



A POOR MAN'S NOTION OF THE CHURCH.

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(Continued)

PETER: Well, George, I agree with you perfectly, and I think that you *have* spoken good sound common sense. And now, don't you think that Christ, Who is called the Eternal Wisdom, and Who is the Son of God, and had all the knowledge and wisdom of God, because He was God, must have used as much common sense in founding His firm, or club, or society, or His spiritual kingdom, or His Church, as you would do in arranging the affairs of your family or your club, or your firm? The fact is, you would do for your children just what Christ *has* done for us in His Church.

George: Just tell me how.

Peter: Instead of having a mere trade secret to pass on to his family, Christ wanted to establish a society, that is, His Church, which should firmly hold His doctrine, and teach it purely and correctly until the end of the world; and should be the means of applying to the souls of men the merits of His Passion and Death, to help them to save their souls. What does He do? Why, He picks out some twelve of His followers, and He has them with Him day and night for three years, and gives them special instructions. He speaks to the multitudes in parables, but to these twelve He explains them; because, as He tells them, it is necessary that they should know the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven.* He divides His followers into various classes, and gives them different duties, or offices, in His society, or Church. Thus He had

* St. Matt. xiii. 35.