

kept in a rich cabinet fitted with a number of drawers—expatiating upon their antiquity, or beauty or rarity. "But now," said he, at last, "you shall see the two rarest, and most precious of them all."

He had placed the two large gold pieces in a green satin case, lined with crimsoned velvet, in order to preserve them from being injured. The strangers were full of expectation. He opened the case carefully, and with an important air. But it was empty, and the coins had both disappeared! He almost lost his senses with horror and flew into a furious passion. If all his gold had been plundered from his strong box, he could not have been so much excited.

"Oh, the thief!—the villain!" cried he, with such fury, that both the strangers were terrified, and hastily expressing their sorrow for his loss, seized their hats and sticks, and hurriedly withdrew.

My master was now almost convinced that it was I who had stolen these two gold coins. He had been in the habit of opening his "cabinet of coins," as he called it, almost every day; but he used only to look at those which had recently come into his possession; and for many weeks he had never thought of looking after the two gems of his collection, which he had before examined a hundred times over. As long as the case remained safe, it never occurred to him that the coins could have been abstracted. Now, however, that they were gone, it was clear to him that I was the thief. He asserted that I had stolen the pieces before setting out on my journey, in order that, when he would discover the theft, he might attribute it to another hand. I had left my large trunk in my room, and given into my master's hands the keys of both room and trunk, taking with me but a small travelling portmanteau. In his fury, he opened the trunk, and found, at the very bottom, both the coins carefully wrapped in silk-paper, and rolled up in an old night-cap! But great as was his joy to recover his much-loved coins, still greater was his indignation against me, to whom he had given his whole confidence, for my treacherous and disgraceful conduct towards him.

As soon as he detailed this occurrence to me I understood the whole affair. Some person (though I cannot conceive who) must, in the first instance, have abstracted the rare silver and copper coins, in order to rob me of my master's confidence; and the same person must have placed the gold pieces in my trunk, and brought my master then to search for them. I tried to explain this to my master, but he would not suffer me to speak, or found some answer for everything that I alleged. Among other things, I said, "if I had stolen the coins, and hidden them in my trunk, surely I

would not have given you the key." But, he replied, "it is this that shows the refined and practised villain. You hoped by this apparent confidence, to prevent me from thinking of searching them. Begone from my sight, and congratulate yourself, that I let you off unpunished. I might send you to gaol; you deserve it richly. But for the sake of your father, who was an upright man, and of your mother whom it would bring to her grave in sorrow, I shall conceal this disgraceful theft, and not speak of it to any one."

I attempted to remonstrate; but he opened the door. "Begone from my house, and out of my sight!" said he; "and send instantly for your trunk, and everything belonging to you: I shall not suffer either you, or anything of yours to remain under my roof!"

I need not assure you, dearest mother, that I am not guilty of this act. From my childhood you have implanted in my heart the most holy fear of God and of His law; you have inspired me with so deep a horror of the most trivial sin, that I should not have been able to forget it so far. You never knew me to defraud any one to the value of a farthing. You will not doubt my innocence; but I am sorely afflicted to see my honor thus fearfully assailed. My not obtaining the promised post of book-keeper, and being so suddenly banished from the house, has created a great sensation here. The cause is not known, but some very bad one is suspected; and there are all sorts of reports in circulation. However, I have a firm confidence in God, that He will yet bring my innocence to light.

Meanwhile, I have taken a little garret where I read and pray, going but little out of doors; and I am giving instructions in English, in order to keep myself occupied, and to earn a trifle beside. Farewell, and pray for your unhappy son.

[To be continued.]

A CHARITABLE APPEAL

FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

In favour of the doctrines of

- The Catholic Church.

"Return back to judgment."—DAN. xxxi. 49.

"To the law and to the testimony."—ISA. viii. 20.

NOTE. The scriptural quotations by which this appeal is enforced, are taken from the Protestant Bible.

POINT III.

Protestants hold, That every private man and woman among the laity, has a right, which no authority on earth can deprive them of, to judge of the sense of Scripture, and to interpret it for themselves.

Contrary to the express words of Scripture: