

Roman Catholic Priest Criminal of Deepest Dye

Fehnstown, Pa., June 22,

FATHER LOUIS F. FENYES, rector of St. Ladislaus Magyar Catholic church, Sixth avenue and Chestnut street, Cambridge City, today was made defendant in a sensational desertion and non-support case by Helen Grueberth, who gives her home address as Newark, N. J., and her occupation as a maid in rich families. Her charge is that the priest married her, or made her believe she was his wife, that he has hypnotic influence over her, that a criminal operation was performed upon her, that a second child is living and that she was cruelly beaten.

A hearing was set for this afternoon before Alderman James W. Reese. Prior to the formal arraignment the parties to the suit, with her counsel, were in conference. It was said that the woman asked at least \$5,000 in settlement. The woman confirmed this. She said no agreement had been reached and that she would be satisfied with whatever disposition was made of the case by the alderman or the court, but she wanted to expose the man who, she alleges, ruined her whole life.

The story of the woman, on which the information was based follows:

"I was born in Hungary, near the German line, in 1882. My father was an officer and was what you call a peace officer in this country. He married people and made sales of land and was high in that town. I came to America when I was twenty-one years old and landed in New York, where I was a companion to ladies of wealth, such as could afford to hire me and keep me and pay me handsome wages. I spoke three languages—German, Hungarian and English.

Met Him at Newark.

"I met Father Fenyes at Newark, N. J., where my people live, although I am employed in New York. At that time I was working hard to help raise money to build a new church there. I always called him father. Finally the family with whom I was companion to the ladies was leaving on a trip to Europe and I told Father Fenyes that I was sorry that I had to leave the good work of building the church. He said that he, too, was going to leave

Newark. He said I was the cause of his going; that he had loved me from the time he had first seen me and that if I did not return his love he would kill himself. He begged me to stay in America, but I had to go with the family and I went to Europe. I sailed on June 4, 1908. He told me that he wanted me to be his wife. But I was afraid. I was not like other girls, nothing had I to do with any fellows. He urged me to go with him, saying that he would give me a beautiful home, his mother would be a companion and mother to me and everything would be quiet and nice and that I would not need to work out for other people, who would regard me as their stock.

Says She Married in Connellsville.

"I said that I was afraid and that I knew that our religion—ror I am a Catholic—would not allow me to marry a priest, as that would be a great sin. He said that he knew that I would not be allowed to marry him just yet but that everything would be all right, that he was going to get a lot of money in six years and that he would leave the church then and I would be his wife just as if he had never been a priest. He said that God had made us all to be happy, and man was man and woman was woman everywhere; that it was not a sin for a priest to marry and have children. He took me to a church and with me and God present swore that he would never leave me. He told me never to worry as he wouldn't leave me and would never get tired of me and would always love me and be good to me and that he would soon get \$20,000. This was all before I went to Europe, and he wrote to me many letters while I was in Europe. He told me to keep everything a secret and on October 26, when I came back to this country, he took me to Connellsville where, on November 18, he married me, so I thought, and I promised to be his wife and I was called daughter by his mother and he called me wife. He



swore in church with both hands up that he would never leave me. I never had any money; he wouldn't give me any. When I was in Europe he sent me plans and a picture of the home where we were to live.

Mrs. Russell in the Story.

"I only stayed a week at Connellsville until I found that he had some-

body else that he cared for. Mrs. Russell was the name. She lived next door. She was in our house all the time. Her husband was what you call a railroad and was away all day. Louis had her in his arms all day. At night I found a gold chain and locket around his neck and one day I found that he had Mrs. Russell's picture in it. I was very unhappy. I stood it for two weeks and told his mother that I could not stand it any longer and asked what it meant. She said that it was only a "bluff" so that people wouldn't believe that I was his wife. Many other things happened that I didn't like.

"I found that I was with a child and he made me go to Pittsburgh with him, where he took me to a doctor's office. He waited outside. I went in, but was afraid to tell the doctor that I wanted an operation. He told me that I was with a child. I don't know the doctor's name, but I could find his office as I know the street and where it was.

Finally Had An Operation.

"Louis he beat me and say that I was too cold and that I would never give birth to children. He took me to three other doctors in Uniontown. I was afraid to ask them to perform an operation and told them that I was sick at the stomach. Louis struck me in the stomach a number of times, and in the four months he beat me a number of times. My sister wouldn't give me any money or my bank book. I couldn't write a letter without him seeing it and I never got letters that were written to me. He took me to a doctor again and I told him I would commit suicide as I was afraid to go home."

Here the woman details an alleged criminal operation.

She continues: "Dr. Eichart of Connellsville told me he couldn't touch me and asked his mother to be a witness to the fact that he wouldn't administer anything to me.

"Mrs. Russell said that an attempt had been made to kill the infant. The child was born dead and I nearly died. No physician was there but Dr. Eichart came. Mrs. Russell was afraid to show it to the doctor. After a week Louis, who was in Pittsburgh, came home and the child was taken away and placed in a box. I don't know what he did with it. For two months I was too sick to get up and down stairs.

"Something happened and he had to leave Connellsville and he came to Johnstown. He made me write a letter a month later asking Mrs. Russell to come and see his mother. I didn't want to do it, but he beat me. I never received a letter. Mrs. Russell came with her little girl. I told Louis that he either had to give up Mrs. Russell or me. She finally went home. I was never more surprised than when after taking her to the train he returned and said that he did not love her but that she was following him and that she made him do everything. He said, 'Helen I will never see her any more.' He beat me and his mother and I was afraid to go home. He tried to kill my second baby and I wanted to kill myself rather than have it taken away from me again. He came often to see me but always told me to be sick in bed so that no one could see my condition.

A Second Child Is Born.

"He told all visitors that I was his cousin, Helen Fenyes, and his mother tried to make me believe it. I went to my home in Newark. I got a postal from Mrs. Russell stating that she was visiting Louis. He came to Newark to see me quite often. He told me that Mrs. Russell was a fine, highly educated woman, with a very great musical ability and she is very clever.

"My child was born. She is very nice and already I have learned her to pray.

"Next I get a letter. (Here the letter was displayed and was signed "Mrs. E. S. Russell, 118 Porter avenue, Connellsville.")

"He came to Newark and took me to New York to what you call an alderman and wanted me to sign a paper, but while Louis wasn't looking the alderman advised me never to sign it."

A paper was displayed to the effect that the woman was never to place the child with any of her relatives and she was not to keep it herself, but the priest was to put it any place. It further exonerated the priest from paying her any money. She was never to come to Johnstown.

"He said that we could not go back to Johnstown, so we went to Greensburg as Mr. and Mrs. Louis Fryer, where we lived at 117 Division street. The telephone number was 149-W, in case you need it. We lived there from June until September, 1910. He never sent me any money. He didn't pay any rent and I had no money. The class of work I do could not be done there, for there were no wealthy persons and the place was too small for companions. On September 24 I left him and went to Newark. He said that he couldn't support himself and mother and me and Erma. I begged him to leave his charge at Johnstown and go to Newark, where we could live on the money I made. He said that he never could save any money.

"I asked him if he were my husband before I left home and he said yes. He called me wife in every one of those letters (there were over 25 of them). His mother told me that he loved me and that he and I were born for one another. He did not want his two aunts to know that he was married to me. He threatened to kill me if I ever made public anything that had happened to me. I know every-

thing that goes on.

"He has a power over me and seems to have over other women. If he should have me for half an hour I would be in his power more completely than ever before. He hypnotizes me so I am not responsible for what I do."

Is German-Hungarian.

Helen Grueberth, is a beautiful woman, and looks but a girl of twenty, despite her thirty years. She is of German-Hungarian stock, the sturdy Teuton predominating. Handsomely featured, she is a woman to be noted for her beauty anywhere. She has a wealth of dark brown hair peeping from below her plain black and white Neapolitan hat, and large blue eyes. She was carefully and neatly attired today in a black silk brocade suit, with fine lace trimmings of black and white Irish lace, elbow puffs, small, neat tan pumps and hose with a neat handbag. She wore no ornament of jewelry except a fine enameled bracelet and a small gold locket around her neck, and she looked dimly through the fine black lace. She wore a lace veil, which did not hide her features. She was quite fatigued after this morning's work and spent the noon hour in getting her letters in shape for the hearing this afternoon.

Her first finger of her left hand was tied in a neat leather bandage because of a recent injury with a knife that she was using in preparing a dish for her lady.

This Is a Typical Case.

The Menace doesn't devote so much space to this case because it is any worse than hundreds of others of the same nature which are brought to our attention from time to time, but simply to substantiate our contention that celibacy, as taught by the Roman Catholic priesthood, is provocative of crime and licentiousness on their part and that, while cloaking under the name of religion, they lead all classes in diabolism and infamy. Men and women are no better than the system in which they move and have their being, so what can you expect from a system that virtually teaches that anything under the sun is permissible so long as you have the money to pay the priests for praying for your forgiveness?

This case will be watched and the outcome reported.

