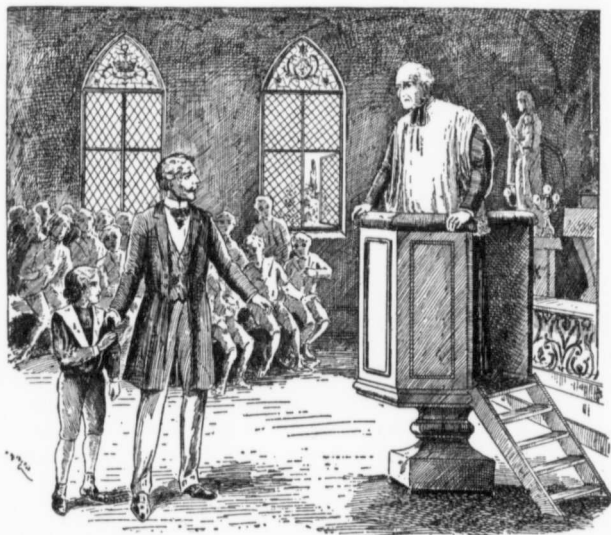


mates surname him "the cherubim." To-day, the opening of the retreat for First Communicants, we, his elders might also be tempted, in all seriousness, to call him by that name as he sits there among the other children, with that rapt exalted expression, listening so intently to every word that comes from the venerable whitehaired Pastor's lips ; words well adapted to inflame their pure young hearts with love and desire for the Bread of Angels.

Suddenly, to the great surprise of Pastor and children,



a well-dressed man, apparently a gentleman, rushed into the church saying in a loud angry voice : "I want my boy. His mother is a Catholic but I am not, and I am determined my son shall profess my belief."

Roughly shaking little Joseph whom he has just discovered in the first row he commands : "Come with me. Throw aside these superstitions and come at once."

The poor boy realizing his agnostic father's intention, burst into tears, threw himself at his feet and implored : "Papa, I will be docile, and industrious ; I will love you even more ; I will comply with all your wishes, only