

had not stepped back hastily he must have had a blow right in his eye. But he did stranger things even than this. When people go out to stay they always take their luggage with them; but this queer inmate came without anything at all; and more than this, he seemed to expect that everything he wanted could be provided for him. The more trouble he gave George and Kate the better he seemed to like it, and always appeared to think that they ought to be ready to wait upon him. He used to begin shouting for his breakfast about five o'clock in the morning, and if Kate did not get up to prepare it at once he made such a commotion that you would have thought the roof must come off. He never seemed to remember that George worked hard all day, and that he ought to have a good night's rest, or that he wanted to have his breakfast before he went out in the morning.

Nor did he behave any better after George had gone. He would wait till Kate had just poured the water into the wash-tub, or till she was in the middle of making something for dinner, and then he would call for her so long and so loud that she was obliged to leave what she was doing and run to see what he wanted. It was really very tiresome.

But perhaps what was most vexing of all was the way in which he spoilt their quiet time in the evening. George would come in feeling very tired and pull off his boots, and just as he settled himself by the fire in his warm slippers and began to read aloud to his wife, there would come a shout and a scuffle in the middle of the most interesting part, and down would go Kate's work, and her thimble would go one way, and her cotton reels another, and off she would have to fly.

But there was one thing about him that was more strange than all the rest. If

people are obliged to give a great deal of trouble they generally try to repay their friends for it in some way; but this curious person never seemed to think about it at all. He did not once offer to pay for his board and lodging, nor for the many things that were got for him; not even when George had to take to working over hours to be able to pay for them. He never said he was sorry when he called them up in the night, or when he wanted things done for him in the day; in fact, he appeared to think that he had a right to all.

It seemed very strange that George and Kate did not tell him that he really must go, and send for a policeman to turn him out if he refused; but they did nothing of the sort, and, what was even more wonderful, they really did not seem to mind his way of going on. Some of the neighbours told Kate when he came that her husband would go out in the evenings now, and that he would not care to be at home if he could not be first in his own house; but their words were quite untrue, for George seemed more pleased than ever to come home when his work was done, and Kate, instead of growing cross and ill-tempered with all the extra steps she had to take, laughed and sang as she went about the house, and looked brighter and happier every day.

What could be the explanation of such a mystery?

Were George and Kate out of their minds?

Not at all. And did they not grow tired of their troublesome guest? No; on the contrary, he became dearer to them every day, and they declared to all their friends that they would not know what happiness was until they had an inmate like theirs, for, in spite of all the work and worry that he gave them, there was nothing in all the world they loved so well as their precious little baby!

A FEW WORDS ON CONFIRMATION.

"The doctrine of baptisms and of laying on of hands."—HEB. vi. 2.

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OUR Church, in the arrangements which she has made for the benefit of her members, has retained the ancient rite of Confirmation. It is the necessary consequence of her views on Infant Baptism. It is evident that she does not consider Baptism as complete without Confirmation. She regards the latter, as Dean Goulburn calls it, as "the complement of Baptism." Here are the words of the Rubric attached to the Service in the

Prayer Book: "There shall none be admitted to the Holy Communion until such time as he be confirmed or be ready to be confirmed." None, therefore, can doubt that the Church of England attaches great importance to Confirmation.

Yet the language she uses concerning it implies the conviction that, if not commanded by the Word of God, it is in accordance with it. After the Bishop has laid his hand upon the persons he says in the prayer he offers: "We make