a fair gift is gone forever is even harder still. Clara Birt had for some time begun to suspect her loss; and it would have been easier for her to realise it and accept, had it not been for her sister's apparently unshaken belief in its lasting beauty. So, half-blindfold, she had gone upon her way.

The next morning the sisters went out very early, and came back with lovely peace on their faces.

After luncheon Clara said to Sadie:

'Come, darling, and sing 'Cleansing Fires.''

'Aunt—'

'You are to sing it at the club, you know,' Miss Clara went on.

'Aunt Clara' what are you saying?' The girl looked distressed.

'I am saying that you are to represent the Birt talent, such as it is, darling.'

'But I cannot—'

'Cannot sing? Yes, sweet, you can.'

'O Aunt, I cannot! And how—'

'How did I know you were a little singing bird? Why, my dear, I saw your music on your bed this morning, before you hid it so carefully away. And I saw this very song.'

'Oh, I am sorry—so sorry! I am a naughty, thoughtless, untidy person.'

'My dear, I am glad. Now come and sing it.'

'I cannot, dearest Aunt!'

'Sing it, child! It has been a sorrow, but I took it where you too must take all sorrow that ever may come to you. And now it doesn't seem to matter—not down in the heart of things. You are to be our "singing woman" and give your gift to God.'

'There is a better gift still,' said Laura—'the gift of being glad that His will should be done. You have given it, my Clara.'

'And I too,' said the girl, as she drew a hand of each to rest upon her head as in blessing.

Does it seem to you who read this as if I have been telling of a little trouble magnified into a great sorrow, as seen through the mist of foolish or needless tears? Do you think it was not worth carrying to the Heart that has borne all sorrow? If so you must wait and learn.—' Ave Maria.'

Garswood Hall, near Newton-le-Willows, was, during the last week in December, the scene of much festivity, the occasion being the coming-of-age of Lord Gerard, the present representative of a family which has been settled in that part of the country almost from time immemorial. Lady Gerard on December 28 gave a luncheon to the leading tenants of the Garswood Estate. It took place in an annexe to the ballroom, and was very numerously attended. The Hon. R. Gerard-Dieconsen, Lord Gerard's uncle, presided. A number of presentations were made to Lord Gerard from the tenants of the estate and the officers of the Lancashire Hussars (of which the late Lord Gerard was honorary colonel), and others were made in the course of the week, including one from the members of the St. Oswald's Catholic church. On Thursday the cottagers of the estate were entertained to luncheon, and on Friday night the servants' ball took place in Garswood Hall. Lord Gerard, who is an undergraduate of Cambridge, has another estate, that of Eastwell Park, near Ashford, in Kent, but the history of the family is closely associated with Lancashire, and the full title, that of Lord Gerard of Bryn, is derived from Bryn Hall, which was once a well known landmark in the township of Ashton-in-Makerfield. The family of Gerard have built at successive times three houses in the township. New Bryn was erected in the time of Edward VI., and, like old Bryn, is swept away. The next one, which was named Garswood, was taken down at the beginning of the present century. The present house was known originally as New Hall, and was built about the year 1692. The Gerard family purchased it in the latter part of the last century, and gave it the present name of Garswood Hall.

## The Catholic World

### CANADA—Grant to a Catholic University

The Ontario Government has made a grant of 10,000 dollars to the University of Ottawa, which splendid Catholic institution was destroyed by fire a little over a year ago.

### ENGLAND—Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School

The committee in charge of the scheme to found a Catholic secondary school in London as a memorial to Cardinal Vaughan have now collected £20,000. The classes, which have been started, are meeting for the present in the Cathedral hall.

### Catholic Reunion

The annual reunion of Catholics of Birmingham, under the chairmanship of Lord Denbigh, was one of more than usual interest, inasmuch as the occasion was the golden jubilee of the reunions and also the silver jubilee of the Bishop of Birmingham's episcopate. The Bishop was presented with an illuminated address and a purse containing £750.

### FRANCE—His Last Act

The Paris correspondent of the London 'Daily Telegraph' reports that the expulsion of nuns of the fashionable Convent of the Sacre Coeur, in the Rue de Sevres, where many ladies of the aristocracy have been educated, and which had many pupils from England, America, and other countries, took place on January 4. It was one of Combes' last spiteful kicks.

### HAWAII—The Church in the Islands

The 'Irish Catholic' publishes some interesting correspondence from Honolulu showing that unequalled progress has been made in the Catholic missions of Sahu, Mani, Kauai, Hawaii, and Molokai. A number of conversions are reported from all the islands, but especially from Molokai—the leper settlement. A number of graduates from Iolani College (Episcopalians) are among the unfortunates exiled there, and all of them have lately been received into the Church. Thus is the seed sown by Father Damien bearing forth good fruit. The two little children of Prince David Kawanakoa (a boy and a girl) have been baptised by the Rev. Father Valentin. Prince David was the next heir to the throne of Hawaii, and after annexation was the first Democratic candidate for the Delegateship from that territory. A few weeks ago the Honolulu 'Commercial Advertiser,' owned by Mr. L. A. Thurston (the son of one of the original New England missionaries), published a remarkable and unexpected tribute to the Catholic clergy of those islands. After severely criticising the pastor of the most aristocratic of Honolulu's Protestant churches for asking a vacation of seven months in two years, notwithstanding the fact that he receives 'the salary of a bank president,' the writer proceeded as follows: 'Here in Hawaii the Catholic clergy die leaving nothing but the fragrant memory of good deeds. They have no bank accounts or sugar stocks; they have spent none of God's time in pleasuring; they leave father, mother, brothers, sisters, and home to take the Gospel even into the dreadful haunts of the leper.'

### HOLLAND—Catholic Revival

'A Hollander' writes in the 'Catholic World' for January an interesting paper on 'The Catholic Revival in Holland':—'The influence of Catholicity upon the public affairs in Holland is supported by thirteen Catholic daily papers, sixty-six weekly papers, thirty papers which appear two or three times a week, and forty-five periodical reviews. Catholic political associations are to be found in every borough constituency, and they give their votes, according to circumstances, either to a Catholic or to a Protestant who will uphold sound principles, to the exclusion of a liberal or socialist candidate. In cases where a Protestant is supported some tact is required, but the reasonable conviction that only union can produce an effective opposition against a common enemy has enabled Catholics to work in harmony with those outside the Church, often with very satisfactory results. Indeed we have lately seen Protestants voting for Catholic candidates, and Catholics for Protestant ones. The result of the elections of 1901 was that in our Second Chamber—which may be compared to the English House of Commons or to the French Chambers—a majority has been obtained by Catholics and Protestants together against all other parties combined. In the First Chamber also—which corresponds to the House of Lords or to the Senate and is elected by the members of the Provincial Councils—the periodical elections have of late resulted in a victory for the Christian parties, and thus, after a