

THE WANDERING JEW

BY EUGENE HUB

CHAPTER XIX.—CONTINUED.

THE HEIR.

"It is true, that, twelve years ago, father," proceeded Gabriel, in a firm voice, growing more animated as he proceeded, "I entered, through your intervention, a college of the Company of Jesus. I entered it loving, truthful, confiding. How did they encourage those precious instincts of childhood? I will tell you. The day of my entrance, the superior said to me, as he pointed out two children a little older than myself: "These are the companions that you will prefer. You will always walk three together. The rules of the house forbid all intercourse between two persons only. They also require, that you should listen attentively to what your companions say, so that you may report to me; for these dear children may have, without knowing it, had thoughts or evil projects. Now, if you love your comrades, you must inform me of these evil tendencies, that my paternal remonstrances may save them from yunishment; it is better to prevent evil than to punish it—"

"Such are, indeed, my dear son," said Father d'Aigrigny, "the rules of our house, and the language we hold to all our pupils on their entrance."

"I know it, father," answered Gabriel, bitterly; "three days after, a poor, submissive, and credulous child, I was already a spy upon my comrades, hearing and remembering their conversation, and reporting it to the superior, who congratulated me on my zeal. What they thus made me do was shameful, and yet, God knows! I thought I was accomplishing a charitable duty. I was happy in obeying the commands of a superior whom I respected, and to whose words I listened, in my childish faith, as I should have listened to those of heaven. One day, that I had broken some rule of the house, the superior said to me: "My child, you have deserved a severe punishment; but you will be pardoned, if you succeed in surprising one of your comrades in the same fault that you have committed." And for fear that, notwithstanding my faith and blind obedience, this encouragement to turn informer, from the motive of personal interest, might appear odious to me, the superior added: "I speak to you, my child, for the sake of your comrade's salvation. Were he to escape punishment, his evil habits would become habitual. But by detecting him in a fault, and exposing him to salutary correction, you will have the double advantage of aiding in his salvation, and escaping yourself a merited punishment, which will have been remitted because of your zeal for your neighbor—"

"Doubtless," answered Father d'Aigrigny, more and more terrified by Gabriel's language; "and in truth, my dear son, all this is conformable to the rule followed in our colleges, and to the habits of the members of our Company, "who may denounce each other without prejudice to mutual love and charity, and only for their greater spiritual advancement, particularly when questioned by their superior, or commanded for the greater glory of God," as our constitution has it."

"I know it," cried Gabriel; "I know it. 'Tis in the name of all that is most sacred amongst men, that we are encouraged to do evil."

"My dear son," said Father d'Aigrigny, trying to conceal his secret and growing terror beneath an appearance of wounded dignity, "from you to me, these words are at least strange."

At this, Rodin, quitting the mantelpiece, on which he had been leaning, began to walk up and down the room, with a meditative air, and without ceasing to bite his nails.

"It is cruel to be obliged to remind you, my dear son, that you are indebted to us for the education you have received," added Father d'Aigrigny.

"Such were its fruits, father," replied Gabriel. "Until then I had been a spy on the other children, from a sort of disinterestedness; but the orders of the superior made me advance another step on that shameful road. I had become an informer, to escape a merited punishment. And yet, such was my faith, my humility, my confidence, that I performed with innocence and candor this doubly odious part. Once, indeed, tormented by vague scruples, the last remains of generous aspirations that they were stifling within me, I asked myself if the charitable and religious end could justify the means, and I communicated my doubts to the superior. He replied, that I had not to judge, but to obey, and that to him alone belonged the responsibility of my acts."

"Go on, my dear son," said Father d'Aigrigny yielding, in spite of himself, to the deepest dejection. "Alas! I was right in opposing your travel to America."

"And yet it was the will of Providence, in that new, productive, and free country, that enlight-

ened by a singular chance, on past and present, my eyes were at length opened, Yes!" cried Gabriel, "it was in America that, released from the gloomy abode where I had spent so many years of my youth, and finding myself for the first time face to face with the divine majesty of Nature, in the heart of immense solitudes through which I journeyed—it was there that, overcome by so much magnificence and grandeur, I made a vow—" Here Gabriel interrupted himself, to continue: "Presently, father, I will explain to you that vow; but believe me," added the missionary with an accent of deep sorrow, "it was a fatal day to me when I first learned to fear and condemn all that I had hitherto most revered and blessed. Oh! I assure you, father," added Gabriel, with moist eyes, "it was not for myself alone, that I then wept."

"I know the goodness of your heart, my dear son," replied Father d'Aigrigny, catching a glimpse of hope, on seeing Gabriel's emotion; "I fear that you have been led astray. But trust yourself to us, as to your spiritual fathers, and I doubt not we shall confirm your faith, so unfortunately shaken, and disperse the darkness which at present obscures your sight. Alas, my dear son, in your vain illusions, you have mistaken some false glimmer for the pure light of day. But go on!"

Whilst Father d'Aigrigny was thus speaking, Rodin stopped, took a pocket-book from his coat, and wrote down several notes. Gabriel was becoming more and more pale and agitated. It required no small courage in him, to speak as he was speaking, for, since his journey to America, he had learned to estimate the formidable power of the Company. But this revelation of the past, looked at from the vantage-ground of a more enlightened present, was for the young priest the excuse, or rather the cause of the determination he had just signified to his superior, and he wished to explain all faithfully, notwithstanding the danger he knowingly encountered. He continued therefore, in an agitated voice: "You know, father, that the last days of my childhood, that happy age of frankness and innocent joy, were spent in an atmosphere of terror, suspicion, and restraint. Alas! how could I resign myself to the least impulse of confiding trust, when I was recommended to shun the looks of him who spoke with me, in order to hide the impression that his words might cause—to conceal whatever I felt, and to observe and listen to everything? Thus I reached the age of fifteen; by degrees, the rare visits that I was allowed to pay, but always in presence of one of our fathers, to my adopted mother and brother, were quite suppressed, so as to shut my heart against all soft and tender emotions. Sad and fearful in that large, old, noiseless, gloomy house, I felt that I became more and more isolated from the affections and the freedom of the world. My time was divided between mutilated studies, without connexion and without object, and long hours of minute devotional exercises. I ask you, father, did they ever seek to warm our young souls by words of tenderness or evangelic love? Alas! no! For the words of the divine Saviour—Love ye one another, they had substituted the command: Suspect ye one another. Did they ever, father, speak to us of our country or our liberty? No! ah, no! for those words make the heart beat high; and with them, the heart must not beat at all. To our long hours of study and devotion, there only succeeded a few walks, three by three—never two and two—because by threes the spy system is more practicable, and because intimacies are more easily formed by two alone; and thus might have arisen some of those generous friendships, which also make the heart beat more than it should." And so, by the habitual repression of every feeling, there came a time when I could not feel at all. For six months, I had not seen my adopted mother and brother; they came to visit me at the college; a few years before, I should have received them with transports and tears; this time my eyes were dry, my heart was cold. My mother and brother quitted me weeping. The sight of this grief struck me, and I became conscious of the icy insensibility which had been creeping upon me since I inhabited this tomb. Frightened at myself, I wished to leave it, while I had still strength to do so. Then, father, I spoke to you of the choice of a profession; for sometimes, in waking moments, I seemed to catch from afar the sound of an active and useful life, laborious and free, surrounded by family affections. Oh! then I felt the want of movement and liberty, of noble and warm emotions—of that life of the soul, which fled before me. I told it you, father, on my knees, bathing your hands with my tears. The life of a workman or a soldier—anything would have suited me. It was then you informed me, that my adopted mother, to whom I owed my life—for she had taken me in, dying of want, and poor herself, had shared with me the scanty bread of her child—admirable sacrifice for a mother!

"The rule is so strict in Jesuit Colleges, that if one of three pupils leaves the other two, they separate out of ear-shot till the first comes back.

—that she," continued Gabriel, hesitating and casting down his eyes, for noble natures blush for the guilt of others, and are ashamed of the infamies of which they are themselves victims, "that she, that my adopted mother, had but one wish, one desire—"

"That of seeing you take orders, my dear son," replied Father d'Aigrigny; "for this pi us and perfect creature hoped, that, in securing your salvation she would provide for her own: but she did not venture to inform you of this thought, for fear you might ascribe it to an interested motive."

"Enough, father!" said Gabriel, interrupting the Abbe d'Aigrigny, with a moment of voluntary indignation; "it is painful for me to hear you assert an error. Frances Baudoin never had such a thought."

"My dear son, you are too hasty in your judgments," replied Father d'Aigrigny, mildly. "I tell you, that such was the one, sole thought of your adopted mother."

"Yesterday, father, she told me all. She and I were equally deceived."

"Then, my dear son," said Father d'Aigrigny, sternly, "you take the word of your adopted mother before mine?"

"Spare me an answer painful for both of us, father," said Gabriel, casting down his eyes.

"Will you now tell me," resumed Father d'Aigrigny, with anxiety, "what you mean to—"

The reverend father was unable to finish. Samuel entered the room, and said: "A rather old man wishes to speak to M. Rodin."

"That is my name, sir," answered the superior, in surprise; "I am much obliged to you." But, before following the Jew, he gave to Father d'Aigrigny a few words written with a pencil upon one of the leaves of his pocketbook.

Rodin went out in very uneasy mood, to learn who could have come to seek him in the Rue Saint-Francois. Father d'Aigrigny and Gabriel were left alone together.

(To be continued.)

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W. A. SAUNDERS,
Attorney, Merchants National Bank Bldg.
SHERIFF'S SALE—By virtue of an alias order of sale issued out of the district court for Douglas county, Nebraska, and to me directed, I will on the 23d day of March, A. D. 1898, at 10 o'clock A. M. of said day, at the EAST front door of the county court house, in the city of Omaha, Douglas county, Nebraska, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said order of sale as follows:

All of lots seven (7), ten (10), thirteen (13), twenty-five (25) and thirty (30) in Cunningham and Breen's Addition to the city of Omaha, Nebraska, as surveyed, platted and recorded, all in Douglas county state of Nebraska. Said property to be sold to satisfy Harry J. Twinting, plaintiff herein, the sum as follows: On lot seven (7), above described, the sum of \$23.46, together with an attorney's fee of \$2.50. On lot ten (10), above described, the sum of \$23.12, together with an attorney's fee of \$2.50. On lot twelve (12), above described, the sum of \$20.42, together with an attorney's fee of \$2.50. On lot thirteen (13), above described, the sum of \$25.71, together with an attorney's fee of \$2.50. On lot twenty-five (25), above described, the sum of \$17.22, together with an attorney's fee of \$1.75. On lot thirty (30), above described, the sum of \$20.46, together with an attorney's fee of \$2.50.

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SHERIFF'S SALE.
By virtue of an order of sale issued out of the district court for Douglas county, Nebraska, and to me directed, I will on the 23d day of March, A. D. 1898, at 10 o'clock A. M. of said day, at the east front door of the county court house in the city of Omaha, Douglas county, Nebraska, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the property described in said order of sale as follows, to-wit: Lot three (3) in block two (2), and also lot five (5) in block two (2) in Saunders and Himebaugh's Highland Park addition to the city of Omaha, and also lot six (6) in block three (3) in Saunders & Himebaugh's Mount Pleasant addition to the city of Omaha, surveyed, platted and recorded, all situated in Douglas county, state of Nebraska.

Said property to be sold to satisfy Walter E. Keeler, plaintiff herein, the sum on lots as follows, to-wit: On lot 3, block 2, the sum of \$12.00 and an attorney's fee of \$1.50, and on lot 5, block 2, the sum of \$12.00 and an attorney's fee of \$1.50, said lots being situated in Saunders & Himebaugh's Highland Park addition above described, and on lot 6, in block 3, in Saunders & Himebaugh's Mount Pleasant addition, above described, the sum of \$12.00 and an attorney's fee of \$1.50, which amounts, according to the judgment, when interest is added at the rate of ten (10) per cent per annum (excepting attorney's fees) from September 27, 1897. To satisfy the sum of thirty and 61-100 (\$30.61) dollars, costs herein, together with accruing costs, according to a decree rendered by the district court of said Douglas county at its September term, A. D. 1897, in certain action then and there pending, wherein Walter E. Keeler is plaintiff and Europa L. Chase, — Chase, first and real name unknown, her husband, Dennis C. Eggleston and Mrs. — Eggleston, first and real name unknown, his wife, Henry C. Campbell and Mrs. — Campbell, first and real name unknown, his wife, are defendants. Omaha, Nebraska, February 18th, 1898. JOHN W. McDONALD, Sheriff of Douglas County, Nebraska. W. A. Saunders, Attorney. Keeler vs. Chase et al. Docket 52, No. 21. Ex. Docket Z, page 3-154

I. R. ANDREWS,
Attorney, 608 New York Life Building.
SHERIFF'S SALE—BY VIRTUE OF AN order of sale issued out of the district court for Douglas county, Nebraska, and to me directed, I will, on the 15th day of March, A. D. 1898, at 10 o'clock A. M. of said day, at the EAST front door of the county court house in the city of Omaha, Douglas county, Nebraska, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said order of sale as follows, to-wit: Lot number two (2) in Block number three (3) in the First Addition to the city of South Omaha as surveyed, platted and recorded, all in Douglas County, Nebraska. Said property to be sold to satisfy Nellie Burstrom plaintiff herein, the sum of twelve hundred and thirty-three and 5-100 (\$1,233.50) do. late judgment. To satisfy the further sum of eleven and 96-100 dollars (\$11.96) costs herein, together with accruing costs, according to a judgment rendered by the district court of said Douglas county, at its September term, A. D. 1897, in a certain action then and there pending, wherein Nellie Burstrom is plaintiff and Harry Johnson, a minor, is defendant. Omaha, Nebraska, February 18th, 1898. JOHN W. McDONALD, Sheriff of Douglas County, Nebraska. I. R. Andrews, attorney for plaintiff. Burstrom vs. Johnson. Doc. 60, No. 125. 2-11-5

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