

guardians for the defenceless orphans, and binds these to render them their patrimony, without waste, in due time. So the Church, their spiritual mother, the Bride of Christ, brings the helpless ones in her arms to her Lord in Holy Baptism, to be made members of His body, of His Flesh, and of His Bones, and provides three guardians or sponsors for each child, who shall promise repentance and faith in that child's name, that it may be admitted to this state of salvation. She expects these guardians to do what they can to prevent the robbery of that child's spiritual inheritance by the world, the flesh and the devil."

"This may be, but the child may afterward be far away from its sponsors, and how can they then fulfil these promises?"

They can pray for the child every day, and we have the promise that the prayers of the righteous avail much. They can occasionally advise with him by letter or otherwise. And even a weak christian is benefited by praying and caring for the spiritual welfare of others. Many a pastor's labours are greatly assisted in training the young of his flock by these prayers of others, perhaps far-off, in his behalf, as my own experience has often proved. God is just, and will not hold any one responsible for the wilful sin of others which he has tried to prevent. But He is merciful in providing a means by which the lambs shall be brought in-

to Christ's Fold, which is His Church. If we are tempted to put a stumbling-block in the child's way by refusing on any pretence, to undertake the guardianship of the little one, surely this is refusing to bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ. Men are willing enough to undertake the guardianship of wealthy heirs of this world's goods, in view of the gains or benefits resulting to themselves thereby. This is human nature. And just in proportion as we are partakers of the Divine nature we lay aside selfishness and learn to value the rich estate which is the inheritance of every member of Christ (poor though he may be in this world's goods), and the danger of its loss, even in the case of a child. Shall we then, as members of Christ, refuse to bring the little children to Him, even though there be a probability that its foes may be not only the world, the flesh and the devil, but even those of its own household, as is too often the case? Shall we not put away from us all excuses, even on the plea of conscientious scruples, which would lead us to refuse to bring precious souls to Christ? We all like to exercise our influence in some direction. A sponsor who loves his ward for Christ's sake, and shows his love by kindness, obtains a powerful influence over him, with God's help."

"I now see how God provides that even the lambs shall be admitted