

My Crucifix.

A little metal crucifix As plain as it can be. But only God in Heaven knows How dear it is to me.

A TUSCAN IDYL.

IN WHICH LOVE AND SUFFICIENT PATIENCE CAUSE GLADNESS TO FOLLOW SADNESS.

It is very cold. There is an east wind, strong and tempestuous, driving clouds of blinding dust before it.

One feels cross on a day like this, especially when things do not "march" well, as the French say.

Costanza's mother is ill. I forgot how I first heard the news—perhaps Giuseppe told me.

Costanza is, you know, the only child. Her parents' marriage was a desperate one—only love made it possible.

Costanza has her father's eyes—so I have been told—dark and lustrous under the fine pencilled brows that give her such a thoughtful look.

When I first asked Costanza to come across the Val d'Arno and be my wife she shook her head. "Mother" was all she said.

bitterest moments. Costanza's mother is still young, and one can live for many years with a broken heart, growing strong even on the very grief that consumes it.

I knew all this, so I could say no more. The only wonder was that I had ever found courage to say anything at all.

Yes, it is spring. Last week—snow, a heavy fall that weighed down the slender bamboos almost to the earth and powdered the olives and smothered the young wheat.

"The signora is lonely," Giuseppe suggested to me this morning. "The house is sad—yes—and silent as the tomb!

He sought my study upon some trivial pretext and resumed: "Has the signora never thought of marrying? True, the signora is not so very young!

As I made no reply beyond an occasional grunt of b red disapproval, he at length desisted.

An elderly woman opened the door at last. Yes, it was as I had expected, the "signora had gone away with the signorina more than a week ago.

Costanza has gone. Across the Val d'Arno and the sharply outlined Carrara mountains that lift their dazzling silver peaks against the golden flames of the sunset or across the Apennines and the great Alps?

Some weeks have passed since I rode to Costanza's house and found the shutters closed. Other things have happened. My malady of soul turned to physical malady; I had a sudden attack of fever, the result, Giuseppe has since informed me, of my having persistently ridden out insufficiently wrapped up after sundown.

expressing indignant surprise at the uninvited presence of the doctor. But I could not control this speaking demon that possessed me, and he talked on—always with my voice—through a night of interminable length.

As soon as possible I came here to this little seaside village on the coast between Genoa and Sturla. A very quiet place surrounded by olive groves and vineyards overlooking the sea.

There is a little tree-crested Church that stands on a rocky promontory not far from where I live. Sometimes I meet the black-habited monks who live in the great rambling, cream-colored monastery, approached by a long cypress avenue, when I am walking in the little lanes that run like narrow red ribbons from the main road to the sea.

A strange sensation came over me; it was as if the fever held me again in its grip. I caught the bench in front of me to save myself from falling.

"Dona eis requiem—dona eis requiem sempiternam." The priest's voice struck sharply across the hushed silence.

"I am sorry," I said. "We went some paces along the cliff together in the blinding sunshine. Then Costanza said: "You look ill."

"I have been ill," "Who looked after you?" "Giuseppe." I longed to tell her how she had haunted me—a pitiless ghost that would not hear or heed, but vanished when I called her name.

I took her hand. The sea wind came softly; a gull flashed past with wings like snow. "Costanza," I said, "you have things to do—only a few things—when you go home. But afterwards—very soon you will come to me? We can be married very quietly. Only do not let us wait very long."

The sun is shining on the olive-trees that look like insubstantial silver. The roses are nodding great, golden, fragrant heads against the loggia; here and there a spray of crimson blossom splashes the white pillar. The orange-blossom fills the warm air with delicious scent and the birds are singing a gay chorus in the lux trees. The podere is a feast of vivid color, of suave perfume.

High Cost of Dying.

No one who reads a daily paper can help remarking the frequency of murder in this country—wholesale and retail murder. Hundreds of lives are snuffed out in a mine, not by reason of an unforeseen accident, but through neglect to take precautions as well known in mining circles as the safety lamp.

The list is sickeningly long. It seems to be all but impossible to place the responsibility of these deaths where it belongs, but in one way or another the reason why the criminals are not punished is—money.

The railroad officials know these things accurately and keep up the practice. Why? Because those officials also know it is almost an impossibility to convict them of the consequences of their orders.

Over a hundred girls were burned to death in a clothing manufactory some time since. The camera men spared us none of the horrors, and what they failed to do the headlines attended to. The fire escapes of that building could not be reached.

Where the accused is poor and the evidence sufficiently conclusive, criminal procedure works with the commendable dispatch, but when money takes its stand at the rail with the attorneys for the defence, the chances of conviction are slim.

There is another sinister fact about this clogging the wheels of justice. We all help to pay for it. Every time a celebrated murderer case drags its weary length through months and even years, the county in which the accused is tried pays out thousands and sometimes hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The citizen pays enough to get adequate justice in the community. One of the magazine writers is giving an exposition of the cost of judges. He states that there are about three thousand judges in this country, receiving on an average some thousands of dollars a year each, and it is his contention that many of them are paid, not to facilitate, but retard justice.

The country is just now much exercised over the high cost of living, the tariff, unlawful combinations in trade and dozens more of these bugbears of modern civilization—to call it by the conventional name, but there is another problem worthy of examination and solution—the high cost of other people dying and the public being mulcted to defeat the ends of justice.

Wake Up, Girls! We are concerned about our girls in these days of hobble skirts and false hair. We don't like their appearance despite their very creditable counterfeits of the modes of fashion.

but the real reason is that they have not met the right woman. When she appears the white flag of surrender is flung out. The right woman is irresistible. She cannot be withstood. And who is she? Why, the right woman; not the freak of fashion; not the show-off girl; not the best dresser.

Why Not Flake it Ten O'clock? "When the stage of company-keeping has arrived," says the Catholic Citizen, "a gentleman must realize that 10:30 p. m. is the hour immemorably fixed in good society for taking his hat and going."

It has been reported to us that certain parties who are interested in the sale of foreign Basic Slag are going through the country making malicious, false and unfounded statements with regard to the quality of Sydney Basic Slag.

This is to give notice that \$250.00 will be paid to the person or persons who furnish us with such evidence as will enable us successfully to prosecute any responsible parties who are making such statements.

CROWE & ROSS, Solicitors for The Cross Fertilizer Co., Limited SYDNEY, N. S.

and graces for the inner circle of your friends and admirers; in a word, just maintaining modesty, the attractiveness of your girlhood, the charm of your womanhood—The Monitor.

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\$100.00 Reward for you if all AMHERST SHOES are not exactly as represented in the cut herewith. Men who want value for their money, who want solid comfort with their feet and a shoe that is built to last can pin their faith to the "AMHERST" brand of shoes, and should insist on getting them.



The French at Panama.

(By Joseph Bucklin Bishop, Secretary of the Isthmian Canal Commission, in Scribner's Magazine.)
(Continued from last issue)

How many of them gave up their lives in the struggle? It is impossible to state the number accurately. The Ancon Hospital records show that, during the nine years of work by the French, 1,041 patients died of yellow fever. As the West Indian negroes are immune to yellow fever, these were all white persons and nearly all French. Colonel Gorgas estimates that as many died of yellow fever outside the hospital as in, and places the number of victims at 2,082. This is, of course, mere surmise, but it is not unreasonable. Neither is the supposition, quite general among those who have studied the subject carefully, that two out of every three Frenchmen who went to the Isthmus died there. But there is no exact information obtainable. Lesseps, in accordance with his uniform policy, minimized or suppressed the truth, and outside the hospital rolls no records were kept. The hospital rolls show that during the nine years of French work 5,618 employees of all kinds died of various diseases. As the French contractors were charged a dollar a day for each hospital patient, only a small proportion of sick laborers were sent to them. It is not an unreasonable supposition, quite generally made, that for one laborer who died in hospital two died outside, which would raise the total death roll during the nine years to about 16,500. This again is mere surmise, but, after carefully weighing all attainable evidence, it seems to me to be a plausible estimate. Colonel Gorgas, who adopted that figure for several years, raised it later to about 22,000, but his reasons for doing so, which he has not published, but which he has stated to me, do not strike me as convincing.

It is the undivided testimony of the Americans who succeeded the French that they did their work well and accomplished results which were little short of marvellous, when the conditions which surrounded them are taken into consideration. It is also the opinion of those Americans that, had similar conditions prevailed when the United States undertook the task, no better, if as good, results could have been secured. The French were ignorant of the mosquito transmission of disease, for the discovery had not been made. They erected and equipped admirable hospitals and, in their ignorance, furnished them with the means of spreading rather than checking disease. To protect their patients from annoyance from the hordes of ants which infest the Isthmus, they placed the posts of the hospital beds in bowls of water. In these bowls the deadly *Stegomyia* mosquito was bred, and when a yellow-fever patient came in the mosquito fed on him and carried the germs of the pest throughout the hospital, infecting other patients. Being ignorant also that another mosquito, *Anopheles*, transmitted malaria, they placed no screens in the windows and doors of hospitals and other buildings, and permitted the unchecked dissemination of that disease.

The Americans arrived on the Isthmus in the full light of these two invaluable discoveries. Scarcely had they begun active work when an outbreak of yellow fever occurred which caused such a panic throughout their force that nothing except the lack of steamship accommodation prevented the flight of the entire body from the Isthmus. Prompt, intelligent, and vigorous application of the remedies shown to be effective by the mosquito discoveries not only checked the progress of the pest, but banished it forever from the Isthmus. In this way, and in this alone, was the building of the canal made possible. The supreme credit for its construction, therefore, belongs to the brave men, surgeons of the United States army, who by their high devotion to duty and to humanity risked their lives in Havana in 1900-1 to demonstrate the truth of the mosquito theory. One of them, Dr. Jesse W. Lazear, not only risked but lost his life, dying a martyr to his country and to humanity. The story of this heroic devotion is too long to be told here, but mention of it is necessary for a realization of the courage which the French displayed. It was made clear by the panic in 1905 that, had not the ability to suppress and abolish yellow fever been demonstrated at that time, it would have been impossible to retain an American force on the Isthmus; and if it had been possible to retain such a force, it is doubtful if public opinion in the United States would have consented to its retention there at such a cost of human life.

What was Lesseps doing during these eight years? If he was aware of the loss of life which the work entailed, he gave no sign that he was troubled by it. During those years he made only two visits to the Isthmus, spending only about two months there—forty-seven days in his first visit in 1881 and fourteen days in his second in 1888. When he left Paris on the latter visit the affairs of his company were in serious straits. All the money in its treasury had been expended and there was no more in sight. In May, 1885, he had asked the French Government for authority to issue lottery bonds for a loan of 600,000,000 francs (\$120,000,000), and the government decided, before acting on the request, to send a special commissioner of its own, Armand Rousseau, an eminent engineer, to investigate conditions and report.

In July, 1885, at a meeting of the shareholders of the company, Lesseps admitted that the cost of the canal would reach the amount fixed by the International Congress of 1879—1,070,000,000 francs (\$214,000,000)—and postponed the date of completion six months, or till July, 1889. He then took steps to forestall the report of the government commission by assembling a sort of committee of his own to accompany him to the Isthmus. He invited representatives of the chambers of commerce of the principal cities of France, an eminent engineer from Germany, and another from Holland. The party sailed from France in January, 1888, reaching

Colon on February 17, where it was joined by the Duke of Sutherland and Admiral Carpenter of the British navy, and by John Bigelow, representing the Chamber of Commerce of New York, Nathan Appleton, representing the Chamber of Commerce of Boston, and Admiral Jewett of the United States navy. This second visit, only a fortnight in length, was as continuously theatrical as Lesseps could make it. There was an almost unbroken series of banquets and speeches, and an unrestrained flood of adulation and eulogy for Lesseps, to which the most expert contributor was Monsignor Thiel, Bishop of Costa Rica. When Panama was reached the whole city, according to the faithful *Bulletin*, waited to "render homage to the Creator of Canals."

The homage found expression in a gorgeous procession with allegorical floats; triumphal arches upon which Lesseps was acclaimed the "genius of the nineteenth century" and his portrait was displayed with glory crowning him with laurel; an obelisk in his honor; and a garden of flowers into which Lesseps stepped from his carriage to receive a crown of laurel from the hands of a little girl. The line of march from the railway station to the central square of the city was "une véritable procession triomphale." In the evening there was a popular fete, with fireworks and illuminations, a banquet with innumerable speeches and felicitations, and a grand ball.

The tour of inspection along the line of the canal was also a "procession triomphale" with Lesseps in the front, usually on a prancing horse. "M. de Lesseps," says a member of the party, recorded in the *Bulletin*, "always indefatigable, held the head of the caravan. I saw him escalate at a gallop an escarpment of Culabra amid a roar of enthusiastic hurrahs from blacks and whites astounded by so much ardor and youthfulness." There is a tradition on the Isthmus that he went about in a flowing robe of gorgeous colors, like an Eastern monarch.

Delightful opera-bouffe this, but in a very grim setting. If Lesseps had even the most superficial knowledge of the financial condition of his company he must have known that it was on the verge of collapse. His spectacular antics on the Isthmus can only be construed as a final, frantic effort to conceal the truth about the situation and raise more funds. If ever a man danced above the crater of a volcano, he did during that fortnight of his last visit. He was in the eighty-first year of his age and the bodily vigor which he displayed was amazing. That he knew what he was about, knew how to succeed with his own countrymen, subsequent events were to prove. He sailed for France on March 3, and on arrival declared, with customary buoyancy and disregard of facts, that the situation on the Isthmus was all that could be desired and that the canal would be completed in 1889. The delegates of the French chambers of commerce, docile as ever to the great promoter, made favorable reports, but nothing was heard from the eminent engineers of the party.

In the meantime, the government's special commissioner, M. Rousseau, had returned, and had reported that the completion of the proposed canal was impossible unless there was a change to a lock plan. Similar reports were made by two engineers in the employ of the Lesseps company, Leon Boyer, at the time its director-general on the Isthmus, and L. Jaquet. Lesseps paid no heed to these reports, and refused to consent to a change of plan. He withdrew his request for authority to issue lottery bonds, and in July, 1888, obtained permission from the shareholders of his company to issue a new series of bonds. The success of this issue, in the face of all that had been disclosed, was an astonishing proof of the hold Lesseps had upon the French people. It resulted in the sale of bonds to the value of about 354,000,000 francs, or \$70,800,000. This was, however, only a temporary relief. The outflow of money was so tremendous that even Lesseps was compelled, finally, to give heed to the demand for a change in canal plan. At a meeting of the stockholders of the company in July he gave out the information that a new plan was under consideration for a temporary canal with locks which would not prevent the ultimate construction of a sea-level canal. A superior commission, appointed by him, reported in October, 1887, that such a plan was feasible, that the cost would not exceed 600,000,000 francs (\$120,000,000), and that the date of completion would not be later than 1891.

A plan was adopted which provided a lock canal at a summit level above the flood line of the Chagres River, to be supplied with water by elevating machinery. Alexander Gustave Eiffel, known to fame a year later as the constructor of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, early in 1888 was awarded a contract for the lock construction. He pushed work on the new plan till the collapse of the Lesseps company, accomplishing very little.

In November, 1887, Lesseps again applied to the government for permission to issue lottery bonds. Permission was granted in June, 1888, and on June 26 an issue of 2,000,000 bonds was made, but only 800,000 were taken. A new issue was made on November 29, when the 1,200,000 bonds remaining were offered, but less than 200,000 were taken. The end had come. On December 14th Lesseps petitioned the courts to appoint temporary managers of the company, which was done. The temporary managers sought to reorganize the enterprise, but were unsuccessful, and they informed the shareholders, at a general meeting on January 28, 1889, that they considered the appointment of a judicial receiver necessary. The shareholders so informed the court, and in accordance with that expression the Civil Court of the Seine, on February 4, appointed a receiver for the company.

When the affairs of the company were examined, it appeared that about \$200,000,000 had been received and expended. About 800,000 persons held stock in it, or obligations against it, and its treasury was empty. Of the total expenditure, nearly \$157,000,000, in addition to \$18,000,000 for the Panama Railroad, had been spent on the Isthmus and \$78,000,000 in Paris. A total excavation of 78,000,000 cubic yards, about one-fourth of their proposed canal, had been accomplished and nearly or quite 2,000 Frenchmen had lost their lives.

The revelations which were made when the affairs of the company were investigated not only filled France with consternation and humiliation, but the civilized world with amazement. Wholesale bribery of legislators and government officials in France, reckless extravagance and misuse of funds by the directors of the company, and a total disregard of legal or moral obligations of all kinds, these were the distinguishing features of the company's policy and conduct. It was shown that the chief financial agent of the company had received over 6,000,000 francs, partly as commissions on the sale of stock, partly as "expenses of publicity," a euphemism for bribery of government officials. When the full exposure came the chief financial agent committed suicide. Another financial agent received nearly 4,000,000 francs for services and commissions. Charles de Lesseps, son of Ferdinand, confessed that he had 600,000 francs to another agent "because of his great influence with the government." He paid 375,000 francs to the French Minister of Public Works, who confessed that he kept 300,000 of it and gave 75,000 to another person as reward for having tempted him to accept the bribe. The press of Paris received 1,302,000 francs for advertising the various stock subscriptions. One favored editor alone received 100,000 francs. A distinguished contractor received 12,000,000 francs in value, and 6,000,000 francs for "transporting material" which was never delivered. It cost a handsome sum to convert a majority of the Parliamentary Committee of the Chamber of Deputies to a favorable view of the lottery project, one member receiving 500,000 francs, another 400,000, another 300,000, and others 200,000 each. The Minister of the Interior was persuaded to view the project with favor by a present of 300,000 francs.

Charles de Lesseps justified his conduct in making these payments on the ground that they were absolutely necessary to protect the interests of the shareholders. Public opinion in France took a surprisingly lenient view both of his conduct and that of his father. Several years had elapsed between the collapse of the company and the trial, and the first bitterness felt by the stockholders over their loss had been softened by time. Their faith in Lesseps and in his good intentions was still strong, and they regarded him as the victim of dishonest agents and associates rather than as the responsible author of the disaster.

Lesseps and his son Charles were sentenced by the court to fine and five years' imprisonment, and similar sentences were passed upon others of their associates. The sentence against Charles de Lesseps was annulled by the Court of Appeals. That against his father was never executed, for he was eighty-eight years old at the time, January 10, 1893, and a physical and mental wreck. He died in December following.

acustom them to simplicity and the practice of self-control, to regard forbidden pleasures with horror and be moderate in the enjoyment of those that are lawful. She must furthermore assiduously cultivate in them faith and godliness, so that these virtues may grow and flourish, and become stronger year by year, until, when the moment of conflict comes, they may prove stronger than the world.

Undoubtedly nothing is more difficult than to prevent the world from gaining an influence over one in matters wherein it is permissible and indeed necessary to make concessions up to a certain point. Love of fashion and love of pleasure are the strongest and most efficacious snares wherein the world seeks to entrap its victims. One must dress suitably to one's station, but the art of education ought to consist in granting what is right and proper, and excluding all that savors of ostentatious display or fosters vanity. In the same way amusements and diversions are not to be forbidden altogether; the wise parent will endeavor merely to impose restrictions and limitations to their nature and measure, to prohibit what may prove harmful, or curtail their number. Unless the mother has herself correct ideas on this point she can not impart them to her children. If she dresses up her little girl, and looks at her with delighted adoration, she is teaching her to be a coquette. If she expresses her admiration for her son's talents, and gratifies his every whim, one may be certain that ere long he will be her master. The mother who acts thus possesses the spirit of the world, and in the course of nature the same spirit will manifest itself in her children and bear baneful fruit. The Christian mother and the world contend for the soul of a child. The advantage is on the mother's side. She can exert her influence over the child for years before the world can assert its claims. If she is herself animated by the right spirit, she can, with the assistance of divine grace, insure victory beforehand. — From *The Catholic Mother*, by Right Rev. Dr. Augustine Egger.

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I hereby give notice that

R. R. GRIFFIN
Of Antigonish,
in the County of Antigonish
BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

has been appointed agent for the payment of Election Expenses for John O'Brien a candidate at the said election, pursuant to the provisions of s. 121 (1) Chap. 6 of the Acts of 1907.

J. PAYSON CLARK
of Antigonish aforesaid
BOOK-KEEPER.

has been appointed agent for the payment of Election Expenses for John O'Brien a candidate at the said election, pursuant to the provisions of s. 121 (1) Chap. 6 of the Acts of 1907.

TWO NOSES

Nature never produced two blades of grass, two peas, two flowers exactly alike. So in the physical kingdom, no two ears, eyes or noses, are precisely similar. Thus, in fitting "nose glasses" each guard must have a distinct adjustment in order that it sits easily, securely and comfortably. Our Optical work excels in that we give these "little things" the same particular attention that we devote to the proper fitting of lenses.

DUNCAN D. CHISHOLM
Returning Officer for the County of Antigonish.
Antigonish, 7th January, 1913.
1-13-21.

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