

can I do so while I am not sure it has a claim to my adherence?"

"Every branch of the Church has a claim to the children born and baptized in it. You belong to the Anglican branch and have no right to doubt its claim to your obedience."

"But the Roman Catholic Church denies the branch theory, and if she is right, you are wrong. That is just what I want to have settled," cried the perplexed Mr. Archland, looking appealingly at his companion.

Mr. Massinger grew warm. "It is just that arrogant attitude upon the part of Rome which has caused the divisions that exist to-day," he said, excitedly. "When she speaks, every other voice must be silent. The idea!"

"Well, well, I don't know enough about religion of any sort to argue with you," said Mr. Archland pacifically. "In all probability your view is the correct one, though I must admit that the claim of Rome to absolute obedience seems to me a very reasonable one. What is the use of a teacher if her pupils are allowed to sit in judgment upon her teaching?"

Quite unconsciously, the merchant had reached the gist of the matter had he only known it, but he did not, and was surprised to hear his companion say stiffly:

"I grieve to hear you advancing one of Rome's most fallacious arguments. If you go into the inquiry, prejudiced in that direction, there can be but one result. Now I must say good evening; here is my street."

"I seem to have touched a sore spot in Massinger," mused the merchant, as he continued on his way. "I had no idea he felt that way or I'd have held my tongue."

IV

Mrs. Archland was slightly surprised that evening when her husband, instead of plunging into his newspaper as usual, followed her into the drawing-room, and began to wander aimlessly about; now fingering the ornaments on