

FIVE-MINUTE SERMON.

Third Sunday of Advent.

THE VICE OF SCANDAL.

"And He confessed, and did not deny." (Gospel of the day)

Brethren: It is too bad that Catholic laymen do not realize the important mission God has confided to them in the workings of His Church among men.

Now, Catholic men, God has given you a great and precious gift when He blessed you with a divine faith, and it is a gift for which you will some day have to render an account.

You do not realize, brethren, your own power to influence others. See what faith that is unerring. You have a religion that is an infallible guide.

But the great folly with many Catholic men is this, that they fancy their only work on earth is to look out for themselves, enjoy life to the full, and then by some miracle of God's mercy scramble into heaven as best they can.

Besides this, brethren, while there are many who do not confess the faith openly and honestly, who by their want of uprightness fail to make the influence of their faith affect those about them,

But there are many who practically deny it, many who turn a deaf ear to its moral teaching, many to whom the faith is a kind of problem, an hypothesis, true enough in theory but too exacting in practice.

They are the Catholic men who rarely approach the sacraments; they are the Catholic men who feel no remorse at missing Mass; they are the Catholic men who make light of religious observances.

MIRACLES OF CHRIST.

From "Seedlings" by the Right Rev. Charles H. Caffon, D. D.

"If you do not believe My words," said our Divine Lord, "believe My works." "Go tell what you have seen," said He, to the disciples sent to Him by John.

He was the Son of God, and as such had equal power with the Father and the Holy Ghost. As man He was poor and helpless and had "not wherewith to lay His head," but as God He was almighty, and was enshrined in the glory and the power of the Blessed Trinity.

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their behalf. His divine power has triumphed, and is perpetuated as we see through the Church which He established, and which He clothed with power to preach and teach in His name, and to heal the sick and sore of heart, and bring peace and joy to troubled souls.

Our Lord said He would be with His Church all days, and that His apostles (and their successors, therefore) would lay their hands upon the sick and they would be healed, which promise had been verified by the numberless cases of illness which the priests of God have cured in response to certain souls asking them, according to their faith.

In the days of Christ, His look, as in the case of Peter, was the cause for repentance, and His word entranced and held spell-bound the multitudes who followed Him. So after our Lord's ascension, the apostles exercised almost like powers and swayed thousands by their convincing words and by the miracles they wrought in confirmation of them.

As to Dr. Van Allen's glittering generalities about the "movement" in Portugal and in Spain against the Church, we have heard of them for a long time; but they are distinctly anarchical and atheistic and we don't see how the pious doctor gets much comfort from them, except on the ground that anything that hits and hurts the Catholic Church is to be commended—a principle which we are sure he would be the first to disavow.

Grounds more relative than this must be cited to offset the undeniable fact that the Catholic Church is making converts from Protestant Episcopalianism at a rate which the Living Church and its friends now find somewhat disconcerting, but which perhaps they themselves will some day acknowledge to be providential—the hearts of true Christians answering to the prayer of our Lord before His death, that "they all may be one."

Catholic Times of Liverpool which tells a somewhat different story about things Catholic in the-Czar's realm:

When a policy of ecclesiastical toleration was adopted some time ago in Russia there was at once a notable influx from the "Orthodox" Church into the Catholic fold. The Russian journalists could not understand why the movement had occurred, and they criticized with considerable severity the conduct of the "Orthodox" pastors.

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COMMENDABLE WORK OF THE K. OF C.

The Knights of Columbus Meridian, Mississippi, are "the men of the commendation," says "the men of the commendation." There is an institution in Meridian known as the Meridian Women's College which announces itself a "safe college for girls" and as "non-sectarian and open to all denominations." Quite recently from this non-sectarian institution, so-called, there emanated a leaflet which read as follows:

One paragraph from the oath taken by the Roman Catholic priest when sworn into office:

"I do furthermore promise and declare I will when opportunity presents make and wage relentless war secretly or openly against all Protestants as I am directed to do to extirpate them from the face of the earth—that I will spare neither age, sex, nor condition—that I will hang, burn, boil, flay and strangle, waste and bury alive those infamous heretics; rip up the stomach and dash their infants' heads against the wall in order to annihilate this bad race; that when the same can not be done openly I will secretly use the strangulation cord, the steel of the poniard, the leaden bullet, in order to kill off this stubborn race and all this be done regardless of the rank or dignity of the person attacked; and should I prove false or weaken in my determination, may my fellow-soldiers of the pope cut off my hands and feet, may my stomach be opened and sulphur be burned therein



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with all its fury, and finally may my soul be tortured in an eternal hell forever."

Please investigate this matter. Josiah Strong says Catholicism is one of the great perils of our country.

On the back of the leaflet appeared in prominent type the advertisement of the Meridian Women's College, of which Professor J. W. Beeson, A. M., is the president. In the process of circulation the leaflet fell into the hands of the Knights of Columbus of Meridian who at once appointed a committee to wait on Mr. Beeson, and find out if he were the author of this infamous slander of the priesthood of the Catholic Church.

How many times a day do we pass by the church or perhaps very close to it? asks an exchange. Every time we do, or even once in a while, do we step in to pay our respects to its lonely Occupant? I am afraid not, judging from the deserted conditions of our churches almost any time you go in to them.

There is nothing that should appeal more to Catholics than the lonely Savior Who is ever present on our altars. The King of kings deserted by all. To think that we, whom He has blessed, in countless ways, should so desert Him; in fact, I am afraid some of us begrudge

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IN THE AUTUMN TIME of life, after you have born "the burden and heat of the day," it will add immeasurably to your comfort and peace of mind to know that you are fortified against the wintry months of old age. If you are prudent you will procure an Endowment Policy from the North American Life at once thereby ensuring peace and comfort in later years, and protecting your loved ones in the meantime.

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