

that no son of his would ever be swayed by clerical rule.

And though he loved the lad in his own way, he chastised him severely and forbade him to have anything more to do with priests, churches or Catechism classes. He would see whether paternal authority was only a by word in his house. He would keep him a prisoner all that First Communion day or at least until the evening—and they would see who would win.



Little Jim was heartbroken and Charlie's determined spirit, for once, at a loss how to cope with this new and sad state of affairs. His mother had promised to have Jim's First Communion clothes all ready and he had been imagining Jim's delight and trying so hard to keep the good news from him until the last moment—but now, all his plans were upset—and what was worse than all, he must not attempt to right them.

A day or two afterwards the retreat began. Jim did not dare follow the exercises publicly, but, every day on his way to and from school, slipped into the Church, hid