

FOR THE AMERICAN

THE NUN.

An Episode of Convent Life.

Translated from the French by REV. M. J. P. TING, A. M.

CHAPTER II.

THE PROFESSION.—Continued. "And did you go to Paradise at the same time," said Mother Genevieve...

"That is the knot of the question," retorted the lively girl. "Ah, well, may the holy virgin have pity on us! But let me explain to Sister Angélique how the things are. I will betray no secret; I promise you that. To commence: There are thirty sisters of the black veil besides madame, the vestry nun, assistant mother, our good Mother Genevieve and poor old Mother Almee, who was vestry nun since times immemorial to the time when she was neither able to see nor hear; then there are six domestics and five postulants."

"I suppose," said Eustasie, "that Sister Angélique knows all that." "No," I replied, "I did not know exactly the number of sisters; I had always believed there were only twenty-nine."

"Ah," said Pauline, "and who told you there were only twenty-nine?" "I have often counted them in the choir."

"There are thirty, nevertheless," replied Pauline, "there is one that you have not seen yet, for when a person is a postulant, she is not permitted to see everything. And by the way, I have never seen a postulant held as strictly as you; there must have been a new rule; very good, I have thought, very polite, no doubt."

"Be quiet now," exclaimed Mother Genevieve. "One word more," said Pauline; "I desire simply to say to Sister Angélique that she will be happier by joining us than in talking with the sisters who have been a long time in the convent."

"Hush!" said Mother Genevieve, "some one is approaching." It was Mother Ursula, and it was evident that she came to spy among us. She spoke to me and gave me the title of spouse and told me that she was happy to see so much of divine serenity in my appearance.

"This is a happy day, my child," she exclaimed, and she talked of the holy transports when she laid aside her secular habits and entered into those holy duties which she hoped would secure her a place near her Lord. "Is there, my good mother, any one in the house who was present at that ceremony?" asked Pauline sweetly.

"What ceremony?" asked the mother. "That of your profession," replied Pauline, dropping her eyes. "Who ever asked such a foolish question as that?" cried Mother Ursula, and her ugly face darkened with an expression of anger. "Do you think me as old as Mother Almee? Though I was only a child when I came here, I know nothing of her profession, no more than you who have been a religious only a year."

"In that case I am mistaken," said Pauline. "Entirely so," replied the other, "but I think that I can tell you in what you are mistaken; it is something of more consequence than the duration of my sojourn in this house."

"And what may that be, my mother," humbly asked Pauline, "will you enlighten me with your counsel and tell me in what I am mistaken?" "I think," said the old woman with considerable tartness, "that you have mistaken your vocation in coming here; and I am compelled to say, Mother Genevieve, that you have not done your duty, when you leave so much of liberty to these young girls."

"Come," said Mother Genevieve, "we will talk together about it;" and the two mothers withdrew, when Eustasie exclaimed: "Ah! Pauline, for a stroke you are unequalled! Why so torment Mother Ursula? Do you not know what an influence she exercises over madame? You will surely be reported."

"I have no fear of it," retorted Pauline. "What have I said after all? But come with me," said she, speaking to me, "I wish to show you Mother Almee; she is a good old creature, and I love her, and I would give my two eyes to find out whether Mother Ursula was present at her profession; and more, Mother Almee is a curiosity. I love to hear her talk."

And she drew me to a group of sisters who were seated at the farther end of the garden, some of these had books in their hands, and others were engaged in that easy conversation which fills the greater part of the time of nuns of different communities. They had today ample matter for their exchanges; the ornamentation of my head-dress, the design of the embroidery of the bishop's mantle, the pastry and cakes of the breakfast, and above all the person of the new arrival.

Pauline introduced me to the group and indifferently asked some questions; then seating herself she pointed out to me a little decrepit old woman seated in

the midst of the circle, but who appeared to give no attention to the conversation. "This is Mother Almee," whispered Pauline.

"I will draw her into a conversation; listen to it—she will amuse you." And approaching the old nun she placed her mouth to her ear and said very distinctly: "How is Mother Almee? What effect have these times upon your rheumatism?"

The aged nun raised her head and showed her features furrowed with deep wrinkles; but what impressed me most was the wandering expression of her eyes.

"Did you speak, my child?" said she in response to the voice of Pauline, and what did you say?" "It is I, my mother," said Pauline, "I asked after your health."

"Ah!" said she, "my sufferings are blessed, my child, since they are endured for Him who loves us, and He accepts them as proof of my love for Him. They are so much of merit in my favor. I fear only that their number will be too small."

A slight tremor passed over Pauline while the mother pronounced these words, but recovering herself she said: "We would like to know, my mother, if you remember the day of your profession?"

"If I remember the day of my profession, of my espousals?" responded the aged nun. "Certainly; it was the festival of St. Cuneogonde, the last Sunday of the carnival. Lent was so long that year that we had green peas the day of Mardi Grass."

"That was badly planned," said Pauline to one of the sisters. "And why?" asked that one. "Because peas are not meat, and they would have served to soften the rigorous dinner of Ash Wednesday."

An outburst of laughter greeted this sally which was certainly not in conformity to the true spirit of the holy mother church. Pauline continued to question the old religious:

"Was Mother Ursula in the house when you made your profession?" she asked. "Ah!" replied the old woman, "there was the bishop, I remember him well, the brave and holy man! He commended the chocolate that they gave us at breakfast and declared that he had never tasted of as good except at the house of Cardinal Poati at Rome."

"What good are all these details?" cried Pauline; "I would give my ears, for, according to my vow, I have nothing else to give, to be assured that Mother Ursula assisted at the profession of her venerable sister; and the old woman only thinks of green peas and chocolate. But I shall endeavor to find out."

And placing her mouth against the ear of Mother Almee, she said: "My mother, is there anyone in this house who was present when you laid aside your secular habit?" "My secular habit!" responded the mother; "have I ever worn it? Was I not professed from the cradle? Was I not placed, when a little child, in the arms of Notre Dame de Misericorde?" and crossing herself she lifted her eyes to heaven and repeated her Pater Noster with a rapidity that only long practice is able to give.

"I spoke of your profession, my mother, and I asked you if there was anyone among us who was present," said my new friend.

"It was fifty-eight years ago, my child," said the old woman, "fifty-eight years and four months; and there is nobody here, now, who has seen upon my head the nuptial wreath. Fifty-eight years is a long time! It is a long time to carry the burden of sin and infirmity; to perceive that the taint of sin remains after so many penitences and prayers! And I have seen, during these years, some young girls, fresh and beautiful as you, and you"—and she pointed with her wasted fingers to some of us—"become pale, sad and die. I have had some friends, young and ardent, and I have seen them all pass away; and all are in their cold graves, each with her nuptial crown upon her forehead. And there is nobody among you who is able to fill the place that has been left cold and vacant here."

She placed her hand upon her heart, sighed, murmured a prayer and continued: "What are you to me? May God pity you! May our lady remember you! But what have you to do with me? I am neither your mother nor your grandmother—there is no tie of blood between us. I am old, deaf and sad. Liberate Domini."

Her lips continued to move, though her voice was inaudible. "Hear that," said Pauline, regarding me with seriousness.

Would not that break the heart of a listener? May God pity her! May God pity us also! But listen, she still speaks; she has forgotten our presence.

"I do not know what they did with her," said she; "she was the last; and Agnes! poor Agnes, she was the first! But she is not dead, though she has the appearance of a corpse, so pale—so cold, so tranquil."

The venerable religious looked around her; but no voice responded; all eyes were dropped. (To be Continued.)

IT USED TO BE THE GAPER.

But It Doesn't Go Now, and the Secretive That Follows Will Tell Just How. Many awkward explanations would be given, many a young man wouldn't make a bit of himself while retreating himself that he is a hero in the eyes of some fair damsel, if he knew of the existence of a little postal law relating to letters which postmasters receive under cover with a polite request that they be mailed by him. Yet every month these are received at the post-office in their vast numbers from persons in other places with the request that they be forwarded. To illustrate: Mr. A., who lives in Albany, does not care to go to Troy, as he promised Mr. B. or Miss C. that he would. It is in a predicament and thinks himself largely out of it if he can make his employer or friend believe that he has been unexpectedly called out of town in a hurry, and so he sits down and writes a few little letters, dated at Troy, N. Y., telling Miss C. that his dearest aunt is seriously ill in this city. He was telegraphed to come immediately and consequently cannot fulfill his engagement for this evening; is very sorry, etc. Then he incloses it in an envelope, addresses and stamps it as usual and incloses the whole in a second envelope with a note addressed to the postmaster in Troy, asking him to kindly mail the inclosed letter. Of course the postmaster mails the letter, but not until he always a certain postal law, which was intended to expose such frauds, and when Miss C. in Troy, received the apology and explanation of the envelope which contained it was indosed in red ink in this style: "Received under cover from Albany to be mailed at this office, Troy, Feb. 23, 1894." The lie was mailed in red ink on the paper, which carried it so plainly and undeniably that the next time Truthful James called his reception was not entirely unlike an ice harvest in a parlor. The government will not allow the mails to be used for fraudulent purposes.

"We receive," said Deputy Postmaster Philleo, "several of these under cover letters a week. Sometimes there is a note accompanying it, saying that it is a little joke which the sender is carrying out. Often we believe that to be so, so that no harm will come of it, but that does not excuse us from indorsing them as 'under cover' letters, and they are all marked in that way. Other letters we receive without any note or explanation, the senders assuming, I suppose, that we know what to do with them. We keep a record, too, of all such letters which we have forwarded by keeping the cover in which we received them, with a memorandum of the case."

Another postoffice official said: "If we could read the 'under cover' letters which pass through our hands and trace them up, we would be able to fill the newspapers with sensations. Most of the 'under cover' letters received are addressed to ladies in male handwriting, and there is no doubt that deceit is intended."

Ladies receive the most protection from this law, and it causes most annoyance to men.—Union Observer.

A Ghost Story. "Speaking about ghosts," said Howard Tracy, a shoe dealer from Boston, "I once had an experience that nearly turned my hair gray in a single night. It happened like this: I was spending a night at the country residence of a friend. It was a very large house, and the room I occupied was situated quite remote from the rest of the family. In the middle of the night I suddenly awoke. The wind was howling mournfully through the trees. It seemed just an ideal night for a ghost to prow about. The dismal cry of an owl resounded from time to time.

Suddenly there sounded a sort of rustling on the outside, just beneath the window. It seemed just like a footfall. I could swear also that there was a clank of iron, the sound of fetters. A cold perspiration broke out all over me; my hair stood on end. I held my breath to catch the slightest sound. Again I heard the clank of the chain and the soft footfall right beneath my window. All the blood-curdling ghost stories I had ever read came crowding through my brain. Again a clank and a rustle.

My eyes were riveted on the window, and every moment I expected to see a cold, white face, with burning eyes, pressed against the pane. Just at that moment when I felt that I could bear the suspense no longer a most blood curdling howl broke the stillness of the night. It brought me bolt upright in the bed in an instant. It was only a big watchdog that had broken the chain and was wandering around the grounds."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Ammonia Condensation. M. Frere, a French chemist, shows in what manner the condensation of ammonia in gas works may be most advantageously accomplished. His experiments were made with a simple apparatus—viz, a Chevrolet washer and a water-trickle pipe on a stand, supplied with from 53 to 88 parts of water per ton of coal distilled. When the temperature of the gas on its admission to the washer rose from 57.7 degrees to 58.2, the ammonia remaining in the gas rose from 0.0284 to 0.070 grains per cubic foot. On putting up another pipe lower in addition to the previously existing one it was found on working the water so that the temperature of the gas was never allowed to go beyond 57.3 F. that, even when the external air was at a temperature of 86 to 88 degrees F. in the shade, there was never more ammonia in the gas than 0.0437 to 0.048 grain per cubic foot. In winter less water was used, but the gas contained only from 0.0262 to 0.0306 grain of ammonia per cubic foot. From this it seems that ammonia can be almost completely extracted by very simple means.—New York Sun.

Mutual Aid. A gentleman of independent means was on the outlook for a little mansion in the neighborhood of Nully. He thought he had found what he wanted and entered into negotiations with the owner of a detached villa residence.

"Will you also take the aviary and the poultry house?" he was asked. "Agreed."

A list of the poultry was drawn up. "I beg your pardon," said the new tenant, "but you have put down a Cochon China fowl which I don't see among the lot."

The landlord put on a look of sadness. "Ah, sir, it was a splendid fowl! It cost me 15 francs, but as it died last week I am letting you have it at half price!"—Paris Reform.

Celery as a Rheumatism Cure. Celery is a good thing to eat at every meal where there is the slightest tendency to rheumatism. At Buxton, the famous English resort, a celery diet, with the abundant lime of the place, is known to be curative. Celery is not nice looking enough for meat courses, may be stewed like spinach and served hot as a side dish or vegetables.—New York World.

DENVER POLICE MUSS.

Arguments Made Before the Colorado Supreme Court.

CARE TAKEN UNDER ADVISEMENT.

Decision Expected the Latter Part of the Week.—Some Questions Put to the Attorneys by the Court.—Contempt Case Against Mayor Van Horn Postponed. Several Meetings Held by Police Officers.

DENVER, March 20.—The supreme court was crowded Monday afternoon with lawyers, politicians and other interested persons while arguments were being made on the question submitted by the governor whether Orr and Martin or Mullins and Barnes are legally entitled to act as members of the fire and police board. Wells, Taylor & Taylor, counsel for Orr and Martin, whom the governor attempted to remove, yielding to the force of public opinion, concluded to appear on behalf of their clients and, in a communication to the court, declared: "Should the court, despite its settled determination heretofore expressed in kindred cases, conclude that it has the authority and shall therefore try in this summary and unusual way the title to these offices and shall judicially determine that issue adversely to our clients, we shall advise them to promptly comply with such ruling and immediately surrender the places they now hold without other or further contention."

Followed Advice of Their Counsel. Orr and Martin agreed to follow the advice of their counsel. The lawyers presented themselves, however, not to argue the case on its merits, but to contend that it should be remanded to the district court, from which an injunction had been taken forbidding the unseating of the old members of the old board, as a question of private right, was involved. They asked the court to take steps to prevent the governor in the future from calling out the militia to induct his appointees into office.

Thomas Ward, Platt Rogers, J. Warner Mills and Charles Hurlfelt represented the case for the governor. They agreed that a "solemn occasion had arisen and the public peace depended upon the supreme court making an answer to the questions submitted by the governor, as provided in the constitution."

They cited decisions of the court of prove that no private right was involved and that the governor in removing Orr and Martin, for causes stated in writing and not of a political nature, had exercised a right inherent in his office and the court had a right to review his action. Some questions put to the attorneys indicated that the court was of the opinion that the governor had made the "solemn occasion" and would give an opinion regarding his right to do so.

Matter Taken Under Advise ment. The matter was taken under advise ment and a decision is expected by the latter part of the week. The contempt case against Mayor Van Horn and the new commissioners was postponed in Judge Glynn's court. Mr. Rogers of the counsel for the defense insisted that as affidavits had been filed against the governor he should also be brought in for contempt and the question whether the court had exceeded its authority be tested.

At the city hall nearly all traces of the recent war have vanished. A large number of the conservative police officers held a secret meeting and decided they would not again resort to arms to defend their positions. One of them stated they were led into a trap when they signed an agreement to stand by the old board regardless of consequences. The officers who refused to sign this agreement were dropped from the force.

Two Persons Commit Suicide. DES MOINES, March 20.—Word comes from Rose Hill, Ia., a small town near Oskaloosa, that 10 miles northeast of there the bodies of John Reed, aged 20, and Etta Shaw, aged 19, were found hanging to a limb of a tree, they having committed suicide. No cause is known for the act.

Found Rock Bottom. YANKTON, S. D., March 20.—A railroad surveying party is in the field running a line from LeMars to Yankton. From here the survey will be extended to Norfolk, Neb. The bridge engineers have found rock bottom in the Missouri river here 51 feet down.

Trouble Predicted in Cuba. MADRID, March 20.—It is reported here that official dispatches have been received from Cuba predicting trouble if the government renounces the Mauris proposal in regard to political reforms.

Moulders Strike at Dubuque. DUBUQUE, Ia., March 20.—McDonald-Morrison company's moulders walked out because their wages were reduced 20 per cent some time ago and had not been restored as per agreement.

Deaths of Charles H. Bain. KENOSHA, Wis., March 20.—Word was received here from San Francisco of the death of Charles H. Bain of the Bain Wagon Company. The deceased was about 40 years old.

Two Children Burned to Death. MANSON, Ia., March 20.—The farm house of H. Boyer, northeast of town, burned. His two children, Gretchen, aged 8, and Fred, aged 2 years, perished in the flames.

Wilber to Have Waterworks. WILBER, Neb., March 20.—This city contracted with Engineer A. A. Richardson of Lincoln to get up plans for a \$17,000 waterworks plant.

Convicted a Child of Burglary. BLOOMFIELD, Ia., March 20.—Earl Bishop, the 10-year-old son of George Bishop, was convicted of burglary after a long trial.

Ives Is Dead. NEW HAVEN, Conn., March 20.—Millonaire H. B. Ives, who recently became violently insane, is dead.

MAGNET PILE KILLER. Not a Common Sort of Cure, but a SPECIFIC Used for Rectal Diseases Only. READ THE FOLLOWING: \$1.00 PER BOX. MAGNET CHEMICAL CO., Boston, Mass., Omaha, Neb.

COOK REMEDY CO. BLOOD POISON. SYPHILIS! Our Magic Remedy Cures Every Case of Syphilis, Blood Poison, etc. \$500,000 CAPITAL. COOK REMEDY CO., Room 201 Rensselaer Temple, Chicago, Ill.

THE GREAT PARIS CONVENT.

Its Important Part in the Feminine World of the French Capital. For strangers it is difficult to realize the part which the convent of the Sacre-Coeur plays in the existence of the Parisian great world, and, in fact, of the whole French aristocracy.

As befits so aristocratic an institution, it is located in the very heart of the noble Faubourg St. Germain in the Rue de Valenciennes, the building having served in turn as a palace of the Duchess de Maine, of the Duc de Biron, and of the Duc de Charost, whose widow sold it in 1820 to Mme. Barat, the founder of the order. Mme. Barat, who died as recently as 1865, was the daughter of a cooper. She was influenced in the shaping of her career by the fact that her brother was a priest of remarkable eloquence and enlightenment, and it was in deference to his advice that at the beginning of this century she first laid the foundation alike of her order and of her school.

The school occupies the mansion itself, while the majority of the nuns are housed in separate buildings, which, in several cases, were formerly used by the servants of the original proprietors. One of the features of the convent is its extensive gardens, some 10 acres in area, and grand old trees situated in the very center of Paris, beneath the shade of which in their school years have lived such great ladies as the Duchesse de Rohan, the Duchesse d'Ursel, Comtesse de Lesseps, Comtesse de la Roche, Comtesse de Mtn, the Marquise Hervé de Saint Denis, and last, but not least, the three daughters of Queen Isabella of Spain, one of whom, the Infanta Eulalia, is so well known in the United States.

In order to prevent a repetition of the recent disgraceful efforts to abridge the right of free speech, THE AMERICAN has undertaken to raise a fund with which to prosecute all persons hereafter guilty of such an attempt. It matters not how small the sum, every American who prizes that boon should help swell the fund. We do not ask any one to go into this, but will receipt for any amount sent in for the fund. We have received contributions from Oregon, Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska and other points. The money so raised will be used to prosecute all violations of the law guaranteeing free speech. Our proposition is contained in this blank which contributors sign:

I, of [town] hereby subscribe \$ [amount] to the Free Speech League Fund of the American Publishing Co., of Omaha, Neb., and Kansas City, Mo. I desire to have my name enrolled as a member of the Free Speech Fund League, and agree to donate a like sum whenever there is an attempt to abridge that constitutional guarantee of a right to free speech any place within the confines of the United States.

The Bible Cabala. N. A. LEST. Now Rediscovered. Contains and Explains the Secret of all Revelations, the Truth of all Truths, the History of the Jews, the Prophecies of all Bibles of all Religions. Answer Any Question in 5,000 Years.

PLATE I.—THE PARADISE. The Song of the Vineyard (Isaiah, Ch. V, etc.). PLATE II.—THE REVELATION. The Song of the Vineyard (Isaiah, Ch. V, etc.). PLATE III.—THE REVELATION. The Song of the Vineyard (Isaiah, Ch. V, etc.).

PLATE IV.—THE REVELATION. The Song of the Vineyard (Isaiah, Ch. V, etc.). PLATE V.—THE REVELATION. The Song of the Vineyard (Isaiah, Ch. V, etc.).

PLATE VI.—THE REVELATION. The Song of the Vineyard (Isaiah, Ch. V, etc.). PLATE VII.—THE REVELATION. The Song of the Vineyard (Isaiah, Ch. V, etc.).

PLATE VIII.—THE REVELATION. The Song of the Vineyard (Isaiah, Ch. V, etc.). PLATE IX.—THE REVELATION. The Song of the Vineyard (Isaiah, Ch. V, etc.).

PLATE X.—THE REVELATION. The Song of the Vineyard (Isaiah, Ch. V, etc.). PLATE XI.—THE REVELATION. The Song of the Vineyard (Isaiah, Ch. V, etc.).

PLATE XII.—THE REVELATION. The Song of the Vineyard (Isaiah, Ch. V, etc.). PLATE XIII.—THE REVELATION. The Song of the Vineyard (Isaiah, Ch. V, etc.).

THE COMING AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.

BY B. A. HUNTINGTON. This is among the latest publications and ranks among the best. It deals with the foreign exerted in the affairs of our country by the Roman Catholic Church. Every American should read it. Paper cover. Price 50 Cents.

Sent postpaid on receipt of price, by the AMERICAN PUBLISHING CO., 1615 Howard Street, Omaha, Neb. or, 87 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. or, Cor. Clark and Randolph, Chicago, Ill.

MARIA MONK.

Paper Cover 50 Cents. This little volume relates the terrible experience of a nun who was confined in the "Black Nunnery" of Madagasc. It has probably the largest and most graphic of the kind ever published, and several Attempts to Suppress It have been made. The price in cloth is \$1.00, and in paper 50 cents. For sale by AMERICAN PUBLISHING CO., 1615 Howard Street, Omaha, Neb. or, 87 Main St., Kansas City, Mo.

WHY PRIESTS SHOULD WED.

BY DR. JUSTIN D. FULTON. This is one of Dr. Fulton's best books. It deals with the question of celibacy of the priesthood from a religious standpoint; also the past and present history of the Roman Catholic Church. Price, in paper cover, 50c. Sent postpaid on receipt of price, by AMERICAN PUBLISHING CO., 1615 Howard Street, OMAHA, NEB.

THE MONK.

One of the richest books published, giving the complete experience of the famous Monk Laws. Send for it quick.

ITS A HUMMER. PRICE \$1.00

By express, prepaid. Can't send it by mail. U. S. postage stamps taken. Agents complete outfit \$1.50. Address CHAS. W. RIFE, MAYSVILLE, KY.

Secrets of Romish Priests Exposed.

Price 40 Cents.

SUBSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE.

Price 50 Cents. Rev. Joseph Slattery is the author of both of the above books. They are just what the titles indicate, and are printed in good, clean type and bound in paper covers. Sent by express or mail. Address AMERICAN PUBLISHING CO., 1615 Howard Street, Omaha, Neb. or, 87 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. or, Cor. Clark and Randolph, Chicago, Ill.