

not be without its reward"... "Love, console, help your neighbor"... "You are young, but can you not prove to God your love?"... "A small sacrifice rejoices so much the Heart of the Master, and so well prepares our souls for the Eucharist!"...

Hark! a low voice at his side:

"Jacques! I say, Jacques! Don't you think it would be well to give an apple to the poor old man! We are soon going to make our First Communion, so we must offer some *sacrifices*. Is not an apple something more than a glass of water? *He* will be very glad and the good God also. Say, Jacques!"

Jacques, with sparkling eyes, replied:

"Pierrot, that is just what I was thinking of. You want me to give it with you. You said that I should have half. Yes, indeed I do want to make a *sacrifice*."

And the little boys stepped toward the old man.

"We have been thinking that you like apples," they said. "Your bread is very hard. We have butter on ours. The good God says that we must love one another. Now, we love you very much, and... we want you to eat our apple," concluded Pierrot.

The poor man listened in surprise, for, alas! such marks of sympathy were rarely extended to him. He did indeed, often meet compassionate souls, but to behold these children coming toward him to hear their childish voices saying to him: "We love you!"... he to whom pity was sometimes accorded, but so little affection!

"Oh," said he in a low voice and trembling, "may God bless you, children! This act will bring you happiness."

And while the children with joyous hearts looked at him as he turned away clasping the fruit, as if it were a treasure, little Jacques asked in a low voice:

"Say, Pierrot, why is he crying?"...

(U. N., *Echo de la Trinité*.)