

have been teaching my little girl of man's depravity, a doctrine which she learns in her catechism; and of the necessity of a change of heart—a necessity which, of course all admit. But you have forgotten an important point, that this change takes place in the baptismal waters."

Mabel looked at him in astonishment. It was the first time she had heard this distinctive doctrine of a party so plainly stated.

"Am I to understand you that every baptized person has received a new heart?"

"Undoubtedly. In our baptismal service do we not thank Almighty God that he hath been pleased to regenerate the recipient?"

"Yes, but those are man's words, and unless they can be proved from the Bible I cannot receive them."

"But they can be proved from it. And besides, they were written by men much wiser and holier than any of our day."

"Then, how do you account for so many outward members of the Church living such unholy lives, and dying in anything but a state of grace?"

"Simply their despising their privileges. As an heir by his misconduct may forfeit his inheritance, so do they by their neglect of the Church forfeit theirs."

"My reading of the Bible will scarcely bear that out. I have ever been taught that the renewed heart cannot perish; for that when once the good work is begun it will be carried on to the day of redemption. Remember what our Saviour himself says in John, chap. x. 28th verse, that no man shall pluck His sheep out of His hand, and also what the Apostle says in Phil. chap. i. 6th verse."

"I am afraid, my dear young friend, that you have mixed much with dissenters."

"You forget that in the United States we have no dissenters. Besides, my parents and indeed nearly all my acquaintances belong to the Episcopal Church."

"Then," with one of his kindest smiles, "your clergyman must have neglected to ground you in the doctrines of the Church."

Mabel involuntarily sighed, for she was just then thinking of the dear, good, old man, whose life was a living epistle of Christ, who had helped to ground and

establish her in the faith. Mr. Allan continued:—

"Priests of the Church cannot now be too careful in instructing the youth of their charge, for the enemy of souls seems to have aroused himself from the indifference of ages to seize and watch over man's first lessons. Do you not agree with me, Miss Rivers? I know you do in believing that in this age there is a greater effort made than in any preceding one to lead the young and the ignorant astray."

"Yes, I agree so far that the wants of childhood and youth are better known, and the noble work they can do better appreciated."

"Exactly, and that is why the enemy has roused himself to counteract their usefulness by leading them into snares and traps which he lays so that their after life may be marred. The greatest of these snares is this feeling of independence which causes them, first, to despise their parents' authority, and then the greater sin, that of the Church, which cradles them in their infancy, watches over their youth, crowns their maturer years with blessings, and last of all, lays them in the tomb, in sure and certain hope of a glorious resurrection."

"This tendency is indeed to be deplored."

Mr. Allan gave her a searching look, and said,—

"I knew you would agree with me. I knew you could not but see this ingratitude to our revered Church, which holds the keys to eternal life."

Mabel started—she had been thrown off her guard—and said,—

"She holds the keys only as far as she preaches a full and free salvation."

Mr. Allan opened wide his eyes, and replied,—

"You who are so well versed in Scripture, cannot be ignorant of the power given to the Apostles to bind and to loose."

"Does not this power refer to the visible Church only?"

"To both: we must not limit our Saviour's words to suit our notions."

"Then what office does Christ hold? for you give to the Church the power to save or condemn a soul."

"Christ is the All in All; but when He withdrew His visible presence from the Church He made her the depository and disposer of His merits."

Mabel shook her head.

"I can find no warrant for this assumption in Scripture."

(To be continued.)