#### FIVE MINUTE SERMON

THE ACCEPTABLE TIME

The time to serve God is now, and Such, brethren, is the lesson of New Year's Day. This day is the starting. point of the whole year, and we should appreciate that the day itself, the present time, is of greater value than the past and the future. We should start right. We should get our minds in a proper condition for the labor and suffering, the joy and sorrow, of the coming year; and that means that we should use the present moment for all that it is worth Of course, brethren, this is the day of big wishes: "I wish you a happy New Year," we all have heard and said many times today; and that is a good thing. But good wishes don't Lord; a debt of gratitude because of put money in the bank, or pay off the mortgage on your home, or even put a fat turkey on the table. They are pleasant and charitable, and, we are likely to be fulfilled.

wish because I am too busy just of the Mass. one of those mentioned by our Sav- lation simply wishing you are putting your at Sunday Mass! before God? God the Father created God the Son redeemed you. Fod the Holy Ghost sanctified you. Is any business equal to creation, redemption, and sanctification?

somebody might insist Father, that is all true, and yet what I say is true. I am too busy to attend to my religious duties, and I cannot help it. My occupations force themselves upon me. I must work as I do, or I and my family will suffer. I answer: There must something wrong about this. Is it really possible that you are com-pelled to work in such a way that you positively cannot receive Communion a few times a year; cannot say your night and morning prayers cannot attend at Mass-is this really the case? If so, then you are a slave. There have been classes of men among us so situated, but they are not so no w, because they rebelled against it, took effective measures to remedy the evil and succeeded in so. Have you tried? you asked leave to get off work to attend your religious duties? Are you willing to lose a day's wages once in a while for the of God? Think over these questions. Be honest with yourself. Do not blame your employer excuse yourself until you have made your request and been refused.

The time to serve God is now, and the place is right here. That is the principle upon which our Sunday school teachers act. They are busy, industrious young men and women. They find time, however, not only to take care of their own souls, but to same may be said of the members of At all events, hatred not only makes of the wretchedness of its victims, but even for the misery of those parish. To such souls, active and practical, every day is New Year's tence that could be imposed upon the practical of th carrying on some good work for God, their neighbor, and their own souls, and doing it right here and just now.

It is in this spirit, brethren, that I hope all the good wishes of a Happy New Year may be received by you today, and that you may be truly the hated. happy in body and soul, in your The Broo

## LEST ANGELS AVENGE OUR NEGLIGENCE

Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament has always been pre-eminent in the Church. Other devotions may be popular at certain periods and in certain places, but this is a devotion of every age, of every clime and of every race. Our Lord instituted the Holy Eucharist as a memorial of Himself. He well knew that in spite of all that He had done for the human race from His birth to His death, He would soon be forgotten unless He

the human race His last and greatest legacy, which would preserve until the end of time the memory of Himton and the human race time the memory of Himton and the human race time the memory of Himton and the human race time the memory of Himton and the human race time the memory of Himton and the human race time the memory of Himton and the human race time the human race time the human race time the human race has a second to the human race that the human race human rac

be," says Pope Urban VIII., "in human affairs anything which is plainly Divine and which, if the citizens of Heaven could at all envy, night make them envious, that evidently is the ever Blessed Sacrifice the place to serve God is right here. of the Mass, by the benefits of which men in a certain sense possess Heaven on earth, while they hold before their eyes and touch with their hands the very Creator of their power to surround this great privilege with due honor and worship, lest the angels who are our rivals in worship, become the avengers of our negligence.

Manifold are the ends to which we can apply this stupendous sacrifice. We owe God a number of debts. We owe Him a debt of adoration because our manifold and repeated offenses against Him; a debt of petition to obtain the necessary helps for our welfare here and hereafter. During repeat, they are good things—all the better if, as a matter of fact, they ity to discharge these debts. Never is human prayer so efficacious, so If my gifts and graces coldly you Now, many a one says: "I cannot be as good a Christian as I should offered up during the Holy Sacrifice

The Mass is the center of Catholic now." So you see he takes it out in good wishes by saying. "I wish I could be a good Christian." He is of the prices, it is the joy and consoone: of the devout laity. iour: "Not every one who savs, leged indeed are those Catholics who Lord! Lord! shall enter into the live within easy walking distance of kingdom of heaven;" and He adds, the church and can assist not only but he who does the will of my on Sundays and Holydays but on Let him make one Patience and the Father who is in heaven." Thus every morning of the year. How our Saviour shows the difference many have this great privilege within between the one who says and the easy reach and neglect it! How one who does-the good-wisher and many are frustrating God's graces by the well-doer. Don't you see that by their cold and indifferent attendance

The merits of the Mass can be business above God? Can't you The merits of the Mass can be understand that you think more gained for ourselves or they can be highly of the guest you entertain today than you do of the one whom of November countless Masses are you put off till tomorrow? First being offered for the relief of the come, first served; and who comes poor souls in Purgatory, countless thousands of devout Catholics the world over are supplicating Heaven for themselves and for their dear

ones at the Holy Sacrifice. At this critical time devotion to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament will fill the void created in the hearts of men by war and suffering. It will interpret the true principles of life, and detach men's souls from the things of earth and center them on their one true home which is in

#### HATING GERMANS

Among the encouraging signs of returning sanity it is delightful to find newspapers in England and America protesting against the continued hatred of Germans. The New Statesman, of London, has recently had a most interesting article protesting against further insistence upon hating Germans as a duty of true Englishmen. It wants to know how long the duty of hatred is going to remain a duty in these Christian times. There is charming satire in its questioning of hatred as one of the duties of a Christian nation, as well as practical wisdom in its deprecating an attitude of persistent hatred.

The New Statesman maintains that hating is not only a very unlovely attitude, but it is a very painful afflic tion. It admits that under the heat of passion and in the wild delirium of War, hatred may be an almost irresistible impulse, and thus easily appear as a satisfaction and an indulgence. At such times it may take on help parents and priests to save the the appearance of heroic virtue, and help parents and priests to save the the appearance of heroic virtue, as a man who has been chaldren of the parish. Much the its votaries may appear as veritable holy and beautiful life. angels of light. But in the aftermath the ancient belief the dark and loathsome tracing of its Church is one of holy cothe choir, the gentlemen of the St.

Vincent de Paul Conference, the

Altar Society, and all others who

Altar Society, and all others who

Altar Society, and all others who

At all events, hatred not only makes

The ancient belief the dark and loathsome tracing of its

Church is one of holy common sense.

Few souls are so pure that they are

At all events, hatred not only makes

It for heaven, where nothing that is human beings would be to continue hating forever. The New Statesman maintains that the only beings that can thrive under such a sentence are Satan and the denizens of hell. In this novel view of hatred it is a punishment of ourselves rather than of

The Brooklyn Eagle and The Spring families, and among your friends. field Republican have been saying amen. absurdity of continuing our hatred of the Germans. They base their opinions on reasons quite different from those given by Tne New Statesman, of London, but what they say is eminently rational as well as thoroughly Christian. We commend them for their espousing of Christian principles which are set aside during War

only by a terrific straining of the It is about time for all of us to become same enough to realize that hatred of one's neighbor is not consistent with Christian principles. True as it may be that we are justifled in hating iniquity and the workers of iniquity so far as they are such, devised some powerful means to per- there is no justification for hating devised some powerful means to perpetuate Himself in the hearts of His even the guilty if they have ceased their iniquities and repented of their people.

When the shadow of the Cross offenses. In calmer days when men

our country are hungering for peace. it may be a permanent peace. But the world is still full of War and rumors of War. We even fear that a we are planting the seeds of greater co wars in our every efforts at making peace. The nations charged with making peace have not yet recovered from the delirium of hatred enough Heaven and earth. Wherefore ought to plan rationally anything that gives mortals to strive to the utmost of substantial hope of abiding peace. There never was a greater need of Christianity than at this present moment. If the world is going to come under the dominion of Christian charity each one of us has got to learn over again how to love his neighbor as himself. That means Germans as well as the rest of the world .- The Missionary.

THE OLD YEAR'S BLESSING

am fading from you, but one draw Called the Angel - guardian of the coming year,

forget. Let the New Year's Angel bless and crown them yet.

Let him end and perfect all I leave

It I gave you sickness ; if I brought other Prayer.

Where I brought you sorrow, through his care at length, It may rise triumphant into future

gave health and leisure, skill to dream and plan ; Let him make them nobler-work for God and man.

-ADELAIDE ANNE PROCTER

FAITH IN PURGATORY IS AP-PROVED BY NON-CATHOLIC CLERGY

ANCIENT BELIEF OF GOD'S CHURCH IS ONE OF HOLY COMMON SENSE SAYS A PROTESTANT MINISTER

Defense ot the theory that provides between heaven and hell, an inter-mediate state for the purging of sinstained souls was made by Rev. H. Page Dyer in a sermon in the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Philadelphia, recently, according to a report in the Record of that city. The utter injustice of a divine procedure that would provide for the repentant evil soul as quick an entrance into the land of the blessed as is accorded the spirit of the pure and godly formed the basis of Mr.

Dyer's argument. Almost everybody," he said, " be lieves there is a heaven, but there is a diversity of thought as to when the saved shall reach there. Of course it is evident that the bodies of all the saved will be reunited to their souls at the time of the resurrection for not until then will they have heaven? The Protestant belief is that every soul that does not go to hell goes to heaven at the moment of death. One difficulty about this is that it takes no account of the quality or character of a man's mode of life. A man whose life has been so low and bestial that he barely escapes damnation, according to this theory, goes as surely and quickly to heaven as a man who has lived a careful.

"The ancient belief of God's go neither to heaven nor to hell, but to an intermediate state, a sort of vestibule to heaven, in an antechamber, where their stains will be removed, and where a divine process of purgation is mercifully provided by Almighty God."-New World.

## PERVERTING THE SCRIPTURE

There is classic authority that tion of how holy writ may be perverted to furnish credentials to a Magazine. It may be known to the reader that the creator of Sheriock Holmes has lately given up the investigation of purely mundane the end of time the memory of Himself. The everlasting memorial was not a picture, or a relic that had touched His Sacrad Bedy; it was nothing less than Himself, His Bedy and Blood, Soul and Divinity, under the appearance of bread and wine.

The Holy Eucharist is the censum mation and crowning of all His gifts. It is both Sacrament and sacrifice. Saint Alphoneus tells us that Ged Himself cannot allow an action to be performed which is holier and grander than the Mass. "If there

has been strengthened. It is less their courage with cruelty; yet meet There is no sentiment deeper than his general attitude towards psychic with Carist everywhere—Christ this longing for peace. We pray that mysteries, however, than his retheir all sufficient, everlasting por markable performance in twisting tion, to make up to them, both here the pages of the New Testament to and hereafter, all they suffer, all a modern int interpretation

Most of the readers may be sur-prised to hear that Christ was a great medium, possibly the greatest that ever appeared to connect the inhabitants of this lower with the residents on some higher planet. When Christ groaned as He was about to raise Lazarus to life the spiritualist is not amazed since every medium groans when some particularly difficult task must be performed. As He chose apostles it was not because of the reasons that tradition has handed down, but because He recog-nized that these men were dowered with strong psychic powers which would enable them to continue His spiritualistic ities when He had departed life. When the disciples were gathered in the upper chamber on Pentecost morn they were in accord, that is to say, they had created an atmosphere conducive to and provocative of the coming of the "spirit," a condition which must be created in all those seances where great manifestations occur. The mighty wind and the tongues of fire are only ance of a readable little book of early anticipations of what occurs essays called "From a Convent frequently at the present hour since Tower" written by the Rev. J. G. H.

applications of texts and incidents, culled from the sacred page, by

which one who could not accept the work of God in its purity seeks to sels. But how absurdly "comprehenjustify himself for substituting the sive" that communion must be puerilities of an interpretation which he must know to be false. It is a modern illustration of the words of women and a religion of mere effi-Paul, the handing over to shameful ciency" to socially ambitious busivices those that deny the natural craving implanted in the heart of man. Not possibly in the strictly moral order, but in the intellectual sense, those who rear themselves conceitedly as judges above the powers which Christ constituted to be the authoritative tribunal of interpretation are deprived of the supernatural aids to belief and are the spiritual Communions these condemned to wander in all the Anglican nuns make whenever they silly by paths of discreditable superstitions. One need not be an authority on the much mooted subject of spiritualistic manifest-eventually bring them into the only ations to determine how feeble is the argument which would take simple words of scripture and by extravagant distortion seek to make them bolster a cult with which the wildest flights of imagination cannot connect the references. It is only another case of the wish being father to the thought. For Mr. Doyle supernatural faith has failed that is to say, the faith of his early upbringing. In vanity he identifies himself with the entire Christian body and declares that the faith has failed throughout the world. Inconsistently he accepts the revelation arisen from their graves. But what upon which that faith was reared about the entrance of the souls into and grounded to recommend his latest spiritual meandering, what consolation to himself time will tell, or perhaps another and mora modern religious fad may

#### "THE APOSTOLICAL CHRISTIAN" OF TODAY

In a well known sermon preache two years before he became a Catholic, Newman, it will be remembered, first described by the adriot use of numerous texts from Holy Writ the most striking characteristics of "The Apostolical Christian," namely his piety, his unworldliness and his spirit of joy, and then the preacher, to the astonishment, no doubt, of his Protestant hearers solemnly asked : This model of a Christian, though

not commanding your literal imitation, still is it not the very model which has been fulfilled in others in every age since the New Testament was written? You will ask me in whom? I am loth to say; I have reason to ask you to be honest and candid; for so it is, as if from consciousness of the fact and dislike to have it urged upon us, we and our Satan can quote scripture to his forefathers have been accustomed to own purpose. The latest illustra- scorp and ridicule these faithful, obedient persons, and in Our Saviour's very words, to "cast out false creed is supplied by Conan Doyle in the current Hearst man's sake." But, if the truth must Allenby, be spoken, what are the humble monk, and the holy nun, and other mysteries that he may give his whole attention to the solution of psychic problems. It may also be recalled that this author once proBible? Did Our Saviour come on people, the shepherd who did not fly fessed the faith to which we cling and that his training was received from those educators whom Senator features of the Christians whom He from those educators whom Senator Ashehurst recently praised in the United States Senate as the best teachers in the world—the Fathers of the Society of Jesus. Incidentally in the present article Mr. Doyle pays them the tribute of a laudeter than the tribute of a laudeter than the figure of St. Peril was did the see the features of the Christians whom He and His Apostles left behind them, but in them? Who but these give up home and friends, wealth and ease, good name and liberty of will, for the Kingdom of Heaven? Where

that | they dare, for His Name's sake ?

It was of course the High Anglicans' desire to make Protestantism produce the type of "Apostolical Christian" so beautifully described in the foregoing passage, that has given birth to the various Protestant Episcopal "Religious Congregations" which were started within the past fifty years or so in this country and in England. But consistent Protestants like Dr. McKim and clear-headed churchmen like Bishop Gcre realize that there is no place for Newman's "Apostolical Christian" in the Protestant Episcopal Church of today, a conviction that is strengthened by the issue of the experiments made in from the State twenty years ago, had England by the "Benedictines of Caldey" and in this country by the tions with the State again. "Graymoor Franciscans" to ingraft monasticism and the convent life on he said, "she is an intensely religithe Anglican system. Both communities ended by becoming genuine Catholics.

That American Episcopalians are still striving to make the religious life thrive in their Church is of course a matter of common knowledge, and the fact has been evidenced quite recently by the appear invariably such appearances and preceded by a kind of wind, a disturbance of the air in the meet-chaptain of some exceedingly "High" "Clarge of the Holy Nativity." The author describes the consolations It is needless to follow the several and advantages of the religious life almost in the language that a real Catholic would use, and he gives the "nuns" many valuable ghostly counwhich can offer in the same breath a "Romish" cloister to vow-bound women and a religion of mere effiness men does not appear to strike Dr. Barry at all.

If the "Sisters of the Holy Nativity" really believe that Our Divine Lord is present as God and Man in their convent-chapel and that their souls are shriven by the confessor's "absolution." our Catholic readers should earnestly pray that go to the altar and the acts of perfect Church where the religious life can be safely and prafitably lived, and where Newman's "Apostolical Christian" is a glad reality today.-Amer-

THE LAST HOUR OF THE OLD YEAR

It is certainly a fine old custom this observed in Reme these many centuries of gathering in the chief churches of the Eternal City during the last hour or so of the dying year to chant the Te Deum in thanksgiving for the favors received from the Almighty during the last twelve months. Like most customs in Reme this is one to which the people, rich and poer, in lofty and in modest stations, cling tenaciously; for all flock to perform what their forefathers taught them to be an act which common gratitude demanded from them. Nor do these vast crowds (you can scarcely breathe in the closely packed congregations, even though all are standing,) leave the singing of the grand hymn of St. Ambrose to the clergy and the choir. They take up every alternate ver and singing it right to the end with volume of melody out into the square and the streets. On such occasions one truly realizes that he Sentinel of the Blessed Sacrament.

TRIBUTE TO CARDINAL

DR. CADMAN EXTOLS PRIMATE OF BELGIUM

Dr. S. Parkes Cadman, speaking at the Bedford, New York, Branch of the Y. M. C. A., made the following reference to Cardinal Mercier.

"It is palpable that pames are now carried abread which five years ago were comparatively unknown. Who for example, had then heard of Marshal Foch, Field Marshal Haig Admiral Beatty, Marshal Petain Marshal Joffre, Field Marshal Allenby, Herbert Hoover, General Pershing and Admiral Sims, outside their immediate localities? Cardinal regulars, as they are called but Mercier was known to churchmen of Christians after the very pattern the Roman Catholic and Protestant when the flock was smitten, who manfully withstood a haughty foe that dared not to lay its crimsoned hand on him, defenseless though he seemed to be—who among us knew that Mercier for what he really is? None! No, not even his nearest colleagues and compatriots. He is

DISCUSS POST-WAR RELIGION IN FRANCE

France will be the last nation to go Bolshevik, declared William Graves Sharp, formerly United States Am-bassador to France, speaking at the Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, Manhattan.

'The result of the election held in France, the first since the declara tion of War, may bring most impor tant consequences," Mr. Sharp said. But because of her religious impulses and inherent conservatism. l look for no danger from the radicalism and conservatism.

Mr. Sharp suggested, however, that owing to the valiant work in the War by the priests there was a great ques tion whether the Church, separated

" No matter what is said of France." ous and moral nation. With deep-seated religious convictions France could not have sustained herself during the War. We all know the antipathy felt for the Church before the War, but the bravery of her churchmen has greatly restered the Church in the eyes of the Govern The fires of patriotism and of religion burned as one during the

In line with this, Mr. Sharp cited instance after instance of the religi ous attitude of the great men of France, Marshal Foch, he said. never started a day without worship, whether in Paris or at the front. The same held true of General Castel. nau and members of the Cabinet and the Chamber of Deputies.

Even Premier Clemenceau, who Mr. Sharp said, never had been known for his love of the Church, had occasioned much speculation when on a visit to Alsace in Decem ber, 1918, he heartily returned the embraces of his sister, a nun, on a chance meeting in the street.

The thing that most profoundly impressed him during the entire War Mr. Sharp said, was the worship by men in equal numbers with women in all the churches of France. cure for present day evils, he said, lies in a capitalization of the spirit shown in the cause of liberty and a respiritualization of the masses. -Catholic Standard and Times.

Let us be contented with knowing that there is a reason in everything, which we shall understand one day. Do not let us trouble ourselves with seeking the whys and wherefores, even when it would be easy to find them out. . . Ourselves attached to a certain point of space and of time, we have a mania to try and bring all things to bear upon this particular point—and we are at once both ridiculous and guilty.-Joseph de Maistre.

Ob, fear not in a world like this, And thou shalt know ere long, Know how sublime a thing it is To suffer and be strong.

—Longfellow



A New Boy's Story



# HELD IN THE **EVERGLADES**

Rev. H. S. SPALDING, S.J. Author of "The Cave by the Beech Fork," etc.

12mo, cloth, with frontispiece, \$1.25 postpaid

The story of an American lad, who, unconsciously in his own little way, contributes his bit towards helping Uncle Sam win the war.

The Catholic Record LONDON, CANADA

# The Sacred Heart's Calendar For 1920 Size 11" x 14"

Worthy of occupying a place of honor in each home. De Lux impression in Brown and Gold. Contains Promises of the Sacred Heart to the Blessed Margaret Mary, good thoughts, invocations and several Engravings, Etc.

> By Mail 40c. Special Price in Quantity Address J. P. LAURIN 95 George Street, Ottawa, Ont.





Those suffering from weak ankles will find the "Perfection" of great benefit. Highly recommended by professional skaters. The "Perfection" makes it possible for the weakest ankle to take the ice with ease. Will make a nost acceptable present. Try a Pair yourself. Sold by all leading dealers

Owen Sound Steel Press Works OWEN SOUND ONTARIO