

AN EASTER PRAYER

BY H.M. Queen Margherita of Italy



SWEET JESU, the bold son of the mountains invokes Thee, as Lord of the eternal snows and Sovereign of the lofty peaks. Incline Thine eyes towards these white plains, that have the likeness of Thy robe, spotless and snowy! Deign, O Lord, to soften the horror for mortals who go through the frozen ways; lead them, protect them in the dangerous paths; and if any should fall by the way and die, receive him into Thy pitiful arms. Softly spread over him the gentle cold shroud; and as soon as his soul abandons his earthly body, may he ascend to God's throne. O Blessed One, hear my prayer! Look Thou on all the deeds of his life; find out the noble thoughts that have sprung from his heart, and scatter them like fragrant mountain flowers before the feet of God, that, when his spirit reaches the face of the Lord, the Lord may in His infinite mercy welcome him. And may the golden light that crowns the Alps, which is an emanation of the Divine light, enfold him in glorious peace for ever! Amen.

AN EASTER IDEA OF MARGERY'S.



MARGERY LENNOX ran down the steps of the piazza, buttoning her jacket as she went. Patsy, her little fox terrier, hearing the bang of the front door, rushed around the corner of the house to join his little mistress, and together they ran to the corner of the avenue.

"Now, Patsy, dear, you must go back. You ought to be thankful that you can go back, instead of having to sit in a stuffy old schoolroom all morning, when it's so beautiful outdoors. Go, that's a good doggie!" And Patsy turned back obediently, if a little reluctantly, and was soon dashing about the wet lawn with one of Margery's old rubbers for a play-fellow.

Margery went skipping on to school rejoicing in the ending beauty of the April morning. It seemed to her that the grass and the bursting leaflets on the shrubbery fairly laughed as she passed them, and as for the robins and bluebirds, they were actually hilarious in their joy that spring had come. The people she met seemed unusually pleasant looking until she came to where Central alley met the street. Just as she reached it three boys rushed out, almost colliding with her as they ran, and looking over their shoulders as if they expected some one were following. Margery checked herself to avoid them and then looked in the direction from which they had come. "They've been teasing old Mrs. Laney," she thought, and sure enough, the old woman stood in her door shaking her fist at the receding boys. While Margery paused the dirty, disheveled old creature stooped and picked up a battered tin can in which a sickly geranium had been growing. With trembling fingers she tried to straighten the plant, and it fell over the edge of the path again, and Margery could see that the main stem had been broken off near the root. Then she went on, but some way the joyousness of the morning seemed dimmed, and if the birds in the maple trees above her sang as gayly as ever she did not hear them. She was thinking of the tumbled old gray head bending over the broken plant.

"In the school room the girls were gathered in a corner discussing a plan which Margery herself had set on foot. The buying of a palm for their Sunday school teacher by the six girls of the class to be presented on Easter morn-

ing. Several of the girls had brought money and tendered it to Margery, whom they called chairman of the committee. To their surprise, she refused

millar with the sight of Mrs. Laney intoxicated and belligerent, but it is doubtful if they had ever thought of her as Margery saw her now, a friendless old woman, her poor old body worn with long years of hard, incessant labor and her mind weakened by sorrow and loss and most of all by the liquor she had taken to make her forget her hard lot. As Margery went to school her spirits rose. She was saying to herself: "I'm glad I thought of it. The worst was telling the girls and that's over. Now, I am going to enjoy the rest."

Mrs. Laney was still asleep on Easter morning when Margery peeped through the little window, but she had not thought it necessary to lock the door, and, opening it softly, the little girl set inside a beautiful white hyacinth in a prettily decorated pot. Then she closed the door and ran out of the alley as fast as she could go.

What the old woman did when, on waking, she saw the lovely plant Margery never knew, but she was quite satisfied that her sacrifice had not been in vain, when next morning she discovered Mrs. Laney seated in her doorway holding the pot in her lap and every now and then bending her rough gray head to inhale its fragrance.

When at last the waxen bells began to fade the old plant mysteriously disappeared, and in its place the bewildered woman found another just as fresh and fragrant, but this time pink. Again the pink one faded and a purple flower took its place, until the colors were exhausted, and Margery was substituting a flourishing geranium in place of the last one, when she was startled to hear a shrill voice behind her call out: "Thanks to heaven, I've found ye at last! And to think the only friend I have to be one of them school children I be cursin' this many year!"

The geranium thrived, but Mrs. Laney did not, and before another Easter came round her hard life was over. To her little friend she had confided her horror of being buried by the town, and, after consulting with her mother, Margery was able to promise her that she need not dread a pauper's funeral.

When Miss Andrews' Easter present was under discussion that year Margery made haste to land her share over the chairman, saying, with a smile as she did so, "That's so; I won't change my mind this time, girls; there might be another temptation."—Alice D. Bankhage.

Day For the Children.

Easter is a bright day for the little ones at the bedside of our own nation. The President of the United States comes out on Easter Monday and opens the gate to his big yard, and the happy children take possession and

to take it, urging her friend, May Gardner, to take it in her place.

"But why don't you take it, Margery? You started the plan!" Margery was silent for a moment trying to gather courage to face the girls' surprise and displeasure.

"Because," she said at last, not very bravely, "I can't give anything toward the plan, and it wouldn't be fair for me to choose it."

The girls were silent for a moment. Then one of them said, meaningly: "It's a queer way to do, I think, to talk up a plan and get people interested and then back out when it comes to paying your share."

Margery blushed and the quick an-

swered as they did during the first attempt. The harbor remains perfectly clear."

The following official dispatch has been received from Gen. Smirnov: "Port Arthur, March 27.—Last night, after moon-rise, the Japanese attempted to block the entrance to the harbor. Four fire ships were sent toward the port covered by a torpedo flotilla. Toward 2:15 a. m. the approach of the enemy's ships were perceived by the guardships and batteries which simultaneously opened upon them heavily. The fire ships were preceded by torpedo boats, followed at a considerable distance by larger ships which opened on the forts supporting the action of the fire ships and the torpedo boats. Owing to the heaviness of our artillery fire and the boldness of our torpedo boats, the fire ships did not reach the entrance to the harbor. Two of them grounded on a reef under Golden Hill, another sank behind the first turn of land, struck by a torpedo from one of our boats, and the fourth sank, its bows touching a Japanese steamer sunk in the previous attempt off Matichanaja Gorda. The entrance to the harbor remains clear."

"A Hotchkiss one-inch calibre quick-firer was found aboard one of the sunken steamers from which a fire had been kept on our torpedo boats. A boat left each of the sunken ships, carrying their crews. One of these is believed to have been picked up. Toward 4 o'clock a. m. the enemy's torpedo boats retired and the bombard-



"CHRIST IN GETHSEMANE."

ky tears came into her eyes. May Gardner slipped her arm around her friend's waist, which gave her courage to answer: "It does look that way, I know, but we agreed to spend only our own money for the plan, and, and, I have thought of another way to spend mine."

The girl who had spoken first turned away. "Miss Andrews will be flattered when she hears that," she said. Once more the tears started in Margery's eyes. The bell rang and the group broke up, but May wanted to give her friend a sympathetic squeeze and to whisper: "Never mind, Marge, I know you're all right."

On her way to school in the afternoon Margery ventured into the alley and peeped through the half-open door of the shanty. The old woman lay asleep on a cot. On the floor beside her was a half-emptied bottle, and on the window sill stood the poor geranium tied with a piece of string to a stick to keep it upright. The stem had been carefully handaged, but the leaves had wilted and hung limp and dying. The school children had become fa-

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THE HARBOR IS STILL CLEAR

Another Attempt On Port Arthur Failed Signally

JAPANESE MADE BOLD ATTACK

The Russian Guns Repelled the War Vessels From the Forts and the Harbor Remains Open.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.—An official dispatch from Port Arthur to the Emperor says that at 1 o'clock Monday morning the Russian searchlights disclosed four large merchant steamers making for the entrance to the harbor, supported by six torpedo boats. A heavy fire was opened on them by the batteries and some warships.

The torpedo boat Stini, commanded by Lieutenant Krinzi, turned the merchant vessels from their course by blowing up the prow of the first and then boldly attacked the enemy's torpedo boats. In the fierce fight which followed Chief Engineer Swyreff, of the Stini, and six marines were killed and the commander and twelve men were wounded.

The Japanese plan to block the entrance to Port Arthur was frustrated, however, and the channel is still clear. Vice Admiral Makaroff, commanding Russian naval forces at Port Arthur, has sent the following telegram to the Emperor:

"I beg most humbly to report that at 2 o'clock this morning the enemy made a second attempt to block the entrance to the inner roadstead. For this purpose they dispatched four large merchant steamers, conveyed by six torpedo boats to the entrance. The enemy's ships were promptly discovered by the searchlights and were bombarded by the batteries and by the guardships. Fearing the enemy's ships might break through Lieut. Krinzi, commanding the guard torpedo boat Stini, attacked the enemy and destroyed the bow of the foremost of the searchlights and was

steamer turned to the right and was followed by two others, with the result that the three were stranded to the right of the entrance. A fourth steamer went to the right of the enemy's ships and likewise sank to the bottom of the harbor. The Stini then battled with the enemy's six torpedo boats. Engineer Artifer Swyreff and six seamen were killed and the commander and twelve seamen were wounded. At daybreak the enemy's attack was repelled and the harbor remained clear. The harbor remains perfectly clear."

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Preached on Mars Hill.

Athens, By Cable.—Rev. John Potts, of Toronto, Ontario, preached on the Hill of Mars Sunday to the delegates to the world's Sunday school convention. The ministers and delegates repeated St. Paul's address to the Athenians.

All the members of the party from the United States are well and will proceed to Jerusalem, where the meeting of the convention will be held.

May Last Two Years.

Paris, Special.—The Matin's Harbin correspondent says a rumor is being circulated there to the effect that the war will last two years and that it will not really begin before September, the rains making July and August unfavorable for military operations. Despite China's protestations of neutrality, the correspondent continues, "General Ma is advancing to Manchuria. If this movement is combined with the Japanese operations the Russians will be obliged to act against General Ma, who continues to move northward, although the Pekin government, it is understood, has ordered him to retire."

Rumor Unfounded.

Tien Tsin, By Cable.—It is learned upon reliable official authority that the rumors of disaffection and mutiny amongst the Chinese imperial troops on the border, which have been current for several days, are absolutely unfounded. Col. Muenche, of Viceroy Yuan Kai Kai's staff, who was sent to Port Arthur ten days ago to remove the Chinese from that city, returned to Tien Tsin Saturday, having satisfactorily terminated his refuge mission.

Somebody Yelled Fire.

New Haven, Conn., Special.—A panic occurred at the morning service in St. Michael's Italian church Sunday, in which almost a score of persons were injured. Four of the most seriously injured, two women and two children, were taken to the Haven Hospital. Some one in the congregation shouted "Fire," during a prayer, and immediately the worshippers arose and rushed for the door at the rear of the church, the only exit. The police and members of the church have made an investigation, but no reason for anyone giving an alarm of fire has been discovered.

Cut His Throat.

Buchanan, Ga., Special.—Immediately after telling his twelve-year-old daughter to leave the room, S. J. Bryant killed himself at the house of S. L. Land here Sunday by cutting his throat from ear to ear with a razor he had just sharpened for the purpose, depression over bad health is the cause assigned for the deed. His daughter is the only child and his wife is dead.

FINCH BOUND OVER

Results of the Conspiracy Trial At Raleigh.

Raleigh, Special.—The hearing of the Finch case on the charge of conspiracy with V. E. McBees in promoting the receivership of the Atlantic & North Carolina Railway took a new and surprising turn Saturday before a much larger audience than that of Friday at the opening. The star witness at the McBees hearing was Attorney John W. Hinsdale and today the star witness was W. H. Day, introduced by the State. It became very warm at times, particularly towards the Governor and quite so towards his associate, ex-Judge W. S. O'B. Robinson. At the conclusion of the hearing Finch was bound over to Wake Superior Court, in a bond of \$2,000, which he gave.

The first gun of the day was fired by Attorney Hinsdale, who asked leave to make a statement as a witness, saying that when asked Friday about a letter from Greenville, S. C., from a bank president to Capt. W. H. Day, he did not say anything, but that now he wished to say that it contained \$2,400, of which \$2,250 was to be paid to Ed Chambers Smith on account of the note which K. S. Finch had given Smith for the latter's shares of stock in the Atlantic & North Carolina Railway, the other \$150 being paid for V. E. McBees.

The first regular witness was Attorney Day, who told about the bringing of the suit in the receivership matter by Finch and McBees. Speaking of the check which meant to pay Smith he said that he would have said yesterday that the money came from Finch and did not know how, but had heard otherwise. He referred to what he termed an agreement which had been made by his associate counsel, W. S. O. B. Robinson, with Governor Aycock, by which the suit in the Federal Court for a permanent receiver of the Atlantic & North Carolina Railway was to be dismissed upon the condition that McBees and Finch were not to be punished. Day said that if he had been present at this conference with the Governor he would have objected to the dismissal of the bill, as he believed that the latter would hold. He learned of an agreement from Robinson, W. W. Clark and Solicitor Armistead Jones. He stated that Robinson had said the Governor had sent for him and then asked if his foolishness could not be stopped.

A number of other witnesses were examined. Finch preferred not to go on the stand.

Attorney General Gilmer made very able argument, saying it was not for him to determine what was in McBees' and Finch's hearts when they began this proceeding. The only question is whether there was probable cause to bind Finch over to the Superior Court. Maxwell, in his argument, discussed the status of the Atlantic & North Carolina Railway, saying it was bankrupt. The Attorney General, replying to this, said there was nothing in the bill of complaint to sustain this allegation and challenged the statement.

He traced Finch's connection with the transaction, saying the least done to consent makes him equally guilty with McBees. He declared Finch never had any standing in the Federal Court. The State justly complained of the undue precipitation with which Finch and McBees acted. In his lies the very germ of the charge. Why the haste, why the could give any reason; why the appointment of a receiver; why the lease of the road, or why the man who had withdrawn his bid and by all rules was disqualified was made receiver. There was a combination to do unlawful things, to give the State the shares of stock, but really owned 47, and his counsel said this was done to conceal the fact that the stock had been bought from Ed Chambers Smith. McBees and Finch tried to buy stock from Carl Duncan, but got none, though they offered \$175,000 for 1,700 shares; that is, offered to give their notes for that sum, and give the stock back as collateral. They got stock from Smith but never acquired for one moment any standing in the Federal Court, as the stock had to be transferred on the company's books, and a request for this was ever made. McBees was endeavoring to acquire the stock for the very purpose of having himself appointed receiver. Duncan's testimony so shows. The purpose was to wrest the control of the road from the board of directors and put it in McBees' possession, so Duncan says. McBees said he was to be appointed receiver, and proposed to Duncan to have the latter appointed co-receiver. The burden was not to rest on the State to prove this conspiracy beyond a reasonable doubt; it is only necessary to show probable cause. The law protects citizens and State alike. This suit was not solely for the purpose of having the Atlantic & North Carolina road leased. There was a notice of a stockholders' meeting when the second order was signed in Raleigh by Judge Purnell, yet 1,700 shares of stock were here. Carl Duncan, an honorable man, said he would not sell his stock for a thousand dollars a share unless his associate consented, and that he would be no party to railroading the scheme through.

News No 8.

King Edward was chief mourner at the funeral of his cousin, the Duke of Cambridge, who was buried at Kensal Green Cemetery, near London.

Steps were taken yesterday to dissolve the Northern Securities Company and return the stock held by the merger company.

A missionary in Southwest Africa wrote the Reichsbote that the Herero rebellion had been caused by German cruelty.

Died on Witness Stand.

Kinston, Special.—Mr. Jesse L. Kennedy, a prominent citizen of his county, while testifying on the witness stand in his own behalf, fell from the chair and died in five minutes. Mr. Kennedy was being tried for shooting and disabling for life Mr. Ed Hughes, of La Grange, who was attending court here about a year ago. The last words uttered before it was noticed he was weakening were that Hughes walked up behind him with his knife and struck at him, then he (Kennedy) drew his pistol to protect himself. Hughes made another pass at him, and the shot was fired. The judge ordered the jury withdrawn, and court adjourned for the day.

Suicide at Siler City.

Siler City, Special.—Mr. J. N. Peoples, a prominent business man of this place, committed suicide at his home here Thursday morning. He went to bed, drank one ounce of laudanum, and then shot himself in the right temple. No reason is known to his most intimate friends why he would do such a thing. The entire town is terribly shocked. He leaves two small children.

Killed by Live Wire.

Newbern, Special.—Several days ago an electric light wire was broken by a team passing through the city, the wire is still hanging to the pole and Thursday night at 8:20 a young colored man by the name of Boss Cobb leaned against the pole, when he came in contact with the wire, killing him instantly.

Tar Heel Topics.

McKinney, of Lexington, received a telegram Monday stating that his son, Elus McKinney, had been killed by a shifting engine of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad at Clifton Forge, Va. It seems that the deceased was on his way home, and while waiting to change cars accidentally stepped in front of the shifting engine, which ran over him cutting his body in two and killing him instantly. He was working for a mine in Virginia and was coming to Lexington to hire hands to work in the mine when the accident occurred. His body arrived in Lexington Tuesday.

Sunday night George Harris a colored man of Concord, was killed by some one near the depot at that place. He had been stabbed twice in his right side. He walked up the railroad track towards the depot and sat down near the track. No. 49 came along and cut his coat, and just missed his body. Then he fell over dead. Suspicion points to a party there as the one who stabbed him, but there is no direct evidence against him. It is thought that Harris was going with a woman, and some one opposed this and this led to the killing. He was too weak to tell who did it when he was found.

Mr. James D. Brown, who has the contract for the brick work on the septic tanks for the city of Charlotte is constructing, had a narrow escape from death Monday morning. When a blast was ignited a small stone was thrown a distance of about 300 yards, striking Mr. Brown on the head and knocking him down. Although the blood was flowing from the wound, Mr. Brown mounted his bicycle and rode into the city for medical treatment. Had the stone struck Mr. Brown an inch lower, it would have resulted in death.

A telegram was received in Salisbury Monday morning notifying the authorities that Ernest Murphy, the young burglar who shot two officers in Salisbury on the night of the 12th inst., together with two companions, believed to be John Mauney and Ike O'Neal, two young bad characters of Salisbury, Officer Torrence left for Lynchburg on the first train. The city offered \$100 reward for Murphy's apprehension.

Two children of Mr. Richard Sparrow, of Aurora, Beaufort county, aged 7 and 4 years, while playing on the log yard at Mr. J. B. Whitehurst's mill at that place Tuesday afternoon, met with an accident resulting in the death of the younger child. The logs rolled together, killing the younger child instantly, and the older child is not expected to live.

The State charters the Waterston Chair Company, of Forsyth county, with a capital stock of \$25,000, a number of companies having joined to form it. It also charters the Asheville Steam Laundry Company, capital stock \$35,000.

Mr. J. A. Gumms, Sr., of Murfreesboro, Tenn., died suddenly Monday morning at 11:15 o'clock of heart disease, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. E. V. Finlayson, in Dilworth, Charlotte. He had been in declining health for more than a year, but his condition was not considered serious.

TAR HEEL TOPICS IN PARAGRAPHS

A Serious Wreck.

Henderson, Special.—The fast vestibuled train on the Seaboard Air Line, No. 21, known as the Florida Limited, ran into an open switch here early Thursday morning and was badly wrecked. Not one of the fifteen passengers on board suffered injury. Engineer Tucker, who stuck to his engine, was fatally injured, both legs and both arms being crushed. Other members of the train crew are reported to have sustained injuries. Conductors Westly was unhurt. The Florida Limited is due to pass Henderson shortly after midnight, but does not stop here. The train entered the town at high speed and plunged into the open switch colliding with a shifting engine which was standing on a sidetrack attached to a Durham & Northern freight. The wreck caught fire from the overturned stores and two Pullman sleepers and two box cars were burned. Three box cars were smashed into splinters and the two locomotives were entirely wrecked. Posthress coal cist, which stood close to the siding, was demolished. Engineer Tucker was removed to his home at Portsmouth.

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