

THE CONVENTIONALISTS

think that, in accordance with our reputation, we have overpersuaded your son to become a monk, in order to get this property into our hands, that we knew all about the entail and so on, and have hoped that the Church would finally get at any rate the greater part of your property, in the event of your death. Is that right ? ”

He glanced up ; as Mr. Banister nodded curtly.

“ Now I am extraordinarily sorry you thought that. It is rather—er—elementary. Frankly, I hoped you wouldn't at any rate say so outright without proof. . . . Well, I was wrong. It only remains for me to put you right.”

Chris deliberately unbuttoned his coat and drew out of his breast-pocket a letter ; then, still holding it, he went on.

“ Here is a letter your son gave to me to give to you, if by any chance you did make that accusation. I will leave it with you when I go. But I will tell you the purport of it now. It is this. Your son renounces all claim to the property, in the event of his becoming professed as a monk ; he states in this letter his willingness to sign any legal documents that may be necessary for that end ; he suggests to you that you should make over to him an annuity until his death of one hundred and twenty pounds a year, so that he shall not be an actual burden upon his brethren in Religion ; but he leaves that entirely to you. Should you decline to do this, my friend here, Monsignor Yolland, who is a man of considerable wealth, has undertaken to pay your