

FIVE-MINUTE SERMON

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

TAKING COURAGE

Sometimes, my brethren, we feel discouraged because we have not kept our good resolutions, and are even ready to say it is better not to make any at all, so often do we break them. I have no doubt there are some listening to me who began the new year courageously and with some sincere promises to God of leading a good life, and have already slipped back into the old bad ways; and now they say, "What was the matter with my good resolutions? I did not mean to lie to God, yet I have not kept my word with Him; I have relapsed; I am as bad as I was before, maybe I am worse. What, then, was the matter with my good resolutions?"

Now, in considering this question let us not get into a panic. God knows us just as we are, and far better than we know ourselves. Therefore He is not so cruel as to hold us strictly to all our promises. "God is true and every man is a liar," says Holy Writ, and our experience of human nature demonstrates that although we are honestly determined to tell the truth, and do tell it, when we promise to God to behave ourselves properly, yet we are very ready at a moment of weakness we may break down, and that is understood when we make our promise. I remember reading of St. Philip, that sometimes on waking in the morning he would say, "O Lord, keep thy hand on Philip to-day or he will betray Thee."

Hence it is a great folly to say, "I do not want to make a promise for fear I could not keep it." That would be good sense if you were going to swear to your promise, or if you were to make a vow. But a promise to attend Sunday Mass, to keep a fast, to abstain from stealing, to be more good natured at home, and the like is a very different matter. In such cases we must shut our eyes and go ahead, and meantime pray hard for God's assistance.

There is such a thing as being too fidgety about the future, looking back too far into it or imagining temptations not likely to come up. Once there was an officer who led an edifying life, and who came to a priest of his acquaintance and informed him that he was in great distress, and feared that he could not persevere. "What is the matter?" said the priest. "Why I know that duelling is a deadly mortal sin; yet if I were challenged to a duel I fear that I should not have the virtue to decline the challenge and suffer the disgrace which would be sure to follow." "But," said the priest, "has any one challenged you or is any one likely to do so?" "Oh, no; not at all; but—" "But what until the temptation comes. You have made up your mind not to commit mortal sin, and when this particular temptation comes God will give you grace to overcome it."

There are three things about which one should make good resolutions rather than about any others: First, the practice of prayer; second, going to confession and Communion; third, avoiding the occasion of sin. The first two fill our souls with God's grace and the third keeps us out of danger. Put all your good resolutions into company with prayer and monthly, or at least quarterly, Communion, and you will find that the difficulties in pulling through. From month to month is not so long a time to keep straight, and a good confession and a worthy Communion is God's best help. Let us keep our resolutions as a mark of predestination to eternal life; keep away from bad company and dangerous places, and avoiding bad reading and all other dangerous occasions, has very much to do with an innocent life and a happy death.

THE CATHOLIC POSITION

"There is one thing," writes Mr. Raymond Blathway (Protestant) in a recent issue of the Reunion Magazine "that the ordinary dissenting minister resents almost more than anything else, and that is the idea that the Roman Catholic priest is not necessarily unpopular with the cultivated man of the world. Disliked himself only too frequently by the majority of the upper classes, it is difficult for him to realize that the priest—the man whom all others hold most in contempt—is nevertheless the man who almost invariably wins both the respect, liking, and admiration of the ordinary travelled man of the world. And this is singularly in evidence throughout the world at large. Where the average dissenting minister is cordially disliked—owing not, I hasten to add, to any misdeed on his part, for, as a rule, the Nonconformist minister is a man of absolutely irreproachable life and character, but rather to some queer intangible crackling of disposition—the ordinary priest of the Roman Church is ever in increasing favor. In, let us say, India, China, Japan, South Africa—the world over, indeed. And this is owing in large extent to the fact that, despite his seminary training, he is a man of the world, which the other is not."

"The Catholic priest is a man of the world with a curious intimate knowledge of human nature. And so, in spite of his 'superstitions' and 'deadly doctrines,' as the dissenting minister contemptuously designates the religious beliefs of the Roman priest, he is almost invariably persona grata with men who possibly do not believe in anything at all, but who are fervid in their admiration of a self-sacrifice and a power of self-denial, a courageous contempt of danger which only rarely indeed to be found in the men of the other side, who are so fond of deifying his whole life and work. In fact, the priest in his daily life is a deal with the world in general is broad-minded, toler-

Never Had It's Equal

Rochester, N. Y., Man Found Something Good in Canada

Mr. Thos. Johnson, whose home is in Rochester, N. Y., is enthusiastic over one Canadian product at least. He says: "While visiting in Millbrook, Ont., I was suffering from a sprained knee, and could get nothing to help me until my father gave me a bottle of Egyptian Liniment, which relieved me in a few minutes. I never had anything to equal it in my life. I am sure if your Liniment was introduced to the people of Rochester it would sell like hot cakes."

Quick work is one of the strong points of Douglas' Egyptian Liniment. It goes right to the spot. It stops bleeding at once. Prevents proud flesh or inflammation and is a positive safeguard against blood-poisoning. It will instantly relieve all kinds of aches and soreness.

25 cents at all druggists. Free sample on request. Douglas and Co., Napanee, Ont.

— and, commensurate; the dissenting minister, as a rule, is not. There are, of course, amongst Nonconforming ministers brilliant exceptions, just as there are mean-minded and ignorant priests; but what I broadly allege holds good as a general rule.

"No one, I suppose, has had a wider personal knowledge and experience of Roman priests, Anglican Bishops and dissenting ministers than I have had, so that after many years I can claim to some accurate knowledge of the subject. The Roman priest, Cardinal, Bishop, or parish priest is almost invariably a suave, delightful man of the world.

"All this by way of preamble to the singularly charming and winning personality of the Archbishop of Westminster, a man who, despite the very lofty position to which he has attained by sheer force of character, uprightness of soul, and charm of manner, is absolutely without any self-conceit or 'side' of any description whatever.

"A man with a broad vision of life, with a keen and vivid realization of the many intricacies of human nature, and with a singular power of sympathy and understanding for other minds and other views than his own. A man of the world, and yet not a worldly man. There is all the difference between the two; a humble: devoted follower of Christ, and yet a man who could not be taken for a single moment.

"The Archbishop's view of religion is an innate natural character, together with no anything else have served to mould his character, and he is to-day. I had a long talk with him one sunny day in June on the condition of Catholicism generally, and particularly in its relation to modern thought, and in other forms of the Christian religion. He was quite simple, sincere, and outspoken in his view of the whole matter.

"I began by asking him what was his idea as to reunion with the Anglican Church. 'Ah!' he said, with a smiling shake of the head, it is very far off, because from our point of view reunion is only possible on condition that the authority of the Holy See is recognized. Now I am quite sure that Lord Halifax would only recognize a sort of primacy of honor in the Holy See, and perhaps a primacy of jurisdiction, but he would not admit that the Holy See was competent to define with absolute authority what is or is not to be believed. That is the difficulty. We believe there is a God, and that God has placed the authority in the Holy See."

"I smiled at the amusing idea of a combination of authority and Anglicanism and rigid rule in our own happy-go-lucky church of England. The Archbishop read my thoughts. 'Ah!' said he, 'Anglicans are not prepared to recognize authority anywhere. They claim liberty, they say. Well, our theory is that authority is perfectly compatible with liberty, otherwise liberty is apt to degenerate into license. I believe that the Catholic Church is a regular Liberty Hall.'

"The unthinking Nonconformist will smile with a sneer at this. But to the ordinary man of the world, whose view of life is often characterized by generosity, there is a vast amount of truth in the Archbishop's statement as regards life in general. There are thousands of dissenters who will condemn for ever a member of their congregation who would venture to drink a glass of beer or smoke a cigarette. Such rigidity of conscience is practically unknown to Catholic circles. However, this by the way.

"Let us hear the Archbishop farther on the matter: 'We have,' he continued, 'a great variety of private devotions, all under authority, but which are not imposed of necessity on anyone. Of course the Modernists deny that we have liberty; I say we have it in plenty in evidence throughout the world. They have devised a system of philosophy which reduces everything to subjectivism. They regard all religious doctrines as so many phases of the general indefinite religious sense that you find in the world. If it is simply a question of study and research in matters in which the Church has not spoken, then immense liberty is left to the individual.'

"There is one thing," said I; "I always want to know of a man in your position, and that is the general attitude of the mind of a man like Father Perry the dissenting minister and astronomer. How does he combine science and faith? Is his mind in bulk-headed compartments, the contents of which can not infiltrate into one another?"

HEAVY DRINKER CURED

Samaria Cured Him and He Helps Others

A man who has been released from the awful cravings of drink, and whose first thought is to help others, shows the spirit of true brotherhood and philanthropy. Read his letter: "The Samaria Remedy Co., Toronto, Ont.:

"Will you please send me book on drink, also circular relating to your valued remedy for the drink habit. I wish to hand these to a friend who is going to take through drink. You will remember that I have taken your remedy, and find that it has helped me. I cannot speak too highly of your wonderful remedy. You may use my name in any way you wish in public."

H. Lilywhite, Bridges, Ont.

Samaria Prescription is tasteless and odorless, and dissolves instantly in tea or coffee, or can be mixed with food. It can be given with or without the patient's knowledge. It removes the craving for drink, but does not the system and restores the nerves. Drink becomes distasteful and even nauseous.

Drink is a disease, not a crime. One drink of whiskey gradually invites another. The inflamed nerves, and stomach create a craving that must either be satisfied by more whiskey or removed by scientific treatment like Samaria Prescription.

Samaria Prescription has been in regular and successful use by physicians and hospitals for over ten years.

If you know of any family needing Samaria Prescription, tell them about it. If you have a busy, familiarizing friend that is drifting into drink, help him save himself. Write to-day.

A FREE TRIAL PACKAGE of Samaria Prescription is sent to you in regular and successful use by physicians and hospitals for over ten years.

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"The Archbishop smiled. I see what you mean, he replied; but I can not see where he would find anything in the teaching of astronomy to run counter to anything he was bound to believe as a Catholic. There is nothing in the ascertained facts of science contrary to definite Catholic teaching, though not infrequently you may have certain scientific hypotheses which appear to conflict with certain representations of Catholic teaching. That is where the shock comes. Father Perry doubtless often said to himself: 'This does not

seem quite to tally with my religious training, but I have seen how difficulties have passed away in the past, and doubtless this will disappear also."

"SLOW, BUT STEADY, INCREASE" — "I am quite sure that Lord Halifax would only recognize a sort of primacy of honor in the Holy See, and perhaps a primacy of jurisdiction, but he would not admit that the Holy See was competent to define with absolute authority what is or is not to be believed. That is the difficulty. We believe there is a God, and that God has placed the authority in the Holy See."

Stop, Madam! Do not throw out that old piece of furniture.

It's marred and the worse of wear, true, but some of your fondest recollections are associated with it. "Lacqueret," the specially prepared Lacquer, will restore its original beauty, concealing the mars and blemishes of wear and tear and making it as good as new. The next best thing to a new suite for any room in the house is a coat of "Lacqueret"—the wonderful furniture renewer.

Our free booklet, "Dainty Decorator," tells the story of "Lacqueret"—the home beautifier. A post-card brings it. Interesting and informing. Write for it to-day.

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SIN AS A JOKE

IT IS ONE, HOWEVER, THAT CLOSES HEAVEN AND FILLS HELL

Brilliant is the great wide "White Way." Thronged with pleasure-seekers, oblivious for the time being of all else. "On with the dance! Fill to the brim the sparkling glass! A merry life, even though it be a short one!" "Dum vicium vicium!" Packed are the theatres, fashionable or plebeian. The more sensual the better they please the animal rabble. Crowded are the saloons. The gambling bells are thronged with the avaricious.

In supposedly reputable mercantile affairs and in politics, dishonesty and graft seem universal. "Business is business!" That's enough to clear the crook. If accused of injustice his reply is a laugh. "They all do it. Business is business, and every man must inevitably render an account to the God of justice and purity is ridiculed as absurd." "Sin? Why, that is only a joke!"

Let us see whether it is or not and on whom the joke is. In general terms sin is a violation of law. To transgress the law of the state is a sin against the public good. Does the state regard the offenses as jokes? If so, the joke is responsible to the taxpayers for the cost of all the judges, all the court officials, all the police, all the prisons, the reformatories and all the criminal trials. These are brought upon us by the jokes of our fellow-citizens.

An official of one of the largest prisons in the nation says that homicidal crimes have increased during the last twenty-five years in the United States four hundred and fifty per cent.; also, that the yearly cost of crime to the taxpayers is \$1,575,000,000. Is it a joke? Upon whom is the joke? Is it anything to be laughed at? No consequence?

Now add to this sum the annual cost of the construction and maintenance of battleships; add the expenses of the regular army and navy; add the annual cost of pensions; then add the support of soldiers' and sailors' homes. These all belong in the account, because they are the cost of wars past and of wars future, both of which must be charged up to somebody's offenses against the state or nation. No sin no war. No war, no military expense. What about the joke?

Now, let us pass to something still more important. What has stated above is only the direct cost of sin. Now, about the indirect. Who but God can compute the cost of lives wrecked and shortened by sin; the cost of ruined homes, of all the sickle-cases caused by violation of God's physical and moral laws, of all that is expended for lawyers, for physicians, for medicines, for hospitals, for insane asylums, for houses of refuge, for infant asylums, for the cost of immoral theatres, saloons, gambling houses, and stock swindlers?

Add to this the extortion of predatory trusts, of cheating business men; add to this the cost of the armies and navies of the nations with whom our people trade and for which the money must be raised by taxation, either direct or indirect.

Isn't sin against the state a great joke? Let us all laugh and enjoy it. Of course, the taxpayer may not see that this joke keeps him poor. That must be a joke, too. Ask him.

THE NORTH AMERICAN LIFE

EXTENDS TO ONE AND ALL BEST WISHES FOR A BRIGHT AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

North American Life Assurance Company "Solid as the Continent" Home Office Toronto

So effective as a glass of good wine. Another remarked: "When my ideas begin to fog, I quit my work and go into company." "And how is it with you, Hayden?" asked one of his companions. "I take to my rosary, which I always carry about me," he answered modestly; "after a few decades I am sure to feel refreshed, both in body and mind."

This answer, made without any pretense of superior virtue, deeply impressed the other composers, who felt that the Queen of Heaven vouchsafed to Hayden's spiritual ear an occasional passage from the sublime music of the celestial dwelling.

Women appreciate the security that an account with this bank offers. The courtesy and attention with which all their dealings are surrounded, added to the perfect safety afforded, makes this an ideal banking house for women.

THE TRADERS BANK OF CANADA CAPITAL AND SURPLUS, \$6,550,000

TOBACCO HABIT Dr. McTaggart's tobacco remedy removes all dependence on the weed in a few days. A vegetable medicine, no hypodermic injections, no publicity, no loss of time from business, and a cure guaranteed.

LIQUOR HABIT Marvellous results from taking his remedy for the liquor habit. Safe and inexpensive home treatment, no hypodermic injections, no publicity, no loss of time from business, and a cure guaranteed.

W. LLOYD WOOD, Toronto, - Canada

worry no more about lightning

Lightning cannot harm any building roofed with Preston Shingles. That we guarantee to you when we sell you this perfected metal roofing. And you can be sure, too, that these shingles, galvanized so they pass the exacting British Government test for galvanized sheet metal, are good for the long years of satisfactory roof-service that you have a right to expect.

why the lock matters so much

PRESTON SAFE-LOCK SHINGLES Branch Office and Factory, Montreal, Que.

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

Now, at the beginning of year, every young man should form the habit of decision. His mind promptly as to course to take in every confronting him and then to foreshorten the road. He should not drift along, and from making decisions, and back after he has once made a decision to the proper course. He should be a coward, a shirker, but a man of positive character, and of resolute will.

THE MAN OF DECISION The man who can make up his mind, on correct principle, it made up, carrying out with a firm will, and a stout heart. He is fit to be a leader. He is fit to be a leader. He is fit to be a leader. He is fit to be a leader.

Season's Greetings THE DIRECTORS and OFFICERS OF THE Mutual Life of Canada

extend hearty greetings to its policyholders and the Canadian public in general, who will be pleased to learn that the present year has been the most successful in this Company's career of 41 years, having written new business amounting to the handsome sum of \$9,250,000, as at December 31st, 1910, and made very substantial progress in all other departments of its business.

Head Office—Waterloo, Ontario

O'KEEFE'S LIQUID EXTRACT OF MALT WITH IRON is an ideal preparation for building up the BLOOD and BODY

W. LLOYD WOOD, Toronto, - Canada

worry no more about lightning

Lightning cannot harm any building roofed with Preston Shingles. That we guarantee to you when we sell you this perfected metal roofing. And you can be sure, too, that these shingles, galvanized so they pass the exacting British Government test for galvanized sheet metal, are good for the long years of satisfactory roof-service that you have a right to expect.

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