

boys, arose faint and sweet from the chancel, then we are bound to admit that Cyril's eyes turned in the direction of Major Ellis's pew. There are indeed those who say that during the Creed he turned not east—but east-and-by-south-half-south, at which point of the compass Edith's profile became visible. But it is certain that during most of the service it is quite impossible that he could have seen either her face or figure. Both were hidden by those of Justice Flemming who sat in the pew behind her. They became visible only when the Justice turned round at the Creed, or when the sermon having began, and the Justice, after many efforts to maintain his attitude of attention, had drooped his head forward in that sleep which is beloved by the followers of the Eutychean heresy—then Cyril's attention went indeed in the direction of the pulpit, but only to the extent of the far corner of Major Ellis's pew; and we assert that had any given number of Professors of Divinity, in addition to the Sanhedrim and the Propaganda College being "holding forth," in that pulpit, the eloquence of one and all could have drawn Cyril's attention no nearer to them than the pew where Edith was, some twenty feet from where he sat among the poor people in the aisle.

CHAPTER VI.

THE DIAMOND BRACELET.

So passed the weeks that led on towards the Christmas Holidays. The only incident that befel during this time was, that just a week before the school broke up, Mrs. Cadgett was remarked to relax a good deal in her manner to the boys: she sometimes spoke to them as they passed her room, and was even known to have invited Figgs Minimus to walk in thither, and to have regaled him with taffy and seed cake. Indeed she was so very affable, that Edith could not help fancying that some secret object was in view. And this indeed proved to be the case. Mrs. Cadgett made a formal address to the boys one morning at breakfast. She informed them that she was about to appeal to their generosity on behalf of a dear friend of her ~~own~~ who lived in Ireland, and who was in temporary distress for want of money. The family, she said, was a very noble and ancient one, and had, it appeared, been originally kings, then noblemen, landed gentlemen, gentlemen whose lands were mortgaged, and whose tenants were addicted to blunderbuss practice at their landlords, from behind the beautiful hedgerows of the county Kerry. Then being in great need of ready money, had resorted to the expedient of sending to Mrs. Cadgett a valuable diamond bracelet, to be by her raffled for their benefit. She begged that the boys would take tickets for themselves, and if possible induce their class fellows to do the same. She knew how generous the dear boys were, she said; she knew they had all kind hearts, and then the old woman (so she sportively called herself) asked them to contribute to this raffle; she was sure they would {do, like gentlemen as they were

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