SIX

FIVE MINUTE SERMON

BY REV. WILLIAM DEMOUY, D. D.

SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY

THE MASTER'S VINEYARD

At that time Jesus, spoke to His disciples s parable: The kingdom of heaven is lif a householder who went out early in the rning to hire laborers into his vineyard Matt. XX. 1.

It is a kind God who has prepared for man not only a reward but also means adapted for its attainment. He is unlike an earthly householder, for He offers inducements so enticing that man — without injustice to himself—can not reject His call. His appealing voice must strike at the roots of every heart; His kind invitation must impel men's energy to set to work for His cause ; and His outstretched hand must beckon with infallible certainty to the pilgrim of earth. Really the labor that He requires of man is not a labor of toil-it is a labor of pure love, where toil has no recognizable appearance. He is not as an exact. ing master, who requires every unit of labor to be performed for the recompense promised ; nor does He watch with searching, suspicious eye over the laborers in His vineyard—it is rather with a longing desire and an affectionate regard.

brought out beau. This thought is tifully and clearly in the Gospel of this Sunday. God, the Householder, is shown as inviting all classes of men into His vineyard-men who have neglected the yesterday, and men who would be ready to neglect the today. Once He finds that, under the impulse of His inspira tions, they are willing to enter into His vineyard, He hands out to all alike a pleasing invitation. He could have allowed them to stand all been a time when it was clear and occasionally bringing about confuthe day idle, as they were free beings, but His solicitude is that of a father of infinite kindness and boundless love. He can not gaze indifferently and goodness — will triffe with them That the best selling books of our over the creature of His own hands, nor feel uninterested in His welfare. nor feel uninterested in His weifare. His desire is that heaven—the real home of His bliss—be shared by this noblest of the creatures of His hand. His wisdom, and cast aside the wisdom of the world? Why will home of earth

day idle were it not for the enticements and the voice full of love the truth and the way ? of the Master who made him would seem, now since God has endowed man with a soul possessed of such noble faculties and had allowed him to acquire a knowledge of the things of God in the future life, that he would not need much further help from his Creator. But. as in the beginning man fell from grace and integrity, so now he is no different; and the same God of mercy who could have annihilated primal man and woman, but spared them and allowed them to prepare if they are but frequently repeated, for a reward in the future, now con- induce action. At the beginning of tinues to have mercy upon man sinning in similar ways and greater de-The sin of man at present is would be quite impossible to sell worse than that of man be- bonds in the immense quantities degrees. much tore God had fulfilled His prophecies manded for war purposes, because and promises by giving His Divine the people of this country generally Son. The path has been laid out were not bond buyere. An advertis-plainly, the presence of the dangers ing campaign was launched, however, made more clear, and the possibility with organized popular suggestion, of eternal disaster without God's and, as a consequence of slogans fresustaining hand has been pointed out quently repeated, every bond issue to ali. Graces are more abundant. put out by the United States Govern In fact, the infinite merits of the ment was largely oversubscribed. If cross can come to man, if he but we changed the people of this counprepares for them bringing to him try from a non-bond buying nation the strength and fortitude necessary to follow the path of virtue - the absorbing not only the immense

ever attending man, and the great issues, both domestic and foreign, it ireasure house of graces open to him, looks as though we might, by suffistill God's solicitude is extraordin-ary. We can not even compare God's nation a buyer of books. Indeed, love for us with the love of a father | there has already been a determined for his children. It is far too superior to it, and can be called by only

satisfactions -

1 .

alleviate plentifully the sufferings of collections of series of cartoons poorer humanity-but how little of which appear on the back pages of this does he really do? / Mammon the afternoon papers and form such demands of a man selfishness. It is but an angel of the satanic house that delights not in what man gives himself, but in that of which man deprives God, while thinking he is gaining much for himself. Money after all, is dunzb. What other idol could be set up except one without feeling, without hearing, without

sight, without intelligence ? Another great idol that man has Another great into that that has be doubled by be able to be doubled by because of practical jokes of Lincoln had actually read only half a is used by because of practical jokes of dozen books before he was twenty idol of wordliness. This is more the god of the young than of his elders. The child's greatest ambition today is not that it may rise at the embrace from under him or to hit him over something happen to him that is it may swoon in the pleasures of a world shifting toward materialism. physically painful and carries mental confusion with it at the same time. The little knowledge that it is inclined to gain will not reach beyond the things that we see and hear, and writer who said once, I believe, Tell me what you laugh at and I so it wishes to dwell only in things beneath the skies; and after all, where the mind dwells, there is the will tell you what sort of a man you are." Certainly the things that our body too. Thus it is that we see generation laughs at are quite un-worthy of the fact that the definition thousands of young people offering the best and freshest days of their Man is a risible animal," was prolives at the shrines of Dame Fashion claimed by the old philosophers to be or the god of show. Parents seem a good definition of the human being. to be carried on by the same tide. We are the only animals that laugh

They appear inclined to think that the children of the present general rational animals and can reason tion do not need the restraint and about things that enables us to guidance of those of the ages when laugh. It is because of that that we faith was more alive. Why ?-it may be asked. And we answer that can see the unreasonableness and incongruities of many things which it is because they, too, are frequent worshippers before the idols of uncause the risibilities to be active, but the laughter provoked by practical righteousness.

Will the day ever come when all these people will heed the voice which the animals indulge in so con-of the Master calling them to labor stantly with each other when they resonant, but they were deaf to sion of behavior because of the conlonger? What an insult to His mejesty, to His divine omnipotence, sellers in our generation, are crude pictures of practical jokes, is then a reflection on our risibility and rationality, that is not flattering to self. esteem, to say the least. Most of the other best sellers, as I Sinful man would stand all the blind them, and not look to the rays of God's wisdom for light to see have said, are almost as objectionable

BETTER BOOKS IN THE HOME

There has just been a "campaign on," to use the expression that became so familiar during the War, with the slogan "More books in the home." The idea is to supply books particularly for children. We have come to realize how much slogans, the War even the great bankers of the United States declared that it comes in contact that they are quite literally at her feet and of course would not harm her for the world. Chey may occasionally be an arch villain who may try to harm her, but she will be protected by her adorers. There should usually be at least three of these, until she has made up her mind which one she will marry and then of course when they get married they will live happily ever after." Written according to this formula, books will sell, for young into one that proved capable of women are the principal readers and path that leads to glory. However, even with all these helps offered, but any number of bond

this fact Of course, some of the best sellers are founded on sentimental gush. effort for that purpose. Since the campaign is likely to have a favorable response, it is failure in life and perhaps a crimdren. Man shows his baseness and his ingratitude by frequently re-jecting the offers of his kind Father, and shutting his heart to the recep "Better books for the lifts the man out of the wicked paths independence of man has in many cases reached a stage where it is absolute defiance, and the sovereignty of the free that books are just books, and that it must be beneficial to read of the free that books are just books, and respected member of society. enables him to become a respectable and glittering mass. The gold soft and respected member of society. Anything more untrue to life as it is, if viewed from a human standpoint. The clear notes of His voice have been hushed by the cry of the modern notions especially in regard to the satety of the young woman, provided ly harmful and even more of them she is handsome. which though lacking vicious qualities are negatively pernicious be-All the books emphasize that older people are as a rule very foolish in-dividuals who having been disappointed in life are now deeply intent on making life a disappointment for others. Some of them only mis understand but most of them are represented as actually conspiring to keep young men and women from opportunities for happiness because their own chances in that direction

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

of the readers. Shall we have more books in the It is a striking feature of the colored suphome then? Surely not more of plaments of the Sunday editions. "Bringing up Father," "Training "Bringing up Father," "Training Uncle John," "Silly Billy and His Antics," "Keeping up with the Smiths," and other such titles greet work itself into action is not more work itself into action is not more books, but better books. There are one from all the newsstands, department store windows, and vender's too many trivial books now. Half a its foot upon the merchant marines packs. The art in these is almost undown dozen great books read over and and the commerce of the world. And over again would provide real educa-tion and development of mind. speakable, the jokes are so old as to be doddering and the laughter evoked

joke in a series cartoon to squirt and on account of his very busy life water on a man or to pull a chair he secured comparatively little chance for reading afterwards, and of the Father of heaven, but that the head with a club or to have yet this half a dozen books made him one of the best writers of English in the history of the language onfusion with it at the same time. It was a great French philosophic greatest thinkers of the ninetcenth sions and a tightening of the money century. It would be much better market. Then it is that you will to have half a dozen good books in find thousands of people who will, any home in the country than half a cause themselves and others a great million trivial books.

Feople are now making New Year's resolutions. I sincerely hope that tions and their growling behavior these will contain something very Prominent among such growlers are definite with regard to the securing oftentimes people in good and com of better books for the homes of this country. There is a very definite quiry and find out for yourself. purpose on the part of book publishers to increase their sales, but it making a living, and with some remains for people themselves to see reluctance and much besitation they that the increase does good and not will say, "Yes." With them it is not harm to the rising generation. The so much a question of making a live-intensive book making of our time is, lihood as it is a question of making as a matter of fact, doing ever so as much money as they would like to much more harm than good. Publish-er's announcements are constantly three thousand dollars in the bank ; jokes has no relation to reason at all. It partakes much more of that play telling us of the greatness of their but they would like to have five recent publications, especially in thousand. They are earning a wage fiction, but most of the books for elaborately announced in superla tives have but a passing vogue and soon disappear from the bookseller's bank account by honorable and just shelves as well as from the advertis. means is indeed praiseworthy ; but ing pages. As has been very well this everlasting grumbling breaks said: "They were born yesterday, but, thank God, they will be dead them do so merely to kill time time eventsting grunning breaks down the courage of others and public confidence in general. It is true, thousande of men and women are out of employment, facing povtime, for they are literally the best them

tion of mind from just that much decent living? Undoubtedly it is the useless dulling vacuity. A favorite form of announcement by certain of the "get rich quick" method at the the publishers is that some partic-expense and suffering of the poorer ular volume is "the kind of book that makes you forget." Most of us want not be such a bad idea after all if tocultivate our memories and not forgetfulness. For those who feel that would spend a little less time in way it is surely not a question of rounding up the elackers and spend a more books in the home, but better little more time in rounding up the books in the home.

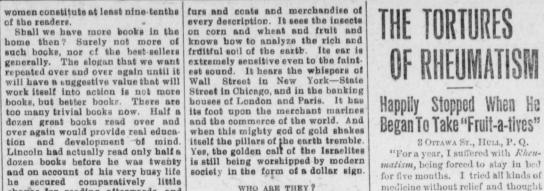
many things. It leaves them no not the courage to fight for their time for thought. Thus has been called "the age of the child," but most of us older people would country.

agree with Agnes Repplier in thank. ing God that we were not brought up in any such age. We had fewer books but they were better. Surely the best New Year's resolution that could be taken by parents would be to see that their children had fewer, but better book .- James J. Walsh, M. D. Ph. D., in America.

"MY CANADA"

AS CANADA'S NATIONAL WEEKLY \$10.00 CASH PRIZE

large advertisement of Chas. C. Nixon and Associates, publishers. See page what really belongs to Him, and three this issue of The Catholic they know that the young woman is the most important being in the offered for the best letter received force not only what we kept back world, but unfortunately those favoring "My Canada" as the most from Him, but a good deal more and altogether suitable name for besides. He takes it by means of any



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GOD IS "PART-OWNER"

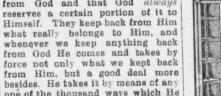
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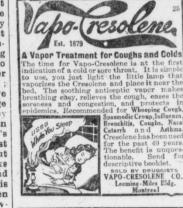
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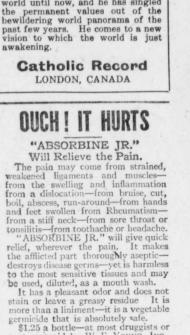
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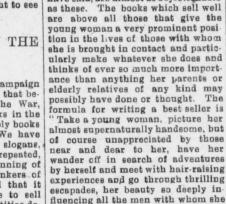






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tion of His sanctified benefits. The home, but of the Creator has been desecrated, anything that is printed, especially gods that men have set up for them- great many books which are positiveselves. These hideous works of the creature offer certain joys, certain but they are only of the moment, and the trail they leave behind them is one of disgrace. They can do nothing to build up faculty for attention and dull that

They can be not any to be a straightforwardness in the heart of man, but they fill him with the rottenness of the demons. Yet, with all these lessons, which surely must be apparent to ment is like whittling with a razor every reasonable mind, man will for fun. It is hard on the next one continue to offer incense to these who tries to shave with a razor.

abors. Not a day can pass but he must approach the foot of the pedes tal on which they stand and at the tal on which they stand, and pledge time are made merely to sell, with out any thought of good and indeed to them bis allegiance.

What are these gods that man has erected to receive his homage — knowledge that they will do harm. are many and varied. One of the greatest and most conspicuous is money. Never before as today, nor perhaps ever in the history of the world, did man bend his knees so willingly to Mammon as at the present day. He is devoting all the powers of his mind, putting to ex-tremes every energy of his body, and sacrificing willingly the dictates of conscience, to worstlip at this shrine. In return he is given many things, but in the majority of cases they are things of earth. He could turn are many and varied. One of the scruple in the matter, apparently, He could turn indulgence in trivial reading brings

are over. Nothing could well be less desir able than such books. They are not literature in any sense of the word,

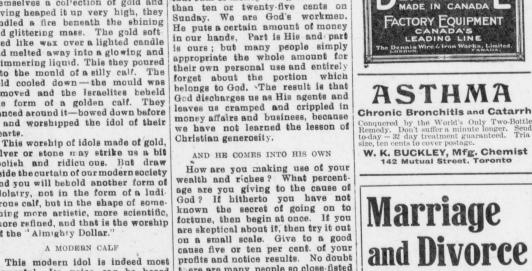
for literature must be a presentation of human life, a study of human ways has erected to receive his homage — knowledge that they will do harm. and human motives. These are nay, all the works of his life ? They Writers and publishers are without books written so as to present as

GOLD WORSHIP

the cause of God and religion. Many earn perhaps fifty or one hundred and fifty dollars a month and out of that sum of money God gets no more having heaped it up very high, they shimmering liquid. This they poured The gold cooled down-the mould was removed and the Israelites beheld the form of a golden calf. They danced around it-bowed down before it and worshipped the idol of their hearts.

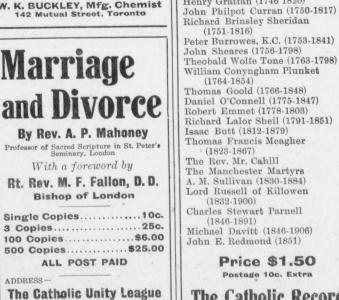
This worship of idols made of gold, silver or stone may strike us a bit foolish and ridicu ous. But draw aside the curtain of our modern society and you will behold another form of idolatry, not in the form of a ludi-crous calf, but in the shape of something more artistic, more scientific, more refined, and that is the worship of the "Almighty Dollar."

powerful. Its voice can be heard there are many people so close fisted across the vast Atlantic and Pacific that they withhold every penny of powerful. Its voice can be heard o the uttermost parts of the Its heart is, at times, soft God and in spite of it prosper and even to the uttermost parts of the books written so as to present as many stirring incidents as possible in order to keep up the excitement but with the young woman in the center of the stage all the time, Whether they are detective stories, or stories of effete royalty in some without feeling-hard as adamant, imaginary country in Europe, or wild west stories, the girlit is but counts. Girl readers want t) read about girls causing bloodshed and strife—starva. portion as they can put themselves in the place of the prominent char-acters in the novil which they are



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