

FIVE-MINUTE SERMON

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost.

INJUSTICE.

Know you not, that the unjust shall not possess the kingdom of God? (1 Cor. 6, 9)

The unjust steward of whom we read in the gospel narrative, has many followers. For alas! honesty and integrity—who can deny it?—have become in our times very rare virtues.

take warning and beware of any species of injustice. Sooner cut off our hand than stretch it out for unjust goods.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

A MOTHER'S PRAYER.

It was fearfully hot in the narrow, shabby street in the French Quarter of New Orleans that afternoon in the last days of August.

Pausing before a house that bore one of these inscriptions, he ascended the pair of low steps before the door, and, raising the iron knocker, gave a rap that echoed up and down the street with many reverberations among the floors of the balconies.

It was Madame Forgue herself, stout, and plump, vigorously an enormous palm leaf fan, who opened the door for Raoul.

Presently the whistle was brought to an abrupt conclusion, and seizing the back of a chair, Raoul dragged it out on the balcony and planted it in a corner adjoining the window of the next house.

His thoughts bore him down till he acknowledged, in the loneliness that possessed him, that his sickness for home had befitted him; that he was out of place at home; that, if he could not content himself elsewhere than here, he must be a man without a home.

He would return the morning, he said to himself, unless a night's sleep made a great change in his spirits.

Giving himself a shake to throw off the gloom that oppressed him, he was about to rise from his chair when a voice at his elbow—a woman's voice proceeding from the open window of the adjoining house—pronounced the words of the Salutation of the Angel.

"Do you know why I said that 'Ave Maria'?"

A younger, fresher voice replied: "Because you are good, mother."

"Tut, tut, little flatterer! But of a certainty my soul was enveloped in one great thought of Raoul, and I said it for him," the older voice went on.

that we think about him so often. May your prayers benefit him in my fervent wish.

"Poor, dear darling Raoul," murmured the mother. Her thoughts were reverting to the past—to a past which was a sorrowful and melancholy one.

"Ah, Marie, it pains me to mention it, for it brings painful recollections."

There was silence for a moment, and then the younger voice continued:

"If he had but lived, we would now be at home in Charenton, and you would not be fatigued always with the laundry."

With a cry, Raoul sprang to his feet, and on the railing of the balcony; and with another cry of "Mother! mother!" was at the window of the adjoining house.

It was only on the evening of the following day that Madame Forgue, much alarmed at the long repose of the tenant of her upper room, learned, that her neighbors had gained a son and a brother; her lodger of an hour, a home.

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN.

THE YOUNG MAN IN BUSINESS.

Catholic Columbian. What is business? In the common acceptance of the term we mean by it some form of occupation by which bread is won; or, to refine a little more, a form of occupation which lies apart from the use or cultivation of the aesthetic or purely intellectual faculties.

Now it is evident at once that the great majority of young men must needs find the means of livelihood in commerce or handicraft.

The special faculty that makes the man of letters or the artist is rare. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance to the community that business should be approached in a right spirit, and the more so because we constantly find among young men a tendency to approach it in a wrong spirit.

In the first place, it should be remembered that business is a vocation. It needs special faculties, which, rare as the faculties of the artist or the writer. The highly-trained intellectual acumen, shrewdness, sagacity, power of swift decision, intuitive observation of men, and wide practical knowledge.

He may know nothing of the great academic centers of culture, but just as Browning said that he was educated in the University of Italy, so he may say that he has earned his degree in the University of Experience.

In fact upon this conception of business because I find that among young men it is rare. A youth often takes up some form of commerce merely through the urgency of bread-winning while his heart is really fixed elsewhere.

"I wash my child's head every week with warm water and CUTICURA SOAP, and rub in a little CUTICURA Ointment.

glorious labors because they brought to their labor an ideal. Is there no ideal that can quicken and encourage the business youth also? May not business also be an honorable strife?

If business is to become a vocation, and if a youth is to rise in it, the first thing is to be thoroughly interested in his work.

George Eliot gives us an instant clue to Adam Bede's character, when she paints him as not dropping his tools the moment the clock strikes, as most of his fellow-workmen do.

One day some emergency occurred—I forget quite what it was—let us say that a big bale of goods had to be got off by a given time.

"No, I made it my work, sir," he replied. "I because I knew it ought to be done."

Duty before pleasure, that is the best motto for a business life, as it is for all life. The modern business youth often thinks a great deal more about his pleasures than his duties.

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some intellectual tastes of his own, to have private resources of culture, to ride even some innocent hobby, for by doing so he not only preserves the elasticity of his mind, but he broadens and enriches his whole life.

Finally, we should remember that business may and ought to be penetrated with the religious spirit. It has great temptations for the soul, but also great opportunities for self-discipline and human service.

"The white flower of a blameless life."

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Thorold, Ont., March 6, 1929.

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