

And so she was sent down the Hudson river, amid the tearful farewells of all belonging to her. The parting was almost as sad as the one with her dead father. I saw her soon after her arrival at her aunt's house, and found her an intelligent, artless girl; quick, affectionate, gentle, but a red-hot Calvinist, a deeply pious Presbyterian! Her fear of a Catholic priest was more the effect of prejudice than of personal dislike. She often tried to argue her faith, but found her objections falling into deploring nothings, before the clear doctrine of the Catholic Church. It was evident she was afraid of it all, and when her Aunt Elisa said one day during the first week, "Margaret, wouldn't you like to come to church with me next Sunday?" her look of horror tempted a smile to her aunt's face.

"Never, auntie, never could I join in such idolatry! It breaks my heart to think that one so gifted and clever as YOU, my darling aunt, should be subject to those Catholic charms and spells!"

Aunt Elisa laughed merrily. "Why Margaret! I can't fancy for a moment what you mean! What charms and spells?"

"Why, those images in your room! that liquid in the shell hanging at your bedside! that string of pearl-and-silver beads, you so often slip through your fingers with whispered words!"

"Poor little girl!" Aunt Elisa laughed again, a merry, contagious laugh which, however, did not bring sunshine to the serious face of Margaret, who had too much the martyr-spirit of Calvin to relax in unseemly mirth, when religion was mentioned.

"You cannot deny it, Aunt Elisa," she protested. "I have seen it with my own eyes, dearly as I love you!"

"Poor, dear Margaret! How little you know of our sweet, beautiful, consoling Faith, and her Sacramentals! Some day you will love the statues of our dear Lady, and you will know the value of her rosary, and will understand the efficacy of holy water; but you shall not hear it now. You must go to your own church, and try to serve God according to your light." And Aunt Elisa showed Margaret the