

"And I certainly wondered that you have so little singing—few of the boys seemed to join, and I am sure there must be many who can sing."

"There has been a talk of getting up a choir among the boys. I think if they did get up a regular choir, the boys would join in it gladly enough."

"Unfortunately, Miss Sorrel," said Cyril Ellis, who now joined them, "we have too much the habit of talking about those sort of things, instead of doing them; the chancel was to have been built, and the choir to have been formed years ago when I was a boy at the school."

"And do you know, Cyril, what the Warden said, when Jack Ross and I asked him about the church association? (*ours* guild, you know, Edith.) He said that it might be made, the means of interesting some of the boys in improving the music of the chapel. He has given us his leave, Cyril, and now we want you to join us, and to draw up a code of rules, to submit to the Warden."

"And what is all this—a new fancy to supersede cricket clubs and lamp chimney insurance companies?"

"No, it is all real earnest, Cyril. I have thought of it ever so much since Edith was talking to me yesterday about the connection between truth and manliness; and we are going to have a society of our own, altogether among the boys, founded on the old system of chivalry, and with the object of helping us in devoting ourselves to the 'old chivalric virtues, truth and valour.'

"And we intend our knights to try to be first in everything in the school, first in the forms as well as in cricket and rowing. We have got Elms and Edward, and Herbert; and the rest of us intend to work as hard as we can for the character of our association. It is to be called the body of S. Basil, after the school."

"And what did the Rector say to all this?"

"He said that to call it a system of knighthood was too much like burlesque, but that he had no objection to one forming a Church association under his superintendence, and he said he should expect us to interest ourselves in improving the church singing among the boys, and that perhaps we might be able to form a choir. We are to meet once a fortnight in his lecture room at the college, and he told us to prepare what we thought ought to be the rules by next meeting."

"All this interests me very much," said Cyril, "and I shall take part with you most gladly. I will think over the subject of the rules, and we might manage to do something towards raising funds for the chancel."

"I do not see why we should not do some of the work ourselves," said Jack Ross. "I can paint a little, and so can several of the others. If the chancel is built, we could do the ornamental work with our own hands."

"Yes," said Edith, "I think it would be a pleasure to you to see in your chapel not merely what you had paid for, but what you had actually worked yourselves. Some of the most beautiful carvings in Westminster Abbey Church were worked by the hands of a few loving churchmen of old. Then the devotion of a whole life was spent on beautifying, perhaps a cornice or a capital, some out-work or portion of the home of God. I think the principle is a noble one, and might be revived even in this later and baser age."