

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 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 minister in conducting a Catholic marriage, of not knowing the laws of the Church on the subject, and the impediments which may make the marriage invalid; it is, which makes it, though seemingly good, in reality no marriage at all.

Go, then, to the priest for marriage; and not from him, but from the priest, who is the one who has made a special study of the law of the Church, and the only one.

BETTER THAN RICHES.

By MARY CATHERINE CROWLEY.

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.

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 work, had made her so happy.

After all, love is better than riches," she reflected, as the picture of the crippled child in the humble home arose in her mind, and she gave a sidelong glance at Katy's thin face and shabby dress.

"You will be sure to save this very doll for me, won't you?" pleaded the child. "I can't put it aside for you," she explained, "because the floor-walker would not allow that; but I'll arrange so you will have one of the lot, never fear."

"But I want this one," declared Katy. "My goodness gracious, you foolish child! They're all as much alike as rows of beads in a pot," exclaimed her friend, a trifle impatiently.

She continued to gaze longingly at the rosy beauty, while the salesgirl meditatively dusted the show-cases. "Stop! I'll tell you how you can manage to get it," Julia said, suddenly.

"That would count for 75 cents on the doll; then all you would have to put to it would be 22 cents. Couldn't you do that somehow?" "Sometimes I run errands for a dressmaker who lives in the block below us, and she gives me pennies, or once in a while a nickel. And when my aunt's husband comes to see us—he's a widder man and sorter rich; he drives a truck—well, when he comes 'caisionally, he gives each of us children as much as ten cents; and I guess he'll be round about Christmas time. Oh, yes, I'm almost sure I can make up the 22 cents!"

"But, then, when the doll is yours, won't you hate to give it away?" queried Julia; for Katy already began to assume an air of possession. "Oh, not to Ellie! And, you know, she'll be sure to let me hold it sometimes," was the ingenious reply.

"I can't put it aside for you," she explained, "because the floor-walker would not allow that; but I'll arrange so you will have one of the lot, never fear."

"But I want this one," declared Katy. "My goodness gracious, you foolish child! They're all as much alike as rows of beads in a pot," exclaimed her friend, a trifle impatiently.

"No," insisted the little girl. "All the others have red painted buckles on their shoes, but this doll has blue buckles; and I'm sure Ellie would prefer blue buckles, 'cause we've often talked about it when we played choosing what we'd like best."

"Well, well," laughed Julia. "All right, Katy; I'll save it, if I can." Satisfied by this promise, the child ran away; for customers began to come in, and to loiter would be to lessen her chance of gaining the treasure which to herself she already called Ellie's.

McNaughton & Co. did a great business within the next two weeks; the employees were "fearfully rushed," as they expressed it. Katy had no opportunity for further conversation with the sociable attendant, now given over to the stationary counter, now given over to toys, upon the subject of her thoughts.

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AN OLD SETTLER'S STORY.

A Parth County Pioneer's Experience.—A sufferer for nearly twenty years—Had Not Done a Month's Work in Ten Years—His Regains Health and Strength—His Neighbors Discuss the Remarkable Cure.

From the Listowel Banner. Trowbridge is a pretty little village in the county of Perth, and is five miles from the railway, and gains in rural quietness a compensation for the loss of the bustle of larger towns.

One of the best known residents of the village is Mr. Isaac Deleyea, who has lived there for upward of forty years, in fact ever since the "blazed" road through the village was made.

From this trouble I could get no relief, the medicines I got from the doctor helped me but not cure me. Nothing would take the swelling off my feet, and I was unable to feel that my condition was desperate.

"You will be sure to save this very doll for me, won't you?" pleaded the child. "I can't put it aside for you," she explained, "because the floor-walker would not allow that; but I'll arrange so you will have one of the lot, never fear."

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