

A MYSTERIOUS MESSENGER.



THE deceased Father Metz of Allfeld, Baden, noted for his indefatigable zeal in the performance of his pastoral labors, testified by oath to the following occurrence. The event was published at the time in the newspapers.

"The parish house in which I lived was somewhat elevated, and had a flight of thirteen steps leading up to it from

the outside. I occupied the room to the left of the front entrance.

"Soon after New Year I began the instructions for the children who were to receive their First Communion on Low Sunday. It was a severe winter. The children were diligent and attentive, and I had every reason to be satisfied with them. Only one little boy, Joseph B..., caused me rather great anxiety and at the same time aroused my sympathy, for I could not conscientiously permit him to receive Holy Communion with the other children. He was a good, pious boy but his understanding was so limited, that in spite of all my efforts, he was not able to obtain sufficient knowledge for so great an act.

"I sent for the father of the boy, told him that I could not permit his child to receive his Communion this year, and advised him to teach the boy diligently at home that he might understand the instructions the next year. The good man took it very much to heart, but I considered it my duty to remain firm in my decision.

"Easter drew near. I redoubled the instructions for my dear first communicants. Fatigued by the many hours of instruction and other pastoral duties, I retired earlier than usual.

"It was a bitter cold night. The moon shown brightly into my room. Towards midnight I was awakened by heavy footsteps coming rapidly down the street, nearing the house and mounting the stairs. When reaching