

now prodigious. All sprang up from their comfortable chairs, and fled to the furthest corner of the hall; for now they understood with whom they had to deal.

After a long pause, the Mayor again plucked up courage. "Begone!" he cried, and then the magistrates, one after another, cried, "Begone!" Unfortunately, this formula of banishment was ineffectual; the stranger stepped nearer, and said coolly:—

"Why do you appear so frightened? Are my propositions, then, not acceptable, and moreover advantageous? Consider I demand only one, whilst without even so much as a thought, for a whim merely, Kings sacrifice thousands in battle; and the one who gives himself for the good of all, does he not deem it right to do so?"

Such and other plausible arguments influenced the assembly, and their fright vanished. Moreover, the pressing need of gold worked most powerfully upon them, and after a short deliberation the bargain was closed; and the devil, recommending himself to their kind consideration, vanished by way of the chimney, with peals of Satanic laughter. Before long, down through the same chimney came many well-filled sacks into the Council chamber below, and the Mayor, after careful testing, pronounced the metal genuine, and the amount such as had been promised.

In a few years the church was finished, and now came the day when the solemn consecration was to take place. It is true, indeed, that the worthy men who were present at the time of the apparition, had endeavored to keep the compact which they had made with the evil one a secret; but several among them confided in their wives, and as may be easily imagined the story was soon in the mouths of all; consequently no one, as the bells rang for church, wished to be the first to step over the threshold. Behold, a new dilemma! The Mayor was at a loss what to do, when suddenly a little priest appeared, assuring him that he had discovered a clever mode of cheating the devil.

It was indeed in the contract that the first to enter the church should become the property of the Prince of Darkness, but it was not specified what sort of a

being it should be. On just this flaw the little priest had counted on the success of his plan. A wolf had been caught the day previous, and he placed it in a cage before the open door of the Cathedral, so that upon the opening of the cage door, the wolf must necessarily leap into the church.

Satan was on the watch for his prey, and chased like lightning after the poor animal. But when he saw how he had been outwitted, his anger was terrific. He broke the neck of the wolf, and breathing fire, and howling horribly, he slammed the door of the church so hard that it broke; and then leaving behind him a strong smell of brimstone, he flew off. On this very door can be seen to-day, the metal image of a wolf; and also the crack is shown as an enduring witness of how the little priest put the devil in harness.—*Young Catholic.*

THOUGHTLESS SCHOOL GIRLS.

"How all the girls laughed at Miss Alfred to-day, mother, in school!—You should see her old dress she has pieced out under the flounces, thinking it would never show. One of the ruffles caught on the corner of a seat, and ripped off half a yard of it. It was so old and faded and forlorn, that the girls laughed out loud."

"Oh, Arty!" said her mother, with a look of pain on her kind face; "I am sure you did not laugh."

"I did, mother," said Arty, hanging her head; "they all did."

"What if it had been your own dress?" asked her mother; "what if father were dead, and you were then obliged to get your living by teaching, and take care of a feeble brother besides; what if almost every dollar you could make went to pay rent, and buy food and fuel, and medicines and little comforts for the sick one? What if you had spent hours in making over an old dress, so that it might look respectable in the school-room, hoping that others would never see its defects; then how would you like exactly such a scene as that in your class room to-day?"

"O mother I am so sorry," said Arty, the quick tears coming to her sympathizing eyes.

"So would all the girls be, I am