

not required pity while her lively faith and ardent piety sustained her. Like all her class, she dearly loved her beads and spent the greater part of her days and nights reciting them.

One thing about her puzzled the children : whenever the church-bell rang for mass, she invariably blessed herself and said : " God give me a share ! "

Jack thought there must be some special reason for this, Mary differed from him saying : " what reason can there be only that Grandma asks God to give her a share in the merits of the Mass at which she cannot assist on account of her age and infirmities." To which Jack replied that it was only a year since Grandma had given up going to Mass on Sunday, whereas, as long as he could remember, she had always blessed herself and said, " God give me a share." Even when she had been at mass, if the bell rang for another, she repeated the ejaculation ; " consequently," persisted Jack, " there is some reason for her doing so and I shall satisfy myself by asking her and showing you that, thought you are three years older than I, nevertheless, I am wiser than you."

That same evening after supper, he went to Grandma and laying his soft rosy cheek caressingly against her thin wrinkled face coaxingly said : " Grannie dear, I want to ask you something."

" Ask Alanna."

" Why, Grandma, when the mass bell rings, do you always make the sign of the cross and say : " God give me a share ? "

" Because, my jewel, its a holy and salutary practice." " I know that Grandma. But why are you the only one in the parish who follows this custom..." I was arguing with Mary this morning that there must be some reason for it, some circumstance or event connected with your early life."

" How clever he is, my little Jackie ! You are right, my treasure. I say the words, " God give me a share," because the first time I did so, they seemed almost miraculously answered. That was not yesterday, but fifty years ago : Listen children,"—the others had gathered round while Jack was questioning her,— " while I tell