

the evil angel every instant, tries to, at least, for it depends on you whether he succeeds or not."

"Why there is a regular war around me all the while," he eagerly exclaims. "What must I do?" "Use the weapon which he gives you. God's grace is the mighty weapon which he obtains for you by his prayers, but you are free to use it or not, so you must be on your guard lest the enemy conquer."

"I guess you never had a bad angel, mamma. If you had you must have crushed him to *smithereens*, as if that were quite the strongest word which the English vocabulary can offer. Mamma laughs—the pretty merry laugh he loves so well. "But," he says after a pause, the light of the lamp as it falls across the small bed showing a rather puzzled little face, "Wouldn't God give us the grace if the angels didn't ask for it?"

"He would do so, of course, dear, and He does give us graces through other channels; but it is such an honor and such a joy to the angels to help God to take care of all of us on earth that in His generous mercy He has willed that one of the means we shall have to obtain the graces we need will be the prayers of His angels. Angels and men are His children and He does not wish them to be strangers to one another."

"I see, mamma," he says in his wise way, "if the angels had nothing to do with us we would feel that we didn't know them at all. "What does the Holy Book say? I forget."

"He hath given his angels charge over thee; in their hands they shall bear thee up lest thou dash thy foot against a stone."

"Oh, yes, I remember now. The angels are like messengers, I guess. They like to be God's messengers, don't they?"

"Indeed, they do; that is why they are allowed to be so; it is for their sake and our own, for of course God does not need them. We might get selfish if we did not think of each other and help one another on earth and the angels must have their work of charity too. They would feel that they were very unlike our blessed Lord whom they so worship if they could not aid others to share their joy."