

earnest in what you say, I shall be compelled to leave Rathderry this very evening—and it will almost break my heart to do so!"

And at these words—which conveyed so clearly, so unmistakably the girl's attitude towards himself and his proposal—the scales dropped from John O'Grady's eyes and he realised the folly, the madness to which he had allowed himself to surrender during the previous months.

A little silence followed during which the Squire's pride and common sense came to his assistance and helped him to pull himself together, ere he suddenly grasped Miss Ronayne's hand and held it with a reassuring pressure.

"I offer you my sincere apologies, Grace, and I most humbly ask you to forgive me. I must have completely lost my head, my dear—I suppose we are all subject to these temporary madnesses occasionally! . . . Do forget all about it, Grace, my dear. Let everything glide along in the old peaceful way. My mother would never forgive me, if any act of mine drove you away from Rathderry—and, for my own part, I really don't think I could live in the old place any longer if you were gone!"

And as the words fell from the squire's lips—while Grace Ronayne turned away for a moment in the effort to control her emotion—a rapid footstep approached over the orchard grass, and a tall, bronzed, handsome young man suddenly sprang forward.

"I'm back again, sir, you see! The moment your message reached me I got ready for the journey home!"

The speaker was Walter O'Grady himself; and at the same instant a cry of amazement and delight broke from the lips of Grace Ronayne.

As yet Walter had not glanced at Grace, his whole attention seemed to be taken up with his father.

"Walter, Walter, is it you, my lad! . . . A hundred thousand welcomes!"

John O'Grady was now holding his son's two hands in his. There was no mistaking the genuine sincerity of his welcome.

"Thank you, father! I was overjoyed to receive your cable."

Then, suddenly, Walter O'Grady glanced at Miss Ronayne. He uttered an exclamation of amazement:

"Eva! Can it possibly be you, yourself?"

Grace Ronayne dropped on the rustic bench and burst into uncontrollable tears.

"God bless my soul!" gasped Squire O'Grady, glancing from Miss Ronayne to Walter. "What on earth is the meaning of this?"

"It means that this girl is Eva Staunton, sir—my fiancé!" was Walter's extraordinary reply, as he now rushed forward and took Grace's trembling form in his arms. "Though what she can be doing here at Rathderry I cannot possibly imagine!"

Grace, however, had by this time succeeded in controlling her sudden emotion, and, withdrawing herself from Walter's arms, she rose quickly and stood between father and son.

"It was all a little stratagem of my own devising," she said quickly, "in order to make a desperate attempt to win you around, Mr. O'Grady, to consent to my marriage to Walter. I answered your mother's advertisement for a companion and came on here to Rathderry—using my own true name, Grace Ronayne. Walter knew nothing of my scheme. His letters to me and mine to him, were forwarded safely by my sister, Alice, who lives in my old home, near Tralee."

"Well, well, well!" John O'Grady said, having fully digested this story. "It would certainly take a play-actress to carry it all out with such cleverness and success! You deserve to be rewarded for your enterprise, Grace, my dear, and rewarded you shall be forthwith. It certainly won't be any fault of mine, or my mother's, if yourself and Walter don't be happily married at the soonest possible moment!"

And the Squire loyally fulfilled his promise.

WATCH FOR BOYS' AND SCOUTS' KNIFE.

Boys' watches reduced this month from 12/6 to 7/6 by Low's Ltd., 69 Lichfield Street, Christchurch, who also offer Scouts' folding knife and fork combination at 9d, the usual price being 1/3. Write to-day, boys.

Eucharistic Procession at Timaru

On Sunday afternoon week the annual Eucharistic procession was held in the convent and priory grounds, Craigie Avenue (says the *Timaru Herald*). Favored by suitable weather about two thousand people took part. The grounds were tastefully arranged for the occasion, the processional route being clearly defined by a garland of flowers and many choice examples of artificial flower weavings. Bannettes, sacred pictures and statues also served to decorate the route. At the main entrance of the convent, and again north of the girls' school, temporary but imposing altars were erected, which looked resplendent in their heavily candelabred fronts, standing out relieved by flowers against the gold-draped background. On this occasion his Lordship Bishop Brodie carried the Sacred Host beneath a canopy borne by four parishioners.

The procession started from the convent chapel at 2.30 in the following order:—Cross-bearer, schoolboys, schoolgirls, convent pupils, Children of Mary, Altar Society, St. Anne's Guild, Hibernian Society, band, choir. His Lordship Bishop Brodie bearing the monstrance, was attended by the Rev. Father Hurley, S.M., the Rev. Fathers Barra, S.M., More O'Ferrall, S.M., acolytes, and guard of honor. Then followed the parishioners. The procession halted at two temporary altars, from which Benediction was given. Hymns were sung, accompanied by the band, during the procession. The schoolgirls were clothed in white and the different societies wore their regalia. The procession, which was well marshalled, made a very imposing sight. It ended in the Sacred Heart Church, and the last of the procession could barely obtain standing room in the building.

His Lordship addressed the big congregation, taking as the text for his forcible discourse the fourth verse of the 110th Psalm: "Being an omnipotent and merciful God, He has made a monument to all His wonderful works." His Lordship dwelt on this Monument as that of the Divine Presence in the Sacred Host, showing the Scriptural authority for the unbroken tradition of the Church in support. Before commencing his address he expressed his personal pleasure at the edifying profession of faith he had witnessed that afternoon. He doubted even in the centre of Christendom if there was a more practical piety.

The choir, with Mrs. N. D. Mangos at the organ, rendered Elgar's "O Salutaris" and Silas's "Tantum Ergo" very devotionally, as well as a harmonised version of the "Divine Praises." Miss Kathleen Dennehy sang with religious appreciation Mascheroni's "Ave Maria," Miss K. Byrne supporting with a violin obbligato.

High Mass was sung on Sunday morning at 10.30 o'clock by the Rev. Father Barra, in the presence of a large congregation, his Lordship Bishop Brodie presiding in the sanctuary. The choir sang with fine emphasis and expression Silas's Mass in C, with Gounod's "Benedictus." During the Offertory Silas's "Ave Maria" was sung.

Oamaru

(From our own correspondent.)

October 6.

The sale of work in aid of the parish motor car fund was very successful in spite of the bad weather. The stallholders worked well, and as a result Monsignor Mackay has been able to purchase a car suitable for parish work.

A pleasant little function took place in the Confraternity room of the Children of Mary on Sunday, September 23, when Miss K. Murray, on the occasion of her approaching marriage, was presented by her fellow-members with a beautifully framed picture of the Sacred Heart. Miss A. O'Donnell, who is taking up a position in Christchurch, was the recipient of a silver manicure set. Father Fenelon made the presentation, and after the usual nice things had been said, a dainty supper was served.

The mission, which has been looked forward to for some time, began on September 30, the children getting their share first.

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