

REFLECTION

All The Prominent Men Of Pennsylvania

By Guillermo de Carndonagh

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The new house was quiet except for the song of a young woman's voice. The drone of the prayer meeting in the lower village had stopped some time before. The closing hymn they sang had a distinctive sound something about amazing and grace.

Before dawn her husband had reluctantly left on railroad business. Two days ago a rock with a note "No Papists Here" had landed on the porch. It seemed that all the prominent men agreed ministers of the local church, newspaper editors, government officials and the County Commissioners. Only the atheist borough constable had been welcoming, though the merchants seemed glad enough to take her cash money for purchases.

Her voice now still the young women stood quietly as she watched the crowd march up the hill to the front of the house. She called her daughter Peg and the twin boys to the kitchen with her and the new baby. Then she and Peg went quickly about the house closing and locking doors and windows. Lamps were extinguished until the only light came from the candle in front of the statue of the Sacred heart.

The crowd quickly set their cross up on the lawn, set it aflame and then stood round it singing. Preceded by Peg and the twins the young mother walked through the door and onto the front porch. With her fine musicians ear she soon identified the village merchants dressed in their white hoods and robes. As she identified them she explained loudly to her sons who these cowards were. Her voice carried over the sound of the hymn. By the time the constable arrived to turn the crowd away some of its members had already slunk off.

The remnants of the burnt cross were left defiantly up on the lawn all through the winter, consigned finally to the wood stove after falling down. In a few years time the empty lot where the crowd had assembled contained a new church. This church was dedicated to Our Lady of the Snows, and in it the timeless Traditional Roman Mass was offered.

Comment: Organized anti-Catholic bigotry surfaced with the No-Nothings in 1848, and was continued by the thugs of the America Protective Association, Ku Klux Klan, and the Guardians of Liberty. Mobs murdered the faithful and sacked churches and convents in Philadelphia in 1844, wide spread cross burning occurred from 1910-1935, and Catholic Sanctuaries are desecrated in our day.

Prayer: Lord God do not let me forget the faith of my ancestors and vouch safe to me the courage to Keep the Faith that they so bravely defended.