FIVE-MINUTE SERMONS.

Palm Sunday.

HARDNESS OF HEART. To day if you shall hear His voice, harden not

These words, my dear brethren, are taken from the beginning of the office recited by the clergy on this and the following days, up to Holy Thursday. following days, up to Holy Thursday. They entreat us not to let this time, precious above all others, to go by without making the use of it which our Lord means that we should make; not to let Him show His love for us without

giving Him love in return.
"Harden not your hearts." How is it that we harden our hearts? It is by it that we harden our hearts? It is by clingpatting off our repentance; by clinging to the world and its pleasures, to the gratification of our sinful passions, and waiting for some time to come when it will be more convenient to urges we can avail ourselves of the one that happens to be then within our reach as easily as we could have done

of the many that went by long ago. But, my brethren, this is a great and a terrible mistake. It may be, indeed, a terrible mistake. It may be, indeed, that God in His goodness and mercy has many graces yet in store for us equal in themselves to those which we neglected the past ones they will not be his studies. the same for us as those were which the same for us as those were which went before. A word of warning, a single prayer, the sight of the crucifix or of our Blessed Mother, a pious picture, an Agnus Dei, is enough to move the innocent soul of a child to the love of God, the most powerful mission. of God; the most powerful mission-ser-mon often fails to make any impression It is not the grace that is wanting on God's part. No, He is there in His power; His arm is not shortened; He is still mighty to save. But His voice seems to the deaf ear of the sinner faint and indistinct; His message is the same old story; Yes, it is the same old story; The same of the same old story; The same of the same old story; The same of the same old story; The same old stor on one who has spent his life in sin. old story. Yes, it is the same old story; it must be the same, for there is but one. There is but one name under heaven whereby we can be saved; only one Gospel which we can preach, and

Then—most dangerous delusion of all—he comforts himself with the hope that at least he will die in the grace of God: that somehow or other he will, as he passes from life to death, be brought from death to life. He forgets that the sacraments were not given to give repentance to the sinner; no, they have for their object to give pardon and grace to those who have repented, Do you think it is of the slightest use to anoint with oil the senses of a man who lies unconscious, and who has not, while he had the use of his mind, turned really and truly away in his heart from his sinful life? The priest does it, indeed, in hopes that he may have repented abut how faint is that hope for those who have suddenly been stricken down! And even if there is more time, even but He is not bound to do so; and if the ordinary ones have failed before they

nav also fail now. Yes, my brethren, now is the timea better time than your last hour. Now in this Passion season the Precious Blood of Christ is flowing more freely come now and make the most of the help so abundantly given you in these holy days. Harden not your hearts any longer; it is a dangerous game to

A good story, which some of our readers may not have read, is told of a ery prominent saint and one who has been always held up by the Church as a model for youth. This model was no a model for youth. other than the great St. Aloysius who died in the Jesuit Order and in the odor of sanctity before he reached manhood. One day, while his class mates were enjoying themselves at recreation in the college grounds, the question went around among them as to what they would wish to be caught doing if an angel from heaven were just then sent down to summon them to judg-One said he would like to be caught saying his prayers. Another said he would like to be attending the holy sacrifice of the Mass. Still an er said he would like to be in the act of receiving Holy Communion; and so it went around until it came to St. Aloysius' turn to speak. His remark was that if the angel of God came to call him then and there, he would not want to go to the church, nor to kneel down and pray, but he would simply wish to continue enjoying his recreaon, for thereby he was performing an act of obedience to the rule, and consequently doing the will of God. There's the secret—doing the will of God. The will of God caps all .- Catholic Youth.

Other sufferers from cold in the head and catarrh have been promptly cured, why not you? Capt. D. H. Lyon, manager and proprietor of the C. P. R. and R. W. & O. Car ferry, Prescott, Ont., says: I used Nasal Balm for a prolonged case of cold in the head. Two applications effected a complete cure in less than 24 hours. I would not take \$100 for my bottle of Nasal Balm if I could not replace it.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

Companionship

Who shall estimate the value of an inspiring and helpful companionship to a young man or a young woman? St. Augustine well said, "Bad company is like a nail driven into a post, which after the first or second blow may be drawn out with little difficulty, but being once driven up to the head, the princers cannot take hold to draw it out, but which can only be done by the destruction of the wood.'

Parents cannot watch too carefully the companionships of their children. Character is like the most delicate flower, easily injured, but beautiful

Famous Country Boys. Nearly three-fourths of the men of when it will be more convenient to give them up, or when we shall feel more strongly moved to do so. We think that this will surely come, that the stream of God's graces will be uninterrupted, and that when necessity interrupted, and that when necessity we can avail ourselves of the the United States who have become Blaine and many others almost equally conspicuous in current events or living

memory. W. H. Vanderbilt was born in a small New Jersey town. Russell Sage was born in a New York village. Jay Gould spent his early years on his father's farm in New York State. Whittier and Howells spent their youth in villages, the former spending his have had; but if we have despised and time between farm employment and

Little Sins.

There are two ways of coming down from the top of the church steeple One is to jump down, and the other is to come down by the steps; but both will lead you to the bottom. So, also there are two ways of going to perdi-One is to walk into it with your

-and your course will be regularly worse every year. Well did Jeremy Taylor describe the progress of sin in a man: "First it startles him, then it the sinner has heard it so often with delightful, then frequent, then condifference that its interest is gone.

Then—most dangerous delusion of firmed. Then the man is impenitent, then obstinate, and then he is damned. Young reader! the devil only wants to get the wedge of a little allowed sin into your heart, and then you will soon be all his own. Never play with the fire—never trifle with little sins.

How Claus Kept Guard.

The Rhine had arisen and flooded a little village on its banks. It was a sad sight. Cheerful homes were suddenly broken up. The comfortable hearth was made wet aud cold by the rushing waters. People might be seen in all directions, running, carrying children, clothes, furniture, and many poor families saw all they possessed destroyed by the waters.

To make matters worse, Father which has all its life loved and clung to its sins, will now love God and hate sin? God's mercy is great, it is true; He may now give extraordinary great. need of his advice and consolation.
In the confusion, many children were separated from their parents, and among them little Claus. But he was among them little Claus. not missed, as his father thought him

safe with some of the neighbors.

The village church, which stood on higher ground, was the only building for you than you can expect ever to find it again. Listen to His voice now; do not wait till it becomes fainter. If you have not spent Lent well so far, beautiful Stations of the Cross, and of the new altar, which, in all probabil-

lty, would be ruined. But no one seemed to remember that Father Jasper alone had the key of the tabernacle. Little Clans thought

of lt. however.

"Surely," he said to himself, "some one ought to watch in the church until Father Jasper can come to take our dear Lord away. It is not right that He who loves us so much should be left

And so this thoughtful boy made his way to the church. The steps were already under water, but he splashed through, crept inside, and nestled close up to the railing of the sanctuary.

It was growing dark, but Claus was not afraid. A glow of rich crimson fell on him from the cloak of St. Joseph in the stained glass window, and dear St. Nicholas seemed as if blessing him. The shouts and cries outside told him that the river was rising higher, and presently the water came silently trickling over the floor of the church, and Claus crept inside the sanctuary. Then the noise without grew louder the high doors of the church were burst open by floating timber, and Claus could see before him the ever-moving water and the twinklings of far off

lights. But it never occurred to Claus that he might die there. In fact, he did not think of what might happen. He was there, and it was his duty to stay there. He could not leave the Blessed Sacrament alone. As it reached the fourth step of the pulpit stair, and Claus was driven to the highest altar step, the brave little fellow wondered why Father Jasper did not come. If he did not soon arrive the water would put out the red light of the sanctuary lamp, but "no," Claus said to himself, "that would not happen—if such a

Messrs. Stott & Jury, Chemists, Bowmanjille, write: "We would direct attention to
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namerous customers. All the preparations
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Friend."

"that would not happen angels themselves would relight it."

Clust took out his rosary and began
his prayers. Why did every one leave
Our Lord in darkness? Why was he
alone? Why the flaxen head drooped
lower and lower, until it sank against

the white and gold corner of the altar,

water was going down: he waded up the central aisle to the high altar, and thanked God in his heart that the red fight still burned. He mounted the alter steps and opened the tabernacle. He turned with the Blessed Sacrament safe in his consecrated hands, and was about to do down to leave the church about to do down to leave the church about to do down to leave the church are the safe in his consecrated hands, and was about a week after Easter. L. D— was taking his after-dinner nap—a most important duty, in his opinion—when he was interrupted by his servant, who asked if he would receive the parish priest.

Had she announced a visit from the about to do down to leave the church

against the corner of the altar.

He uttered an exclamation of surprise and stooped down. As he did so, the boy opened his eyes: "OFather!" he exclaimed, "I have waited for you so long. I was afraid our dear Lord.

Indicassonished, or the General of the General of the Caused for the Country of the Caused for the Country of the Caused for the Caused would be lonely."

"Father 18 in the part would be lonely."

"Pat him out of doors!"

"Put him out of doors!"

"And so you formed yourself into a guard of Honor for His protection," said the priest; "surely He will not forget it, my child, and as you have watched over Him, so may He watch over you.

GOOD THOUGHTS.

The weight of the fear of God is the anchor of our soul.—St. Gregory. Hope the best, get ready for the worst, and take what God sends.

No man may bargain for his future. Reason will teach him this.

To day for duty, the morrow is, as vet. a dream. Our Lord is very kind, and very

faithful. He never abandons those who trust in Him. -St. Teresa.

cheat. If the love of God burns in your

The education of the heart cannot be effected by a few minutes' daily training. Christian doctrine and Christian morality must permeate the school room.—Catholic Herald.

God regards the motive and not the

of our own abjection as an assured re- After some time spent in the priest fuge against the continual movements little house, he was taken of our unhappy inclination to pride. - St. Vincent de Paul.

appetites and satisfying our inclinations. -St. Teresa.

No one should trust himself too much, even though he has attained to

The web of our life is of a mingled yarn, good and ill together. Our virtues would be proud if our faults whipped them not, and our crimes would despair if they were not cher-

sealed seven times. He gave according to his promise.—Cardinal Man-

To know others is the only way to know ourselves. To find other men and women better and nobler than we,

A Priest-Hater Cured.

the white and gold corner of the altar, and all was silent except the swash of the waters over the marble floor and against the walls.

In the meantime, Father Jesper had reached the hill where his parishioners were collected. There was much grief there, and Claus' parents were more sorrowful than the rest, for their little boy was missing. The flood had begun to subside some hours before, and the good priest, after saying a few words of comfort and hope, made his way in a boat to the church. The water was going down: he waded up the central aisle to the high altar, and

safe in his consecrated hands, and was about to do down to leave the church when he noticed a little figure leaning the alternative actions of the alternative could not have been more astonished, or the General of the little could not have caused more

Then he thought better of it, his curiosity overcoming his aversion.

"Go," he said, "and bring in the fellow; but remember, he is to be watched and ordered out soon, as issassination is easily committed, and that is his errand."

The "fellow" proved to be an old

white-haired man, with a mild, kind face. In salutation, he said simply that he had been asked by an unknown person to restore to Mr. D—— the sum of \$500.00, as conscience money. Such an unexpected gift is bound to produce pleasure, especially when one s not rich.

For a moment he was stupefied His religious understanding had not been properly developed nor was his knowledge of Catholic belief much to boast of. What he saw was an act of They who put off their conversion superior delicacy in a totally disinter to their dying hour will find death a ested person; to a Catholic it was a mere matter of confession, necessary restitution and some direction on the heart, you will understand that to part of the confessor. The priest suffer for God is a joy to which all explained what seemed so marvellous earthly pleasures are not to be compared.—St. Ignatius. were made clear. He said that he could never doubt again that the clergy in general taught sound morality, but he had, he confessed, taken

the priest to be one of Jesuits. The Father smiled, saving that it God regards the motive and not the action. It is not the importance of the action that He considers, but the explanation that He considers, but the explanation which promotes the intention which promotes the consideration to the priest. In short, when they cellence of the intention which prompts it.—St. Gregory the Great.

other priest.

separated they were charmed with each other. In a few days the priest. Let us recur frequently to the love hater returned the visit he had received. garden and, as both were amateur orists, it seemed a little paradise It is impossible that we should enjoy the blessing which Jesus Christ has acquired for us as the price of His Blood, while we are following our bed of sweet-peas. His liking and bed of sweet-peas. His liking and admiration for the Father could not be restrained. So commenced a strong and lasting friendship. From time to time the old man has

is no place so remote, no solitude so retired that the devil may not enter.—St. Teresa.

himself that at the next severe twinge he will ask his good friend to hear his confession; it will be a long one, we are sure, and a singer are sure. an attack of the gout and promises re sure, and a sincere one let us hope

- Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart.

The Sanctuary of the Mind.

They who are not of the unity of the Church do not believe in the intercession of Mary, because they have never made trial of it. But the whole Church is pervaded by a consciousness of her love and power now, as it was in the beginning. — Cardinal Manning.

No man year. At the top of his mind the devout giving alms; no man was ever yet made poor by holy prodigality; for by the act in which he improved that it is solution. the act in which he impoverished himself he laid God under the pledge, sealed soven these. He was the pledge, sealed soven these. He was the pledge, lowed, he gathers his continues the pledge, sealed soven these. and comes away from the worshipful intercourse, serious, serene, glad and strong.

MEDICAL HINTS. Cure for Dyspepsia.

and women better and nobler than we, will teach us humility; to find them poorer in worldly goods, harder natured, more encompassed with difficulties and perplexities, will teach us pitifulness, toleration, forboarance.

Every man has his own vocation. There is one direction in which all space is open to him. He has faculties silently inviting him thither to silent exertion. He is like a ship in a river; he runs against obstructions on every side but one; on that side all is taken away, and he sxeeps screnely over a deepening channel into an infinite sea.

At Home and Abroad.

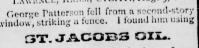
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