THE NUN.

o'Francisted from the French by Rev. M. S. P.

CHAPTER II.

THE PROFESSION - Continued. of my story : Annonciata and Clariers and than when she hand me. were, bulery the probondon of the late ter, friends so intimate and beleved of the amsorier that it was always said, See madame with or ress to one hand ! and her lily to the other.' But there breviate my history. But I desire to has been a strange remove of a note that shen repetitions. I would like to came to Annunciata in a bon bon; I do describe one of our days in the convent. not know what to make of it. Clarime as it passed according to the convent having been accased of hetraying her rules, before entering into the recital friend to the superior, Annunciata be- of more active and interesting scenes. came her implacable enemy. The I will begin with the call I received, heaven only knows when it will end, attend the respec service. It was held for Annunciata has such an influence a little b fore sunset and last-d about over Madame that she has turned com- an hour. It consisted of sungs and pletely against Clarisce. It is impose prayers to the virgin. After vespera sible to comprehend the aversion that we went to support in the relectory or the superior seems to have towards the dining hall. Our supper was simple; poor girl. But Sister Clarisse has we were all scated at a long table ac often declared that she was innecent in cording to our rank in the house. the matter of the billet. The affair of looked around me in vain to discover a the bonbon could provoke the coldness figure that answered to the description between the two friends, but there I had received of the sad and sweet ought to be another reason for the Clarkse. During the meal one of the treatment to which Clarisse had been sisters read from "The Lives of the subjected, for the history dates back Saints." At the close of the reading two years. When I came here, there the abbess talked to us of the beauties had been in the house a certain widow, of sacrifice and the sufferings of the a Madame Barthelmy, who came with grand servitors of God, and urged us to the desire of taking the veil. She was try and surpass them if it were possible. very ill, and Sister Clarisse was with Oh! who can describe the misery inher plans. She no longer praised the hard is the church toward her. charms of cloistered life; she was pos- After supper we returned to the sessed solely with the desire to return choir, to the service called completory, to the world where she could appear then we retired. It was about nine with sclat. Madame was extremely o'clock; I was dropping away into displeased with the widow, and the sleep, when Mother Genefride, knockcoldness that she showed Clarisse after ing at my door, called me to the nocthe departure of Madame Barthelmy turne service. I hurriedly put on my was attributed by the sisters to the af- vestments and left my cell. By the fection that the young girl had always light of a lamp placed in the gallery, I shown to the lady. But it is four saw the sisters who were gathering in months since the lady went away, and the antichoir. The most miserable the disgrace of Clarisse becomes each captive in his dungeon is able to sleep, day more evident. Today, when she at least, in peace! thought I; but I recame to the table, Annunciata and pressed this thought as I deemed it Mother Ursula removed themselves biasphemous, and followed my comfrom her, as though her touch was con- panions. tagious. We had already observed The church was illuminated, and the that they held themselves alcof from solemn chant, intened by the officiating her, but we had not yet seen them so priest and responded to by the sisters, openly hostile as today. I believe they overpowered me and I almost fainted, have imposed many secret penitences for I perceived that I had taken upon upon her during these last weeks; she myself an insupportable burden. Hap has become exceedingly emaciated, and pily the service was not too long; and there is not a trace of color in her I returned to my cell and slept. Becheeks or in her hands."

that they can inflict upon us?" I de short time after this service.

manded.

time of the white veil," responded the house; but a restless as well as an Pauline, "but G d only knows what interrupted sleep had not given me the triumphed. The infernal powers make the unhappy creatures suffer, who hav- necessary repose and I was exceedingly ing bound themselves here incur the sad. displeasure of their superiors."

against our hely church. Can you believe that a person like Madame is able tures. It was: "Mary has chosen the to be guilty of secret cruelt es?"

"Our Lord only knows," said Pauline, "but the power, the pride and mysteries of these terrible things! I am imprudent. On! shall I be able to hold my tongue? I blame perhaps the inno- obliged to meditate upon it for an hour cent, and if there be an alternative be- kneeling, having nothing for a support, tween the evil upon the earth-for to following that principle of the church: be here is certainly an evil-and perhaps the endless torments of purgatory, has of merit." the superior is certainly right in making her girls suffer and in imposing experienced, or what were their medialeep? penitences upon them rather than to tations, but for myself I was able to permit them to continue in sin. But, think only of the pains that I experi- holy persons assailed in this manner," oh my sister, this religion is terrible-lienced in my back and knees. Surely she continued, closing the book, "and I it offers only a miserable consolation; habit avails much; but I have seen believe that even in our days many and when they tell us that we, the many sisters who were unable to re-christians are held by the demons, and spouses of Christ, are able to be con- main kneeling without suffering. But that the number of those who live firm demned to cycles of torment, how can what would a complaint avail? To all is very small." we lift ourselves with gratitude toward our grouns the cold response was: "If the Redcemer? Are we then, the ob the All Powerful does not see fit to older nuns, having been encouraged to jects of divine love? Is it astonishing render this duty easy for you, you talk, recounted histories which conthat the nations of the earth deny the ought to submit to His will; and if His firmed what the abbess had said; each dogmas of a religion so frightful? will is to try you by suffering here, you recital was a little more marvelous Truly the more a poor soul tries to are able to hope that you will be de- than the preceding. The young recalm herself by works of merit, the livered at the last." more unhappy and unquiet she is!"

a deep sigh, and I said to Pauline: it were allowed to go to the refectory demons. "Do you believe that all the sisters are for a lunch; but I noticed that the most as unhappy as yourself?"

hands of Father Joachim, and do with- I deplored my precipitation! materials of which they make nuns; of work, each in her cell-at least she has a warm heart or feeble nerves ought Mother Genefride would not be very shared by many.

whitesomed.

died away. Pauline then arms and convent. "The mot follow me: It is best the other side of the garden."

CHAPTER III.

CONVENT LIFE.

I do not wish unreasonably to ab-

her almost constantly. Before her flicted by the apostate church upon her health was completely restored, a let- unhappy children! With all this outter came telling her of the death of a ward glitter, there does not exist a friend who had willed her a large part tyrant so cruel as Rome; and the more of her fortune. This letter modified all sincere her child the more severe and

fore sunrise I was called to the service "Of what sort are those penitences of laudes (praise). I lay down for a

At half past five we all arose and "They are very light during the made our beds, following the rule of

At six o'clock we were again in the "Heaven," I cried, "it is sacr:lege choir; the superior read a passage from a book of extracts from the Holy Scripgood part." "These words," said she, "relate to the holy virgin, though the heretics apply them to the sister of Lazarus." When she had given us this false explanation, we were "The more one suffers, the more he

I do not know what the other sisters

The only reply that I could make was tation; after which those who desired they could repel the attacks of the devoted of the sisters took nothing at "No," she replied, "no; there are this time. We had half an hour for die to ourselves, and to keep ourselves some brave girls who are untouched by recreation. Today, instead of walking favor or disfavor. I could name a dozen in the garden I went to my cell, where who never think of anything. They I wept a long time. This in a measure place the care of their souls in the relieved my oppressed heart. Oh! how children in peril; to submit ourselves

out farther questioning whatever he After this half hour, we gathered commands them; as to the others, they again, in groups of three or four, and amuse themselves as much as they can. occupied ourselves in the work of the When no one observes them they chat house. Some had charge of the linen; ter and laugh; often a design of em- others of the vestments, and still others broidery serves for a theme of conver- of the sacristy; the sisters not thus ensation for many days. They are the gaged were occupied in various kinds the important thing is that they kneel was supposed to be. But it often hapwhere they remain upright for hours pened that the novices gathered in without murmuring. A person who twoos or threes, well assured that never to enter a convent," exclaimed severe if she were to discover us tothe young girl, "but when it is done it gether; for, though she did not fall to scold us on such occasions, the squall We seemed to hear steps at this mo- once passed, we did not trouble our-

yell and eventhed behind the bank and The exempations were varied; some appears that a Roman Cathelin privat, "If anyone enters, say that I have flowers, and others embroidered purses, the richest dicesse in the cuties State An Episode of Convent Life, gone: In the name of your life, never bags, and ornamented backe-vers with of Binois, took upon himself the general repent that which I have said to you." pearly. These articles were sent to disamble of an orphan, the daughter of We waited in quiet until the steps Turin and sold for the issuell of the a man who was his friend and who on

Some of them hours passed tran his child to the priors. that when they see me, they see me at quilly in my cell with Pauline, my Prior to this event the priest had Now commerce the mysterious part - sine left the grotte leaving me more the happiest of all those that I spent in was a seried between them. After acthe convent, and I hope they were not cepting the trust confided in him by all lest. But I continue:

read a book put into our hands by the burdened. hatred is each day more evident, and while I still meditated in the grotto, to abbess. At two o'clock we were rethe readings of the afternoon.

pictures representing different scenes in the life of the virgin. The floor was emulty of the time, and all of the mem- indications of honor left in him bers of the family arranged themselves Madame. Pauline was by my side.

I wish to remark here that I had not should look around to see her. During this time, the abbess, after having made a prayer, addressed us in these words:

"My daughters, be reminded that you have-

A God to adore.

A Jesus Christ to imitate. All the angels to honor.

The holy virgins and saints to invoke A soul to save.

Sins to explate. A paradise to gain.

An eternity to contemplate. Demons to fear.

Passions to conquer. The judgment to undergo."

This formula was always used in these reunions. When the superior had finished, she told us that she did not have the time to question us about our readings as she must bring before us a very important matter. She dwelt at length upon the place that had been assigned her by the church: that to her had been confided the care of the souls of many children; she spoke of the cares and auxieties of such a charge; she expressed her desire of seeing her shildren obedient to the church, and her anguish in seeing her beloved daughters doing otherwise:

then opening a book, she read: "The universal church has and al- Letter of Pope Pius IX. to Jeff Davis ways will have enemies upon enemies to contend with, but she has always each day new efforts, but they never has enemies within and without, but without enumerating the trials that she has endured at the hands of Jews, infidels, heretics, schismatics, and excommunicated persons, she suffers at the hands of malign spirits who attempt the destruction of her members, not only by making them fall into corruption and worldliness, but using still further a thousand artifices whose purpose is the destruction of those whom they entangle. Who has not heard tell of St. Anthony, the blessed solitary father, who was so tormented by the demons that he did not dare to fall

"We have numerous examples of

She ceased speaking. Many of the ligieuses trembled and crossed them-A service followed this hour of medi- selves, and one asked by what means

We ought to work and pray without ceasing," responded the superior; "to in the narrow way; we ought to beseech the assistance of the church, which groans like a dove over her to her spiritual authority, and not only ourselves, but to make others whom we love pliable in order that they may be rebuked, exhorted and corrected like those who may be snatched like burn-

ing brands from the snares of evil." A sort of a murmur of approval followed, this discourse; but I observed that Sister Annunciata did not say a word nor lift her eyes. I felt Pauline tremble violently at my side. What is going to happen? I thought; what will it be? I perceived that my anxiety was

(To be Continued.)

Piety, Purity and Priestcraft. A pitiful and appalling tale of perfidy ment. Pauline hastily dropped her selves to talk further of her displeasure. has been unearthed in Aurora, Ills. It

made bortons, some made artificial named Thomas P. Leyden, paster of his death-bed bequeathed the wave of

amiable and affortionate Panitue, were reflected the young woman's rule, but it the dying parent, Father Layden ful-At nine evinck we returned to the filled it by denouncing the girl as a choir to adore the host; at ter o'clock wanton, and, buther to conceal himwe breakfasted together in the ref co self, british a young man wanted Entory, one of our number reading some glish to shoulder the infamy by prombook approved by the church; after thing him the girl's fortune. The story this we were left to ourselves, though outvies Balcae in all his narratives under strict surveillance, until mon concerning the lefamy of priests, and Then came a new service called serie, is almost beyond the bounds of human. at the close of which each one of no belief in the depravity with which it is

The priest is 48 years old, lives in unit d for a light lunch; then came the sumptuous style, and had a reputation service called news. Then the entire above represch. Like all others of his family assembled to give an account of lik, he was entrusted with the private affairs of his parishioners. Pearce On the day of which I speak, at the Cummings was one of them, and he hour of vespers we were all called freely gave his children into the care around Madame. We were ushered in. of the man who had already ruined one to a large gothic hall, ornamented with of them, and who acted the part of a cur when the facts leaked out. If Leyden had renounced his priestly office and covered with fine matting. Madame married his victim instead of denouncwas seated upon a dals at the extremity | ing her and getting somebody else to of the hall; such was the pompous sol- father his crime, there would be some

according to their rank around by the mother of the girl, and great entire community of Aurora. The yet seen Clarisse; it was natural that I priest has been arrested and the denovement is yet to be. Thus the sancity of the home has been shattered, the trust of a fond father misplaced, and a widowed mother's heart wrung in despair, and all because the offi e of sands of a similar nature which are unrecognized because unknown. Were the depravities to which the priesthood is addicted by reason of the cellthe world a tale harrowing beyond all horrors of the Inquisition would be forthcoming.

Society dislikes to be disturbed. Like theology, nothing is so unpleasant to it as the knowledge that its secret sins are understood. Crimes like the one perpetrated against Cummings, may go on and nothing is thought about them until their discovery shocks the community. Then the "better than thou" element draws its skirts of immaculateness a bitch higher, and damps the victims. Like the thief, society is always happy until it gets caught.

Steac a Cummings ought to receive the care and solicitude of society. Will she get it? The priest will, at least from that portion of it which conmay go with the girl.-Light of Truth.

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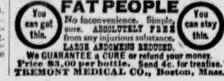
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