

gently followed his example, as he continued: 'The first fifty years of our lives are to us a time of preparation, an Advent Season, for in them we are learning from day to day all that will make us worthy to enter the service of the dear Christ-Child. No two fairies are ever quite the same, but we must each have some special gift or talent which we can make perfect and use for Him. Then from that Christmas Day we are set apart for His service, and for over three years we live but to answer His call, and obey His commands—while we are made daily more pure and holy in the pure influence of His Holy Childhood, becoming once more like little children for His dear sake. And then, on the Ash Wednesday of our fourth year in the Royal Service, we change our pure white garments for the purple ones we now wear, and for forty days and forty nights finish our preparation, or novitiate, for the service of our Risen Lord: the tiny caps were put on again as he added: 'and during these days of Lent we are allowed to do and say just what we please, for we can be trusted.' And although the small head was once more thrown back and the small shoulders squared, there was not the faintest shade of vanity or pride in the action, nor in the kind old face.

(To be continued.)

TOT'S ADOPTED FAMILY.

Tot came to me one morning with a puzzled and inquiring look in her large beautiful brown eyes. "What would you do with him?" she seemed to say. "He worries me more than all the others put together."

Tot was a small, cream-colored Esquimaux dog, and it was one of her adopted children, a turtle, that was just then causing her motherly heart so much anxiety. After thus questioning me with her expressive eyes, a bright idea seemed to strike her. She ran to her closet and separated the troublesome turtle from the other members of her rather singular family, pushing him with her nose into a corner of the room. Then she brought some pieces of muslin, and covered him over so that not a bit of him could be seen. "There, now, I think he will sleep and give me time to attend to my other children," was her apparent comment.

Tot was in the habit of adopting all the motherless strays she came across. At the time of which I write, we had two little ducks that had been left orphans. Tot heard them complaining one day. It seemed to make her very miserable. At last she could bear it no longer; so downstairs she went, and, to my utter astonishment, returned with one of the ducklings, safe and sound, in her mouth, depositing it in the box with her three puppies. In the course of the day she succeeded in bringing the other little fellow upstairs and placing him with his brother. The ducks seemed quite happy with their adopted mother, and, when older, followed her everywhere, running

after her, and screaming if she got too far ahead of them. A singular thing it was that Tot and her own children never injured these feathered foundlings. But I am sorry to say that Tot never loved the turtle, always covering up the ungainly little creature whenever it ventured to put out its head or be sociable with the rest of the family—*St. Nicholas*.

BE CONTENT.

Be content with such things as you have. Some people have better things, others have worse. You, perhaps, cannot have the better, and you have no desire for the worst; then be content with what you have. You may have had better things in the past, you may have worse things in the future; be thankful for the present, and be content. If your lot is a hard one, you may improve it, but not by murmuring, fretting or repining. Just here, to-day, learn the lesson of contentment, and wait on God for brighter days, for richer fruits, for purer joys.

No blessing comes to the murmuring, complaining, discontented heart. When once this evil demon of discontent enters into his soul, nothing is right. Even the 'angel's food' was not good enough for the murmuring Israelites, and the 'corn of heaven' could not satisfy those whose souls were filled with the discontent of earth.—*Selected*.

INVOKING SAINTS.

The practice of invoking saints was not known in the first three centuries or in the middle of the fourth century for the invocation of Christ is urged by Athanasius, Cyril, Basil, and other fathers of that time, as an argument for his divinity, because they did not pray to angels or other creatures; and Augustine, who died at the age of 76, in the year 430, says, "Let not the worship of dead men be any part of our religion; they ought to be so honored that we may imitate them, but not worshipped." A very little enquiry will convince us, that there is no foundation whatever for this doctrine in Scripture. We are commanded to offer our prayers to God through Christ alone. There is one God and one Mediator between God and men the man Christ Jesus, 1 Tim. ii: 5. "Through Him we have access to the Father," Eph. ii: 18. No other person is mentioned, by whom we can approach the Father; and the silence of Scripture is decisive on this very subject; for we may rest assured, that every necessary direction is given to us relative to the important duty of prayer. The worshipping of angels is forbidden by St. Paul. Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels," Col. ii; it must therefore be unlawful to worship men, who were made inferior to angels.—*Bishop Tomline*.

One man pins me to the wall, while with another I walk among stars.—*Emerson*.

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BIRTH.

LITTLE—At Holy Trinity Rectory, Sussex, N. B., March 5th, the wife of the Rev. Henry W. Little, of a son, Albert William Selwyn.

DIED.

BALFOUR—In Montreal, on the 13th Feb. 1891, in the 87th year of his age, the Rev. Andrew Balfour, for 30 years Missionary of the S. P. G.



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