### FIVE MINUTE SERMON

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PREPARE FOR JUDGMENT

Pray that your flight be not in the winter, e Sabbath. (Matt. xxiv, 20) The Gospel of to day may be interrne Gospel of to day may be interpreted in several ways. Some see in it a reference to the destruction of the city of Jerusalem. Others believe the last judgment is meant and still others interpret it as alluding to the hour of death. The words of Christ. "Pray that your dight has of Christ: "Pray that your flight be not in the winter, or on the Sabbath," are by some believed to admonish the sinner not to defer his penance un til the winter of life, i. e., until old age, and not until the Sabbath, i. e. until the end of life. And this inter-

until the end of life. And this interpretation of our Saviour's words I would dwell upon to-day.

We have in King Pharao an example worthy of consideration.

Moses and Aaron had often exhorted him to give heed to the command of the Lord to let the Israelites depart from this land. He refused until the various plagues sent over him various plagues sent over him his people compelled him to parted when Pharao regretted having given them leave to go and he set after them and overtook them in the Red Sea, which by the will of God, had divided its waters, to let the Israelites pass through. When Pharoa and his soldiers ventured in to the passage made by the waters, the sea closed over them, and they were buried in the water, and they were buried in the water, and not one escaped. This is the fate of many a sinner, who perseveres in re-fusing obedience to God, who defers his penance from day to day, who assures himself there will be plenty of time in his old age to escape the wrath of God. Suddenly death or sickness overtakes him and gives him no opportunity to make his peace with God. When he beging to realize that he has several realize that he has served false gods, the waters of eternity fall over him as an unrepentant sinner

in eternal destruction.
You are perhaps shocked at these severe words, and you may say: The thief on the cross was pardoned and shall this grace be refused to me. if I desire to repent at the end of my life? True, the Lord is merciful and no one must ever despair, but remember that the thief on the cross had not known Christ as the Son of God, and as soon as he did, he re-pented of his sins and begged for mercy. You however, have known Him from your youth and you have often heard the call of His grace, you have often been admonished through your confessor, your parents, to leave the path of sin and repent, but you have paid no attention, you have lived on carelessly in your sins; have you then even as much right as had the thief to expect at the end of your life the mercy which a whole life long you have despised? Have you not made yourself unworthy of it by your godless life in the past? If during your life you have seldom examined your conscience, seldom kept good resolutions, do you expect ke up what you have neglected at a time when you are deadly sick, when your senses have become dulled and weakened? Will the contrition then be sincere, or will it be a contrition into which the fear of death scares you, rather than

the love of God? Of the ten virgins who took their lamps and went forward to meet the lamps and went forward to meet the bridegroom, five only were admitted to the feast; to the other five the bridegroom said: "I know you not." But did not Christ say: "Ask, and it But did not Christ say: "Ask, and it Mr. Poynter, for three years Understreet and Westminster." shall be given you; seek and you shall Sheriff of find; knock and it shall be opened to made the following declaration be you," and has He not assured us:
"Heaven and earth shall pass, but My
words shall not pass" (Matt. xxiv, 35)
"I have long been in the habit of why then, were these virgins, who had burning lamps, not admitted to the feast? Because they had filled their lamps with oil only after the briderocom comes these case they had form. This evil lies at the root bridegroom came; therefore, they were too late; the other five were where. Nearly all the convicts for ready and went into the feast. This is the fate of those who never think have admitted themselves to have of penance and conversion during their lives. If they expect to do their penance in their last hour, they may perhaps share the fate of the foolish virgins, to whom the Lord Said: "I know you not." Let us, therefore, my dear Christians, not defer our penance, so that death may not overtake us at a time when we least expect it, and when we are not prepared. Let us battle now against the enemy of our salvation so that in our last severe struggle we may be prepared to win the vic-tory and gain the crown of eternal life. Amen.

### TEMPERANCE

THE CHIEF CAUSE OF CRIME AND DISEASE

Alcohol and crime, alcohol and poverty, alcohol and lunacy, alcohol and disease, have such strong cor-relations to each other, that the prevention and cure of alcoholism have occupied and must necessarily occupy the attention and social reformers (of every shade of opinion), scientific (of every shade of opinion), scientific workers, and distinguished states-men, says Rev. W. J. Mulcahy, in an article on "Alcoholism" in The Irish Ecclesiastical Record. He lays bare the ravages of this dread disease, (for disease he calls it), not only on the sufferer, but on his children and his children's children. But while cutting deep to the source of the suffering writes the Rev. Father Mulcahy, with the true priestly sympathy for the erring sufferer.

The following is a condensation of

his article :

The recognition of the evils to which alcoholism gives rise, and of which the preceding are indeed a small percentage, has likewise not small percentage, has likewise not been confined to any particular coun-try or people; in all lands the dire effects on the race that follow in its wake have become more widely and clearly realized.

DRINK AND CRIME

Speaking of two classes of criminals, viz., those of occasion and re-cidivists, Dr. Von Hælder says :

"Criminals of occasion are those who become so from levity, passion, imprudence, unfavorable surroundings, and, above all, drink." According ing to Dr. Bauer, an eminent authority 70 per cent. of all crime come from alcohol. And this estimate, according to more modern statistics, as we shall just see, is rather below

than above the reality.

At the recent sessions of the American Society for the Study of Alcohol and other Drug Narcotics, it was de-clared that "the alcohol problem is more important than the tuberculosis problem, because it causes the loss of more lives and of more money." The civilized world stood aghast at the ravages of the white plague. In a single year 200,000 Americans had fallen victims to this dread disease. while throughout the world 15,000,-000 persons were claimed by the same grim hand. Its cost to the United States alone was estimated at \$240,000,000 per annum. Astounding and incredible as are these enormous figures, they are only surpassed by those of that other and more terrible alcoholism.

Nor do I exaggerate. The learned Society just quoted showed me that alcohol costs the United States an \$2,000,000,000, and causes nually more than 10 per cent. of all the deaths in the country. Nor is this all. The latest results of a critical study of the effects of alcohol show that the record of its evil is appalling The testimony of prison chaplains of wardens, sheriffs, and judges of the criminal courts, warrants the assertion that from 80 to 90 per cent of crime is directly or indirectly traceable to the use of intoxicating liquors. "Ninety per cent. of the women arrested," says May S. Moloney, in the Philadelphia North American, "owe their trouble to drink.'

ALLY OF DIVORCE EVIL

Divorce is undermining the social fabric in the United States, and its attendant and consequent evils of immorality and infidelity are dethroning God in the hearts of men, and like a plague, devastating society And it is stated on the same unquestionable authority that "alcohol was the direct cause of divorce in 36,516 in the twenty years covered by the government report, and indirectly, with other causes, of 54,281 cases." Since that report was issued, divorce, we are told, has alarmingly increased, and to such an extent that the courts are obliged to create new hands expedite the legalized adultery, and so too has increased its causation.

Cardinal Farley, in an interview with a reporter of the Chicago Daily News, recently stated that there had been about 100,000 divorces in the United States in a year. And what is true of America true of England. "I am firmly con-vinced that if drink were eradicated this Court (the Divorce Court) might shut its doors, at any rate for the greater part of the time. Half the suicides and two thirds of the

murder with whom I have conversed

twenty years (says Judge Hales) I have found that if the murders and man-slaughters, the burglaries and robberies, and riots and tumults, the adulteries, fornications, rapes and other great enormities that have happened in that time, were divided into five parts four of them have been the issues and products of excessive drinking-of tavern and ale-

house meetings."

In Sweden the connection between alcohol and crime has been the subject of State investigation, and it was found that of 24,398 prisoners who were sentenced during the decade of 1887-97, 17,874 attributed their crime to drink; this number gives the proportion of 71.2 per cent. Similarly, in Massachusetts it was found that of 26.672 persons arrested in one year, from August, 1904, to August, 1905, 17,575 were guilty of drunkenness alone, 657 of drunken ness joined with some other offence of the remaining 8,440, 43 per cent. were more or less intoxicated when they committed the crimes for which they were being punished.

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DRINK AND SUICIDE

It would appear that in France the number of suicides is in direct proportion to the consumption of alcohol. In the language of Dr. Victor Betault, "it (alcohol) pushes man to suicide, theft, homicide, and every which increase in procrime—crimes which increase in pro portion to its consumption." And the same may be said of every coun-

try. The reason, though so little understood, is this: There is nothing that so lowers the vital powers of man and renders him so helpless a prey to disease of mind and body as intoxicating drink taken to a body It delivers up the wretched victim to melancholy, despondency and, often-times, despair. This is especially the case with persons of nervous temperament. A person of extremely nervous nature may, while excited by alcohol, be as ungovernable as the

most violently insane.

The depression of mind, 'lowness of spirits, to which nervous people are so liable after periods of nervous excitement, is greatly increased though in their appalling ignorance they think by this action to relieve it by the rarcotic elements of alco-hol, which paralyze the brain and nervous centers. The action of the brain is disturbed, the mind is clouded and the nerves unstrung. While in this depressed mental condition people often commit suicide to escape the tortures of mind to which they

Those of a nervous temperament should, at the peril of their lives, avoid all stimulants and narcotics.

In Berlin, during the month of January, 1910, there were 75 suicides curse of intemperance.

—53 men, 12 women 7 girls between sixteen and eighteen and 3 children under ten years—and all, nearly all, were attributable to drink. Dr. Hillier, of Kiel; declares that of 300 suicides upon whom he performed ost-mortem examinations, nearly half the number were persons addicted to drink. And he stated that his estimate is rather below than above the average. In the year 1900 Dr. W. C. Sullivan already quoted,

showed the connection between the in crease of suicide or attempts at suicide and drink. He tells us that suicide resulting from alcohol is more impulsive and occurs at an earlier age than suicide from other causes. He declares that in 220 attempts at suicide the proportion due to drink was 78 per cent.; and that in a great number of cases of 'found drowned,' the victims are what are called 'chronic alcoholists,' who have either destroyed themselves in a fit of melancholia, or have lost their lives by accident resulting from the stupe fying effect of alcohol.

In short the most casual observer cannot fail to be struck by the alarming increase of crime even in this country, in the way of suicides, criminal assaults, and secret crimes too wicked to mention, most of which, if not all, may be traced to the effects of indulging in drink. Everywhere you turn, especially in town and cities, you meet the withered hand of beggary, as well as the pallid lips of blighted lives; where crimes the most horrible, of every kind, misery and want, are to be found in rank profusion; and our brightest boys and manliest men are damned for-ever, and womanhood degraded and girls debauched, by the blighting

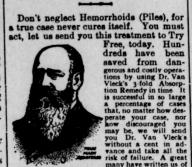
We live continually in the midst of great human needs. and every one has something to give, something that would help a little, at least in supplying these needs.

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