

It cannot claim to be a Church institution, for private individuals, however exalted and excellent and able they may be, cannot give that which they do not possess—namely the right to act for the Church and in her name. It is perfectly clear that a given number of individuals are not the Church and cannot possibly give to an institution that which the Church and the Church only in her corporate capacity is possessed of and has the right to give. It is equally clear that the control and government of a few individuals who may undertake to carry on and manage an institution are not the control and government of the Church. It would appear to be a waste of valuable time to make such statements, if actual facts in the community did not show that earnest and devout persons fail to distinguish between themselves as individuals and the Church. They are already of the opinion that, because they are members of the Church, any society or institution which they may create is a Church society or institution.

Beyond a doubt countless objects of great value and extended importance have been already attained, and many are now being successfully promoted by institutions of private Churchmen. Nor is it wholly necessary or even desirable that all institutions should be Church institutions—representing the Church, authorized to act and speak for her, and controlled and governed by her. No doubt many important purposes are served by institutions of private Churchmen, which could not with advantage be undertaken by Church institutions.

There are, however, some purposes which ought in the very nature of things to be undertaken only by Church institutions. Confusion and strife, injury and loss, wait upon the attempt of any institution of private Churchmen to usurp and exercise any power or right which belongs to the Church, and which the Church has never asked them or authorized them to undertake for her. It is legitimate enough for example for Churchmen to create a school of Divinity, and to promote the study of Theology according to their own views, and so long as they do not claim to represent anyone but themselves; so long as they do not claim to teach in the Church's name and authority. No one has any right to complain or censure them. When, however, they wish to exercise the right of stamping their students with an impress which, to be of any real and recognized value, must be conferred by the Church as a body, or by a Church institution authorized to act for her, they are laying themselves open to the severest censure on many grounds. They are introducing confusion by setting up a standard of their own, which will be looked upon as uncertain and unreliable by all except themselves and their immediate friends. They are destroying the value of one of the very few incitements which we have to advanced study amongst the clergy, by making the degree in divinity a very doubtful thing, a thing which, because it may mean very much or very little, will be generally assumed to mean very little or nothing. It may be affirmed that the fact of several Bishops being the patrons of an institution constitutes it a Church institution—we fail to see the force of this. It may be very well that the Bishops should countenance and encourage societies and institutions by accepting the office of patron, or even visitor; but the office must be purely honorary, until the duties and responsibilities and powers of the office are clearly defined. The fact that the Governor of a State is the patron or visitor of an institution does not make it a state institution, or give it a right to act for and represent the state. The Church in Canada is endowed with full power to act for herself, and is perfectly free to authorize any institution to act for her and represent her in any particular department of work. If any institution of private Churchmen desires to become a Church institution, it is open to them to approach the Church in her corporate capacity

and to receive on such conditions as may be mutually agreed upon authority to act for her and to use her name. Until this is done, to claim to be and to act as a Church institution is a shameless and indecent usurpation.

C.

FAMILY DEPARTMENT.

MY PATH.

BY F. J. V. A.

I walk, as one, who, blind, is led along
An unknown way;
Who knows not if the path be right or wrong,
By night or day.

I walk as one who by a weight is held
Close to the earth;
To whom life, till the final dirge is knelled,
Is little worth.

I toll as one who, delving in a mine
For treasure rare,
Sickens at last, because there is no sign
Of riches there.

I long to cast this burden at the foot
Of Jesus' cross;
But oh! it is so hard sin to uproot!
And so, my loss.

The weary years drag slowly by; again
Christ's is near,
The Lord is risen, indeed! Ye ransomed men,
Sing loud and clear.

Ah! now my burdened soul, rise fresh and pure,
To greet that day!
Since Christ has designed my sin-sick heart to cure
With healing ray.

—Living Church.

TWO FRIENDS.

CHAPTER V.—CONTINUED.

It was clear that Sam was inclined to favor Reggie as much as he could, and the natural inference was, that if he had not a word to say in favor of his friend, it was because such a word was not possible.

The conversation was brought to a close by the reappearance of Reggie, who carefully carried the bread and milk. It was set upon the ground, and the hedgehog very soon showed its thorough appreciation thereof, to the boy's great delight.

"It is more to be approved of than my hedgehog was," said Mrs. Lacy, "for it used to steal bread and milk."

"Had you a hedgehog, mother? Was it in India?"

"No, when I was about your age."

These reminiscences made his mother seem much more of a companion, and Reggie next asked, "How did it steal it? Did it go in-doors and take it?"

"Not that. I will tell you how it happened. You must know that the hedgehog had taken to burrowing in the ground, and I had not seen it for a long time, and was afraid it was lost. There were two kittens which lived in one of the outhouses and were not allowed to come into the house, but I used to play with them on the lawn, and to put bread and milk there to make them come. One day I had done so, and gone indoors. I looked out of the window and saw them making such a fuss about something. I thought they were quarrelling, and ran to see what was the matter as they generally fed quite peaceably together. When I got out I found the hedgehog hard at work eating all their food. The saucer was large, and it had got right in. Whenever a poor little pussy ventured to poke in its nose it of course got pricked, and then it jumped back and began to spit and scold in such a ridiculous way that I could do nothing but laugh. And while I laughed, and the kittens scolded, the hedgehog steadily ate up all the bread and milk."

"As mine is doing now," said Reggie, "but it is his own, so he is a very good hedgehog. I wish there were some kittens here though," he added, as if the fun of such a scene might compensate for his pet's loss of character.

"And now I must go in and rest," said Mrs. Lacy. "Will you come Reggie, and go upstairs

for a book I want, and then you can go out again."

Reggie was quite pleased to run his mother's errands, and to help to make her comfortable on the sofa.

"Thank you, dear boy," she said, "now give me a kiss, and then run off and play."

He did not know when he had felt so happy and instead of giving one of his usual decorous little kisses, he flung his arms around his mother's neck and hugged her to his heart's content. And to hers also, notwithstanding the detriment done to her dainty lace frill.

He ran away down the garden to Sam, and she lay and thought over what she had heard, and trusted that at least the child had not learnt much harm from this companion, who seemed to be really proved a bad one. Trusted and hoped and prayed that love might do more for him than the restrictions and tight hand that Miss Everson thought so needful. "It is Love that does all for us," she murmured to herself, "and in the knowledge and strength of that Love, our weakness is made strong. May it not be thus that my boy is to learn to overcome his temptations? Through the power first of the earthly love, which should be the reflection of the heavenly, in desiring above all things the highest good of the loved ones."

It might have been thought that the barrier between Reggie and his mother was now broken down, and that confidence would quickly follow, and this did not prove to be the case. He did think she was very kind; he did learn to love her; but he was so used to living his own life by himself that he scarcely made her a part of it. And then any serious word always made him fear that his happiness was coming to an end. The holiday time over, as it were, and the old strict rule returned once more. His mother was disappointed, but she tried to be patient, and above all to do nothing to frighten away the beginning of that trust which she felt might do so much for her boy.

Miss Everson would have been astonished to see how "good" Reggie was, if she could have tolerated his making a mess of his garden clothes. Certainly black looks were very uncommon, and sure of sympathy in his enjoyments, he was not tempted to conceal them.

And yet, though Mrs. Lacy several times tried to lead the talk to the subject of Reggie's strange friend, she was not successful in doing so. Reggie was either silent, or dragged in something else in the most inconsequent manner. She would not ask him directly, dreading lest he might try to deceive her in any way, whether by what he said or left unsaid. For it was truth that she desired for him, and not merely the avoidance of falsehood.

Even poor Sam, though far from intending it, contributed to keep up the division.

"See what a good mamma you've got Master Reggie," he said. "Don't you go and vex her about anything. Just think what a taking she'd be in if you ever had any more to do with that Nat of yours."

Nat was judged and condemned unheard, by all, it seemed, even by his mother, so it was of no use speaking to her about him. And yet not all her kindness, not all her pretty presents could make the boy forget. He was always stubborn, Miss Everson had said, but if she could have been brought to know the real facts of the case, even she would have called this feeling by a gentler name.

Mrs. Lacy did not generally come down to breakfast, and after Reggie had his he used to go and pay her a visit in her bedroom. One morning when he came downstairs he was greeted by the housemaid.

"Such a piece of news for you, Master Reggie; you'll never guess it!"

"Has father come?" asked the boy, in half-frightened wonder as to what his father would really be like.