

teaching, year in, year out, to any whom he could persuade to listen — and they were many — such measure of Catholic truth as he had himself attained to. And, to his old friend, "Father" Butler, of Ditchley Saint Mary's, he had sent this message :

" JESUS, MARY, JOSEPH :
" IN THESE THREE NAMES LIE ALL OUR
" CHRISTMAS JOYS."

Truly, a strange Christmas greeting from one Anglican "priest" to another.

The Church was crowded at the "parish mass" on Christmas day, some of the "gospellers" being present, but "on good behaviour," lest the sturdy west country colliers should proceed to

" Prove *their* doctrine orthodox
By apostolic blows and knocks,"

as had happened on more than one occasion when the "Wycliffe preachers" had made too audible a protest against "idolatrous rites and ceremonies." "Father" Butler was to preach: what would he have to say about the "removal" of the "Popish images"? But the rector had seen the "gospellers," led by one whom he could not but regard as an "apostate priest," among his congregation, and resolved that it was the better way, the way of wisdom and of charity, to make no allusion to the desecration for which they were about to become responsible. He knew, moreover, and the consciousness was, to him, a grief unutterable, that his parishioners, even those who had learned from him devotion to the Blessed Virgin, to St. Joseph and to the Saints, would submit to the "removal" of the statues as a simple matter of course, with, doubtless, a certain measure of regret, possibly, of sullen resentment that lawyers and strangers should presume to interfere with what "parson" thought fit to do or teach. Nevertheless, they would submit, as of habit, to "the law."