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## FIVE-MINUTE SERMONS.

The Sacrament of Matrimony. I think you are all persuaded, my brethren, of the wrong and the danger of Catholics going to a Protestant minof Catholics going to a Protestant minister for marriage; and similar ones can be given why we should not go before a magistrate for that purpose. It is plain that the authorities of the State are not the right persons to assist officially at the sacraments of the Church. It would be just as proper to ask the mayor to baptize your children as to go to him for marriage. To refer the matter of your marriage to him, however fine a man he may be personally, would be to acknowledge the right of the civil authority to take charge of religious affairs; and such a right Catholics cannot admit.

Besides, the magistrate labors under the same difficulty as a Protestant min-

the same difficulty as a Protestant minister in conducting a Catholic mar-riage, of not knowing the laws of the Church on the subject, and the impediments which subject, and the impediments which may make the marriage invalid; that is, which may make it, though seemingly good, in reality no marriage at all. You know, for instance—to speak of this a little more fully—that the catechism says that you should not marry within certain degrees of kindred; very well, it is not only forbidden to marry within these degrees, but a marriage within these degrees is not recognized by the laws of the Church as a real and true marriage, and the as a real and true marriage, and the parties have to be married over again, at least privately, if it is ever found out. And there are some other impediments which have the same effect. is of no use to publish all these and try to explain them; many mis akes would to explain them; many misrakes would be made, and matters would only be-come worse. No, to be safe in all affairs of this kind you must go to those who have made a special study of it; just as you find out the law of the State from your lawyer, and not from a book. Go, then, to the priest; he is the one who has made a special study of the law of the Church, and the only

In order to make sure that Catholic marriage shall be contracted before a priest, a law has been made, and binds in some countries, and in some parts even of this country, making it invalid, or null and void, if contracted without the presence of the parish priest of at least one of the parties. This does not, however, hold just here. But there is a very special and urgent law in this diocese, and in many others, forbidding the going to a Protestant minister for a protestant and argument law the absolution. the going to a Protestant minister for marriage, and reserving the absolution for this to the Bishop, or some one authorized by him. Catholics, there-fore, who are guilty of such a rash act get themselves into a very unpleasant position; still, they must, of course, try to get out of it sooner or later, and if any one finds himself in this predicament, the only sensible thing to do is to come at once to the priest, who will help him as far as possible. All sins can be forgiven, and all mistakes rectified, if one has the right dispositions.

One word more on this most important subject.

tant subject. Some people seem to imagine that the difficulty which may come, especially in a mixed marriage, of avoiding the Protestant minister, may be got over by going both to him and to the priest, and going through the form of marriage twice. Now, let t be understood that this course cannot be thought of for a moment; for by it not only is the law broken which I have just mentioned, but a profanaion of the sacrament also is committed by endeavoring to make the contract to which it is attached twice in the same case. It is as if one tried to be confirmed twice. No, in this matter them, so as to tell her how many there riage in which a Catholic is a party must be put in charge of the Catholic clergy, and of no one else, event case. same case. It is as if one tried to be confirmed twice. No, in this matter

may take some time to settle them.

What Intemperance Does.

The evils of intemperance cannot be exaggerated. Had they come upon us in any gratification of our appetites, or pecuniary gain, the whole land would

have been covered with sackcloth. A blast or a tempest, which for six suc-

cessive years, should sweep away \$100,000,000 of property, would be viewed as the ruin of the nation. But

gy, and of no one else, except as far as mere settlements of money and the like are concerned. Go, then, to the priest for marriage; do not think of doing anything else. But do not go to him, as I have said

some people do, for the first time just at the moment you want the ceremony performed, and expect him to marry you off hand; for there are some very important pre-liminaries to be settled first, and it may take some time to settle them.

best?" The little girl looked the dolls over

"Oh, one of those ninety-seven cent doils!" responded Julia. "They are handsome for the price. Sawdust bodies, to be sure; but what fine heads?—red cheeks, splendid eyes, and hair that will comb out as well as that of some costlier ones. "I'll be heads?" of some costlier ones, I'll be bound.

Katy, with a sigh. It was an unat-tainable sum, as far as she was con-cerned. The salesgirl remarked the

viewed as the ruin of the nation. But intemperance cost this nation the last five years more than \$100,000,000.

A foul spirit let loose from the pit, with power to destroy the sober judgments of men, and incite to the commission of every abomination and crime, like a dire disease sweeping over the land, not unlike the frightful postilence extinguishing man's life almost without warning, but first crippling all the physical, intellectual and moral energies of a million citizens, turning some into diots, some into maniacs, and some into fiends, to be the torments of their families, nuisances to society, accursed of God and men, living only to make a god of cerned. The salesgirl remarked the sigh.

'Say, Cash, why don't you buy it?" she urged. 'Your mother'll let you keep part of your wages for yourself thristmas week, won't she? And you wouldn't get such another bargain in a doll if you hunted a year and a day. You'd better speak for it quick, though; for when the rush of trade comes, there's no knowing how long the lot will last."

Katy shook her head. "I wouldn't

want to buy a Christmas present for myself," she answered. "But I was foresken of its kind benefactor, and all the curses of the pit were let loose upon us. And yet hese, for years and years, have been he dire fruits of intemperance. Under the prevalence crime has gaused crime, ind blood answered to blood.—Catholic well as to save the kind of the control of the co

## BETTER THAN RICHES."

BY MARY CATHERINE CROWLEY.

II. Not growing better at the hospital, Ellie begged to be taken home. Rather than live apart from those she loved, she strove to be content to remain alone day after day, propped up by an inverted chair upon a wretched bed. Or, when she felt stronger, with the aid of a pair of rude crutches, she would drag herself to the window to watch patiently for the return of the dear bread winners, whose toil she would so willingly have shared.

There, in a little stuffy room, upon the top floor of the old house, she spent the long, sultry summer; there she remained when autumn came; there the approaching Christmas holidays were likely to find her.

How was it, then, that Ellie was generally cheery and blithe? Perhaps her mother's prayer each morning, as she bade her good-bye to go to loved, she strove to be content to re-

haps her mother's prayer each morning, as she bade her good-bye to go to work, had most to do with it. "May Jesus and His Blessed Mother watch over you, mayourneen!" the good woman would say, with a sigh at the necessity for leaving her.

Frequently, when the child could have wept for loneliness, the words would keep echoing in her heart. She was a well-disposed little creature, and those hours spent alone often brought serious thoughts, which molded and beautified her character. But Ellie was a thoroughly natural child: there beautified her character. But Ellie was a thoroughly natural child: there was none of the story-book goodness about her. She was keenly interested in everything that went on. She thought there was no one like mother, but it was Katy who represented the world to her—the world of McNaughton's store, with its brightness and beautiful wares, and its ever-changing beautiful wares, and its ever-changing crowd of handsomely costumed ladies intent upon the pleasures of shopping. Any scrap of news which one fagged out little cashgirl brought home at the close of the day was eagerly listened to by the other, who found her enforced idleness so irksome

by the other, who found her enforced idleness so irksome.

Katy had a great deal to narrate at the close of the day upon which our story opened. Sitting upon the foot of Ellie's bed, she told how she upset the pyramid of note-paper; and what trouble she would have been in, but for the kind lady who so promptly came to the rescue. To Ellie's quick imagination the story had all the charm of a fairy tale. And when, at the close, her sister placed in her hands the orange and the tiny box wherein the orange and the tiny box wherein lay the rose, still quite fresh and fragrant, her face beamed with delight; and Katy went to bed very happy, feeling herself more than repaid for

having treasured them so carefully.

The next morning, when Katy
reached the store, she found everybody
in a state of pleasurable excitement over the opening of the holiday goods; for it wanted but three weeks to Christmas. At the end of the stationery counter, where the pyramid of note-paper had been, an immense stack of dolls was now attractively displayed. The little cashgirl stood before it, lost in admiration. There were little dolls and big ones; dolls with blue eyes,

and of ones; dolls with blue eyes, and others with brown; some with light hair, and some with dark; bebee Jumeau and bebee Brue; rubber dolls, and rag dolls with papier mache faces. "How lovely they are!" she murmured to herself, including even the plainest and least among them in her appreciation of the gorgeous company. "Don't I wish Ellie could see them!"

Katy and Ellie had never had a doll in their lives-that is, a real boughten one, as they called those not of home

The kind salesgirl who had sent the orange to Ellie, from her post behind the counter, noticed the child's wonder-

"Will you look at Cash!" she said to a companion. Katy was oblivious of them, however. After watching her a few moments, Julia called out:
"Well, Cash, which do you like

again with much deliberation; and finally, pointing to a good sized one, with golden hair and large eyes, said: "This."

"Ninety - seven cents!" repeated

She continued to gaze longingly at the rosy beauty, while the salesgirl meditatively dusted the show-case.

"Stop! I'll tell you how you can manage to get it," Julia said, suddenly.
"It's the rule of this store that on Christmas Eve, after all the customers are gaze age, amployee may choose

stationery counter, now given over to toys, upon the subject oftenest in her thoughts. She had been transferred to another department; but every day sallow, opaque skin, destroys the attractiveness of handsome features. In all such cases of handsome features. In all such cases of handsom effectives. In all such cases of handsom features in all own at the doll, to make sure that it impart freshness and beauty. was still there; and the kindly sales-

was still there; and the kindly sales girl always found time to give her an encouraging nod and a smile.

One afternoon, however, a few days before Christmas, when Julia returned from her lunch she met Katy who was crying bitterly. The cause of her distress was soon told. A new girl had been put at the counter that morning; she knew nothing about Katy's doll, and now, as luck would have it, was inst in the set of selling it to a high just in the act of selling it to a big, bluff looking man, who said he wanted it for his little daughter. Julia rushed to her post. The man

was upon the point of paying for the doll, and had decided that he would take the parcel with him.

take the parcel with him.

"Have you seen the brown eyed dolls?" she interposed, pleasantly. The other girl scowled at the interference with 'her sale,' but she persisted. "The brown eyed ones are considered the most desirable."

"Are they?" the man hesitated. "Well, I believe I'll take one, then, instead of this. My little maid likes brown eyes."

brown eyes."

Katy's doll was saved. The child, in a fever of suspense, had watched the transaction from behind a pile of dry-goods. Now she turned toward her friend a face bright with gratitude, as hurried away in response to the im-perative call of "Cash."

When Julia recovered from her When Julia recovered from her flurry, she explained matters to her associate. The girl's ill-humor quickly vanished once she understood the situation, and she willingly agreed to help retain the doll if possible.

TO BE CONTINUED.

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managet ogeteit, "Julia and, audden't."

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