

ton, "and one greater and more momentous than has come over me—and one, I hope, very full of blessing to us."

"God grant that it may be," replied the bishop; "but that depends very much upon yourselves. There is a vast deal to be accomplished in this Diocese, and every one who is in earnest must help in the state of life into which it has pleased God to call him. I was glad to see you and some of these young ladies helping in your proper place yesterday—the Sunday School."

"It is very disheartening work though," said a mild, intelligent-looking girl, who, however, blushed with surprise at her own boldness in speaking so suddenly to one whom she had regarded with great awe. "The children are so unuly and idle that they seem to make little progress."

"And then," added Miss Crampton, "one feels so keenly one's own incompetency—I sometimes think myself even more stupid than the children, and asking questions properly is really a much more difficult thing than people suppose. I would not so much mind it, if I could only catechise them as your Lordship did yesterday; and when I have thought since then, of my own attempts in the same way, I am tempted to give it up in despair."

"Well now," said the Bishop with a pleasant smile, "here are two as ambitious and unreasonable young ladies as I have had the pleasure of meeting for a long time. One wishes to be able by a word to reduce a class of uncultivated little cubs to order, attention and diligence, and threatens in case of not succeeding to lose heart. The other, unless she can *at once* attain that degree of skill which it has taken *me* five-and-thirty years to acquire, has almost made up her mind to go off into a fit of despair—truly this is a progressive age."

The girls laughed and made many disclaimers of any such unreasonable expectations, but still were certain that they could not become really efficient or successful teachers.

"I will give you a good receipt," said the Bishop, "continue to teach as well as ever you can for the next *five and twenty* years, if you live, and I'll venture to say that at the end of that time, you will pass muster as very respectable teachers."

The conversation was kept up a very long time, passing pleasantly from gay to grave. The

Bishop told them that he looked much to the young—that he hoped for much from them, and when he left them they felt that they had each of them a mission to fulfil, and the wish and Christian resolution to do so, was, through his earnest words, aroused or deepened in their hearts.

"And Then?"

A story is told of a very good and pious man, who is celebrated for his great holiness. He was living at one of the Italian Universities, when a young man, whom he had known as a boy, ran up to him with a face of delight, and told him that what he had long been wishing above all things in the world was at length fulfilled,—his parents having just given him leave to study the law, and that thereupon he had come to the law school at this University on account of its great fame, and meant to spare no pains nor labour in getting through his studies as quickly and as well as possible. In this way he ran on a long time; and when at last he came to a stop, the holy man, who had been listening to him with great patience and kindness, said:

"Well! and when you get through your course of studies, what do you mean to do then?"

"Then I shall take my doctor's degree," answered the young man.

"And then?" asked the holy man again.

"And then," continued the youth, "I shall have a number of difficult and knotty cases to manage, shall catch people's notice by my eloquence, my zeal, my learning, my acuteness, and gain a great reputation."

"And then?" repeated the holy man.

"And then—" replied the youth; "why then, there can't be a question, I shall be promoted to some high office or other; besides, I shall make money, and grow rich."

"And then?" the old man softly said.

"And then," pursued the young lawyer,— "then I shall live comfortably and honourably in health and dignity, and shall be able to look quietly forward to a happy old age."

"And then?" was again asked.

"And then," said the youth—"and then—I shall die."

Here the holy man lifted up his voice, and again inquired, "And then?"

Whereupon the young man made no answer,