

to his tutor's, the curate of the adjoining parish. "You will be going to church this morning, mamma," he said; "I was not puzzled this time when the appointed service was given out; will you tell me all about St. Matthias when I come home?"

"All I can, certainly I will, my dear boy," replied Mrs. Clifton, "and now you must run away, or you will be late."

The lamp was lighted, the tea-things cleared away, when Hugh, in his favourite place by his mother's side, opened his Prayer-book, and, at her request, read aloud the Collect for the day,—

— O Almighty God, who into the place of the traitor Judas didst choose Thy faithful servant Matthias to be of the number of the twelve Apostles, grant that Thy Church, being always preserved from false Apostles, may be ordered and guided by faithful and true pastors, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

"Where do we read of St. Matthias, and his being chosen?" asked Mrs. Clifton.

"In the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, mamma. It is the Epistle for the day, or, I ought to say, the part of Scripture read instead of, or for, the Epistle."

"Quite right; and now can you tell me what it is we pray for in the Collect?"

Hugh read it again attentively, then said, "I think it is, mamma, that we may have good clergymen who will always do and teach us what is right."

"Yes, my dear boy, and it is a prayer we ought to pray often and earnestly, for we know that false teachers have crept and will creep in amongst us; and even the best need our supplications, as no one felt more than St. Paul. How often he beseeches, 'Brethren, pray for us,' and if he needed that help, how much more must others?"

"Mamma, what a sad history Judas Iscariot's is."

"It is, indeed, Hugh; and what an awful warning for us. Called to be an Apostle, admitted into constant, close communion with our Lord, preaching the word of life to others, and for anything we know to the contrary, making many converts, yet he himself became a castaway. With him the love of money became the root of all evil; it led him on first to rob the poor, then

to betray his Lord and Master, and oh, what a fearful end his was! He led a wicked life, and died a most miserable death."

"Why was he called Iscariot, mamma?"

"Probably from the place of his birth, 'a man of Kerioth,' a city situated in the tribe of Judah."

There was a short pause, and then Hugh, drawing a long breath, said, "And now, dear mamma, will you tell me about his successor, whom we are to remember to-day?"

"Very little is known of St. Matthias from Holy Scripture, excepting that he was one of our Lord's earliest disciples, probably one of the seventy. He accompanied with the little band of believers all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among them; he was, with them, a witness of the resurrection, and chosen by Him who knoweth the hearts of all men, to be His minister and Apostle. It is believed that he preached the Gospel first in Judea, our Lord's own country, and then in Capadocia. He converted many to Christianity, and being found 'faithful to the end,' received at length the crown of martyrdom. He was put to death by the Jews about the year A. D., 61, or 64; some say he was crucified, others that he was stoned, and then beheaded by an axe."

"Ah, then, mamma, that was the reason. I remember once seeing a picture of St. Matthias, and he was drawn leaning on an axe."

"All the Apostles and most of the Saints of old, both men and women, have some particular mark or emblem connected with their history by which to distinguish them. I will write out a list of all I know, sometime, for you."

"Thank you, mamma. I want to ask you one more question, please. You said St. Matthias was a disciple before he became an Apostle. I thought they were the same."

"All Apostles are disciples, but all disciples are not Apostles. A disciple is one who is taught, and though when we say *the* disciples we always mean those of our Lord, yet the term itself is applied to any who follow the teaching or doctrine of some superior or learned man. 'Apostle' signifies 'sent'; sent with power from on high to preach and teach the glad tidings of the kingdom of God."