

and her father's reputation hanging in the balance.

There was another silent walk home again after school. Henrietta's pride and misery seemed to hold her away from Elizabeth so that she could not speak. Elizabeth's love comprehended Henrietta, concealed her own hurt, and was faithful until Henrietta should need it. The matter was too delicate for her to say anything.

For three days Elizabeth was Henrietta's shadow, her bodyguard. No girl dared to say anything before her about Henrietta or Mr. Fulcher. Words were few between them, but in the silence they seemed to become closer friends. The fourth day the morning papers announced:

'Confession of the Cashier of the Mercantile Bank to Falsified Accounts—No One Else Implicated.'

Elizabeth, waiting that morning, saw Henrietta coming down the drive. She noticed that her cheeks were flushed, her eyes shining. With all the other girls Henrietta remained distant and cold, but she and Elizabeth walked home that night with their arms round each other.

The following morning came this announcement in the papers:

'The Hon. Ronald Fulcher, the president of the Mercantile Bank, has made good the shortage in the accounts of the cashier, and the bank will resume business on June 10.'

June 9 was Henrietta's birthday. She asked Elizabeth to take supper with her. Elizabeth had looked at the little book with 'Friendship' on it many times during the week, but for some reason the white-wrapped parcel in her hand was not the book at all, but a box containing a little gold heart with 'H' engraved on it. She handed it to Henrietta with a flushed face. 'I hope you'll like this little heart, Henrietta.'

And Henrietta, the proud, threw her arms round Elizabeth and said, with tears and little gasps, 'Oh, Elizabeth, how can you love me at all? I have been so hateful and cold to you, when all the time during the week I have thought over and over again, "No one ever had a friend so true as Elizabeth." I never could have gone through the week without you. That first morning, when father said I must go to school, I would have run away and hidden if you had not been on the bench waiting for me. I wanted to tell you, but I couldn't. Only a week ago I was telling you what I believed was the test of friendship, and I said that hateful thing to you. Oh, Elizabeth, you have shown me that the true test of a friend is to stand by you and understand, not caring for circumstances or silences. When I was going by Smith and Bender's store this morning, I saw this little book called "Friendship," and I bought it for you as just a little sign that I think no one ever had a friend like you.'

Elizabeth's heart swelled with joy and pride in Henrietta. She was indeed the ideal friend she had dreamed her.

When she reached home, and had gone to her room, she took out the other little white book, the counterpart of the one Henrietta had given her, and held the two side by side. How many things had happened since she had brought the first one home! How much stronger and sweeter friendship was than she had ever dreamed of! She felt almost as if one of those books represented Henrietta and the other herself.

'Two friends,' she said, 'with just the same thoughts in each.'

It is recalled that Col. Pakenham, the Tory candidate who contested Derry, comes of a family which yielded a famous priest to the Catholic Church in the person of Father Paul Mary Pakenham, C.P., the fourth son of the first Earl of Longford, who became a convert to the Catholic Church in the days of the Tractarian movement, and was practically the pioneer of the Passionist Order in Ireland. It was he who founded Mount Argus Retreat, Dublin. He died in 1857.

When shopping with our advertisers, say 'I saw your advertisement in the *Tablet*.'

HOME RULE AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

SLANDERS ON IRISH PEOPLE REFUTED

GREAT PROTESTANT MEETING IN DUBLIN

A great meeting of Protestants from all parts of Ireland was held in the large hall of the Antient Concert Rooms, Dublin, on January 21, to record a public protest against the statement frequently made from political platforms that the majority of the Irish people would use a measure of Home Rule to oppress their fellow-countrymen. The audience had begun to assemble an hour before the time of the meeting, which was fixed for 8 o'clock, when the spacious building was packed to overflowing. The meeting was presided over by Colonel Sir Nugent Everard, D.L., and on the platform were many of the leading Protestants of Ireland.

The chairman, who on rising received an enthusiastic greeting, said: Before commencing my remarks upon the subject which has brought us together to-night, I think it is only right that I should refer to a letter which appeared in to-day's *Irish Times* from the pen of Major O'Connor. I do not propose to comment at any length upon the numerous inaccuracies which occur throughout this letter, but there are two statements that are so glaringly at variance with the facts of the case that I am compelled to notice them. The following is the passage to which I refer:—

'As to the composition of the committee, the majority are Protestants. But why a committee claim or desire to speak in the name of Irish Protestants should have as president a Roman Catholic gentleman passes comprehension.'

Now, as a matter of fact, there are over 500 members of the committee, all of whom are Protestants. There is not a single Roman Catholic member of our committee. As to myself, as president of the committee and your chairman to-night, I am described by Major O'Connor as a Roman Catholic. I am sorry that a personal allusion is necessary, and I will dispose of it by stating that I am a communicant of the Church of Ireland. With that statement I must leave it to the meeting to judge the value of a letter containing such misstatements and of the accuracy and good taste of the gentleman who wrote it. This meeting has been convened for the purpose of giving Irish Protestants, irrespective of party, an opportunity of recording an emphatic protest against the

Reckless Charges of Religious Intolerance

levied against our Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen on English and Irish platforms, and also to protest against the introduction of religious differences into politics by either party. If the history of the next generation should prove, as we are confident it will, that Irish Roman Catholics, although in a majority, have exercised their powers with a full measure of toleration and respect for the rights of Irishmen of other creeds, it is safe to say that to-day's crusade of calumny will react to the credit and honor of Irish Catholics. But what of the honor and credit of Irish Protestants, not only those who have uttered the slanders, but those who by their silence have condoned the crime of 'bearing false witness'? If there were no other reason than the prospect of this reaction, it would furnish ample justification for this meeting, and many similar meetings throughout the country. I submit, however, that there is a greater and a nobler reason for this meeting. It is the demand of common honesty and truth that we should pay this just debt to those among whom we live, and with whom we hold daily social and commercial intercourse. A whole volume of testimony from Irish Protestants, compiled by Mr. Jeremiah MacVeagh, disproves the accusation of religious intolerance on the part of Roman Catholics. But, even as I look round this meeting, I see evidences of the prosperity and comfort of hundreds of Protestants, although they form a small minority of our population in different parts of Ireland. We have every justification for saying that

R. V. C. Harris

SURGEON DENTIST

Moderate Charges.

Painless Extractions.

HASTINGS STREET, NAPIER.

Phone 486.