

The Innocents

neglected the child. No church could claim to be Christian which shut the children out of its worship and its work.

Then the Bishop turned to the newly-ordained minister and said,

"You, my brother, have been called to a sacred and solemn work. From your very infancy it was ordained that this leadership should be yours. God's hand singled you out of the many children and saved you from the furnace. "Saved as by fire" might be truly said of you. He hid you from calamity and brought you back to "feed His lambs." Feed them with the Bread of Life. Minister to them in unflinching love. Remember your salvation and be in return a saviour unto them."

As the Bishop ceased speaking, David came forward and lifted his hands in blessing upon the people. His face shone like unto Stephen's when he looked into heaven. The people with one accord fell to their knees. The prelude to a hymn was softly played. All hearts were concentrated in prayer. Then the choir sang very quietly their Christmas hymn.

"O Holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us we pray,
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born in us to-day.
We hear the heavenly angels
The great glad tidings tell,
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel."

For a long time after the organ ceased the people remained on their knees. They did not even look up towards the sanctuary. Then a slight rustle of garments caused them to lift their eyes. They noticed that the other ministers were retiring. David was standing before the altar with face uplifted to the