

look with much sympathy on the new management of the household which they themselves had ruled, but with indifferent results as concerned the three little ones, for the odd two years that had elapsed since the death of gentle Agnes, the first Mrs. Cologan. Yet, confident and hopeful, she had undertaken the responsibilities and cares the position involved, with full realization. Or so she thought. For she had not been long installed in her new home ere doubts and difficulties, anxieties and uncertainties presented themselves in an array far more formidable than she had thought any such trouble could be. And, do what she would, the worry only increased as the days went by, as the weeks slipped past. Mary was a very conscientious woman indeed, she had a heart of gold, incapable of unkindness or neglect of others, she was both sensible and firm. Yet, with all these qualifications, she could not produce any impression on the children—and *they* were her chief thought, the subject of her most fervent prayers.

Nearly three years of freedom from maternal control (the authority of their grandmother and their aunts having proved weak and ineffectual) had caused the two boys, Donal and Tommy, and even little Agnes also, to develop into wild, untrained, elusive, and somewhat selfish characters. They were clever and bright, singularly quick of intellect and advanced for their age. But they had no idea of discipline or of submission. Whatever they did was done at the bidding of their own sweet wills. Goodhearted and affectionately impulsive, they would only obey when it suited them and when they must.

Mary had taught them their prayers anew, she saw to it that every night and morning the mischievous trio was gathered around their little altar, and said those prayers faithfully. She put them through their catechism also, instructing them carefully in the different mysteries of their Faith, and finding them quick and responsive.

But for all that, "I don't seem quite to be able to get a proper hand over them, Father," she explained to