

## Friends at Court

### GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR.

- July 30, Sunday.—Eighth Sunday after Pentecost.  
 „ 31, Monday.—St. Ignatius, Confessor.  
 August 1, Tuesday.—St. Peter's Chains.  
 „ 2, Wednesday.—St. Alphonsus, Bishop, Confessor,  
 and Doctor.  
 „ 3, Thursday.—Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen,  
 Proto-Martyr.  
 „ 4, Friday.—St. Dominic, Confessor.  
 „ 5, Saturday.—Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 of the Snows.

#### ST. PETER'S CHAINS.

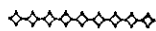
This feast commemorates the miraculous deliverance of St. Peter from the prison into which he had been cast by order of King Herod Agrippa. The circumstances of this miracle are narrated by St. Luke in the twelfth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles.

#### ST. ALPHONSUS, BISHOP, CONFESSOR, AND DOCTOR.

St. Alphonsus Liguori was born at Naples in 1696. At the age of 30 he abandoned the legal profession, in which he had already made a name for himself, and, in spite of the opposition of his father, he became a priest. Applying himself zealously to the duties of his sacred calling, he touched by his fervent discourses the hearts of the most inveterate sinners. Still more abundant was the fruit which he gathered in the tribunal of penance, where he joined a singular prudence and firmness to the most tender sentiments of paternal affection. He founded and for a long time governed the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. For eight years he was Bishop of St. Agatha, but at length obtained leave to resign this responsible office, which he had accepted only very reluctantly. In the midst of his labors he found time to compose a number of doctrinal and devotional works, which have earned for him the title of Doctor of the Church. St. Alphonsus died in 1787, at the age of 90.

#### ST. DOMINIC, CONFESSOR.

St. Dominic, a Spaniard of noble birth, was remarkable from childhood for a tender love of the poor, and a filial devotion to the Blessed Virgin. After his ordination to the priesthood, these two characteristics became still more marked. To his veneration for the Blessed Virgin is attributed the institution of the Holy Rosary, which was such a powerful factor in the conversion of the Albigensian heretics, and which has ever since remained a favorite devotion of Catholics. St. Dominic died in 1221, having some years previously founded the well-known Order of monks called after him, Dominicans.



### Grains of Gold

#### IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA.

With iron strength which only those may know,  
 Who loving things created find at last,  
 Through pain and travail Love itself unmasked.  
 And kneeling there within that piercing glow,  
 Casting abroad its dauntless rays to show  
 To eyes and heart, clean-swept, those loves that blast  
 And leave the soul, 'mid ruins, Love's outcast,  
 Betrayed and dying by such overthrow;  
 You, to the world your life-long service gave,  
 Fired with the love of God's sheer rhapsody,  
 Forever seeking, striving o'er to save—  
 To win again for Love immortally.  
 Souls snatched from Death that ends not with the grave,  
 And write their names on Heaven's blazonry!

—CHARLES J. QUIRK, S.J.



#### REFLECTIONS.

If we labor under the hatred of the world. Christ first endured the hatred of the world.—St. Cyprian.  
 There was never saint so highly rapt and illuminated, who first or last was not tempted.—Thomas a-Kempis.  
 Be thou no longer curious how the ungodly shall be punished; but inquire how the righteous shall be saved, they whose the world is, and for whom the world was created.—St. Uriel.



## Alice Riordan

(By MRS. J. SADIER.)

### CHAPTER IV.—ALICE EMBARKS ON THE SEA OF LIFE.

The following day was one of deep, deep sorrow to Alice Riordan and her father, for in the evening they were to separate—to separate for the first time. Father Smith had called about noon to announce that a certain Mrs. Dempsey would send for Alice about six o'clock; and although Cormac employed all the intervening hours in reasoning with his daughter, explaining to her the necessity which urged him to consent to such a measure, and representing to her that it was all for her own advantage, yet still Alice could not bring herself to leave her father with any sort of cheerfulness. Malone and his wife were highly indignant at the proposed change, looking upon it as a direct insult offered to themselves. It was bad enough when she heard of Alice going to serve her time to a dressmaker; but their anger knew no bounds when they found that Cormac was going to the Gray Nunnery, 'There's for you, Harry Malone!' cried his gentle helpmate, who, forgetful of her sprained arm, was helping her servant girl to wash bottles and decanters, working away as though no such thing as a sprain had ever been heard of. 'There's for you—there's what it is to be drawing priests about the house; you see the notions they have got into their heads. Well, it's just what we deserve from them; that's all I'll say; for really I have no patience with people that put on airs and forget themselves. Some people are in need of a cooling, and they'll get it, or I'm much mistaken. Go on with your work, Sally; what are you gaping at? One would think I had two heads on me.'

'Well, indeed, Lizzie dear,' said her husband, 'you're not much wrong this time. Upon my credit, it'll be many a long day before I bother my head about anyone in the same way. So say no more about it, and you may take your oath upon it that you'll never be troubled with any of my people again. Let all these good Christians stay at home in Ireland and eat potatoes and point for me.'

Meanwhile Alice was sitting in another room on a low seat beside her father, her head resting on his knee, and her pretty eyes swelled with weeping. But she was listening attentively to the words that her father was speaking, and answered from time to time in a low, hesitating voice.

'You know, Alice dear,' said Cormac, 'that you're jist like one goin' out on the ocean, an' gettin' into the danger of storms an' tempests. It's true you're in a good stout ship—the holy Church of Christ—an' the priests are good pilots; but the world an' the devil are very powerful, an' they'll be for drawin' you away from your religion, an' makin' you slight the advice of them that's sent by our Father in Heaven to guide us home to Him. When anyone tries to put proud, sinful thoughts in your head, remember what your poor old father told you, an' ever an' always bear it in mind that you're lost—lost, both body and soul, if you turn your back on religion. As long as you make a father of the priest, an' ask his advice when you're in any doubt or danger, then you may be sure that you'll do well, for the advice that he'll give you will be from God, an' when you follow it, you'll be doin' His holy will. Now, won't you promise me to mind that, Alice?'

'Indeed I will, Father; I'll be sure to do what you tell me.'

'With God's help, Alice; always say "with God's help," for you know of ourselves we can do nothing that's good. There's one thing more that I want you to promise me afore we part—you'll go regularly to the Catechism every Sunday, let what will come or go; an' when you have a little spare time you'll read the books that I'll ask Father Smith to buy for you.'

'Well, I will, Father, I will,' murmured Alice through her tears, which began to fall as the hour approached when she was to leave her father; then she added quickly, 'that is, with God's help. Didn't I say it right this time, father?'

**A. W. Bryant**

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