

FIVE-MINUTE SERMON

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

BAD COMPANY

"I am the Angel Raphael, one of the seven who stand before the Lord."

The history of Tobias, one of the most beautiful narratives of the Old Testament, teaches us many lessons. There we find a charming picture of home-life. The father of the family is at once the example and teacher of virtue to his young son; the son, a model of filial devotion to his aged parents, succoring them in their need, submissive to their will, delighted to give them pleasure.

The life of the family is full of peace. Even in affliction they recognize the finger of God, and His blessing rests upon them. He is the sunshine of their home. To serve Him—to keep themselves free from sin—is their chief care. Where, therefore, it became necessary that the younger Tobias should make a long journey, the first thought of his father was to find him a suitable companion. He would not trust his child to the guardianship of every man. He felt the necessity of great care in the choice he made. Such a choice is indeed not a trifling matter, not so unimportant an affair as some seem to think it; the happiness of a whole life, perhaps even eternal salvation itself, may be at stake. Young people especially are very susceptible to the influence of those who are about them. They are open-hearted, unsuspecting too ready often to give their confidence and friendship to those unworthy of either. They are slow to abandon those upon whom they have bestowed their regard, unwilling to believe evil of them because of their affection for them. And so the danger to their virtue is very great when they fall into bad company, their ignorance of the world and their guilelessness leaving them open to many temptations.

The bad companion is he who is trying to rob us of our virtue—to rob us of the best we possess. Virtue is a precious thing. It is a treasure beyond price. To have virtue is to possess nobility of soul, elevation of mind, a close likeness to God. To have habits of virtue marks us out as true men, men who have made their animal nature subject to reason through God's grace. Virtue is not acquired in a day. The getting of it means work, constant work for a time, perhaps a long time; but it is worth it all. When we have virtue, we have something of a great value; and because it is so valuable it must be carefully guarded lest we lose it, for we may be robbed of our virtue as well as of our money.

The bad companion wants to destroy our innocence; he wants to disturb our peace of soul; he wants to unman us, to make beasts of us. Where are these bad companions? How shall we know them? "By their works you shall know them," you shall know them when you hear their filthy speech, when they make their dirty jokes and tell their smutty stories. You shall know them when they invite you to low drinking saloons, to places where purity is lost; when they tell you how to make money at the expense of honesty, when, in a word they suggest evil to you. Flee from them; they are robbers; they are worse; they are murderers; they seek to take the life of your soul.

The Angel Raphael on the other hand, teaches us the office of a good companion. We find him guiding his young charge, warning him of dangers, instructing him how to overcome difficulties. He is by his side in the hour of need; his counsel is always at his service; his advice is good; his example is good. He is constantly striving to advance the best interests of Tobias and to further the object of his journey. This is true friendship; this is right companionship. It is unselfish, conscientious endeavor to promote the friend's welfare. Young people, find yourselves a Raphael, but trust not every man.

TEMPERANCE

A TEMPERANCE LESSON IN THIS

The fast express train was taken out of Elmira, New York, the other day for the run to Buffalo on the Lackawanna Railroad. It had on board valuable property and still more precious lives. It went along safely until it approached Corning, and then it ran into a limited passenger train, piled up a wreck of engines and cars, killed forty persons and injured sixty others.

"What was the cause of the disaster?" asks the Catholic Columbian. "The engineer was drunk. Under the stupor of liquor he passed by the danger signal paid no attention to the warning fuses that were burning, and disregarded the fluttered cloth of the flagman who had been sent back from the other train to flag him. 'Booze' had made him dull.

"One more is added to the long list of horrors due to drink. It is a black record. It is the most powerful sermon for total abstinence that could be preached—hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of property destroyed, forty lives blotted out, and sixty cripples made—all by one man who was drunk."

Aprons of the foregoing, the following item from a daily paper of July 30 is not without interest: "Officials of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western have taken issue with the idea that so long as a railroad man abstains from intoxicating drinks while on duty the business entrusted to him is reasonably safe. They are convinced that the only safe thing for a railroad man to do is to let intoxicants alone altogether and to keep away from the places where they are sold.

"As a result a new rule has been made prohibiting the use of intoxicants while on or off duty or the visiting of saloons or places where liquor is sold."

ART OF AGING WHISKY

While gathering samples of American liquors for the Paris Exposition, Dr. Wiley discovered "fifteen-year-old whisky" made in less than twenty-four hours. The Italians in New York, who are in the business of "aging" liquors, begin the operation by taking the right quantity of water, high-proof spirits known as high wines are added. The color is obtained by the addition of

SUFFERED AGONY FROM DYSPEPSIA

"Fruit-a-Lives" Makes Wonderful Cure



N. C. STIRLING, ESQ.

GLENCOE, ONT., Aug. 15th, 1911. "So much has been said and written about 'Fruit-a-Lives' that it might seem unnecessary for me to add my experience. But 'Fruit-a-Lives' were so beneficial to me when I suffered with distressing Dyspepsia, that I feel called upon to inform you of the remarkable and satisfactory results I have had from using them.

Dyspepsia and indigestion at everyone's knees, can give you more uncomfortable hours and days than most common complaints. "I am glad to be able to say to you that although in the past I suffered excruciating agony with Dyspepsia, I am now in perfect health.

"Fruit-a-Lives" accomplished the desired result and I have to thank them for my very favorable and satisfactory state of health" N. C. STIRLING.

Why don't you try "Fruit-a-Lives"? 50c a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size, 25c. At all dealers or sent on receipt of price by Fruit-a-Lives Limited, Ottawa.

coramel, prune juice, essence of bark, burned sugar, etc. Glycerine gives the suspension of oiliness, for really old liquor clings to the side of the glass. To meet the expectations of the connoisseur's nostrils and palate, microscopic proportions of essential oils are added. The bottles, while moist outside, are sprinkled with wood ashes and fine sand. The label, printed in cheap ink, is dipped in weak tobacco juice. Six bottles are laid in a dusty old-fashioned basket, and the finishing touches are added over night by a colony of small spiders taken from tenement rafters and fed on meat jelly mixed with sugar. When on the following night some wealthy host produces the basket, his guests' appetite becomes sharpened, their admiration unbounded, and their gratitude unutterable. Thus a new community of interest links the dwellers of the tenement to the wealthy epicure, and if the former keeps sober he will eventually occupy the mansion of the latter.

TEMPERANCE NOTES

Inebriety and inefficiency go hand in hand. The first drink may be the first link in an unbreakable chain of habit.

Hard headed business men know the value of total abstinence. Some marine insurance companies make a reduction of 5 per cent. in insurance rates to ships on which no liquors are drunk during the voyage. Experiments in the French army showed that under all circumstances the French soldier is 40 per cent. more efficient when subjected to a regimen of total abstinence. Generals Roberts and Kitchener in Africa proved the same fact about the British army.

"If it could be shown," says a recent writer, "that the drinking man had better brains, or better muscles, or better earning power, or lived longer than the man who did not drink, there might be some argument in favor of drink, even in spite of all that has just been said. But thousands of experiments have shown that the brain worker and the laboring man are both at a disadvantage if they drink."—Sacred Heart Review.

What Mrs. S. Says

"Words are useless to express the wonderful magic of White Swan Yeast. Bread? Why we have never had such luxury on our table before." Sold in packages of 6 cakes for 5c. Free sample sent by White Swan Spices & Cereals, Limited, Toronto, Ont.

WHAT OF THE NIGHT?

When the cry of alarm is abroad, and there are churches which call for help in the midst of darkening atmosphere, the Catholic Church keeps steadily on. She looks out upon the night, but its shadows have no terror for her. Her lights are burning, and the pathway gleams straight before her.

When, therefore, a contemporary recently bewailed the decline of the religious hold upon America, the Catholic reader was a little dumfounded. He could see no diminution in the attendance at Mass; on the contrary, he found the increasing necessity in every district around him of building new churches to supply the spiritual needs

LIQUOR AND TOBACCO HABITS

A. McTAGGART, M.D., C.M., 75 Yonge St., Toronto, Canada

References as to Dr. McTaggart's professional standing and personal integrity permitted by: Sir W. R. Meredith, Chief Justice. Sir Geo. W. Ross, ex-Premier of Ontario. Rev. N. Burwash, D.D., Pres. Victoria College. Rev. J. G. Shearer, B.A., D.D., Secretary Board Moral Reform Toronto. Right Rev. J. F. Sweeney, D.D., Bishop of Toronto. Hon. Thomas Coffey, Senator, Catholic Record London, Ontario. Dr. McTaggart's vegetable remedies for the liquor and tobacco habits are healthful, safe, inexpensive home treatments. No hypodermic injections, no publicity, no loss of time from business, and a certain cure. Consultation or correspondence invited.

of the ever enlarging congregations. In fact, the whole history of the Church in the present day is the history of a Catholic people whose numbers increase so rapidly that it is difficult at times to find enough priests to minister to him. There are parishes even in the old world, as in Vienna, with 25,000 members; in Paris one parish has 83,000 and it is reported one has even 100,000.

What is the explanation of this, except that the Catholic Church is quiet amidst the awful turbulence aroused by the sectaries around her. They persecute her, but she grows the more steadily for the persecution. She hears the dying cries of sects that once were powerful, and she sees the violence which may be brought to bear upon her. But it will be only violence; she knows no death cry, for she cannot die.

In fact, it is this very security, born of a divine promise that often lulls her children to sleep when they should be awake. Her children are trusting and confiding; hence they cannot at times see the pitfalls laid in their path by designing enemies.

But whatever they may suffer in this way they do not and cannot lose the heaven-born certainty that their faith is divine, and that while all human religions are crumbling around her, she at least will remain, as clear, as beautiful and eternal as when she first came from the hands of her divine Founder. —Pilot.

PROBLEM OF CHURCH DEFLECTION

There seems to be no end to the complaining of our dissenting brethren among the Protestant churches concerning the alarming evidences of decadence in the rural churches of their persuasion. This decadence is all the more surprising because, generally speaking, country people—those engaged in farm work, are more religiously inclined than church members in the city. It would be difficult to assign any good reason for this falling off, save that Protestantism has lost its vigor, and its inherent principles have become so identical with mere humanitarianism and so-called broad christianity that they no longer leave the impression of being an active force in prescribing redemption by a God-man, who is really God and really man for the redemption of mankind from sin. The doctrine of the atonement is no longer with the leaders of Protestantism what it was with Luther, Calvin and the other protagonists of the reformation. It has been emasculated by the higher criticism and modernism—and what is left of it might just as well fit into the religious systems of Buddha or Confucius. The only concession still made in favor of Christianity is that its teachings are far superior to those of heathen philosophers and theologians. But the divine personality of Christ has been cast aside.

Protestant writers are not all willing to open their eyes to the truth and they seek for and easily find other convenient reasons to account for the great deflection which is going on, not only in the rural, but in the urban Protestant churches as well. The falling off in the cities is more easily covered up by adventitious aids of institutional clubs and societies, where church affiliation is not always a condition of membership. In the rural churches, however, the decadence has been so plain and rapid that many novel methods have been suggested to meet the emergency. Thus the Rev. M. B. McNutt in one of the church organs expresses the belief that one of the greatest needs of rural life to day is play, and that the church should concern itself in the recreation of its people. That may be very well from the social standpoint, but seriously speaking, could not the farming youth find his recreation, amusement and play outside the walls of a church? We do not discourage the plan of furnishing the right kind of amusement under the auspices of a church, but we doubt very much whether such a course is an incentive to bring people to divine services and make them Christians. "Athletics, sewing bees, parties, community picnics, lyceum courses, plowing contests, home-talent dramatics and concerts" may be helps to hold the congregation together, but they can never be a substitute for that real, virile, genuine Christianity, of which Protestantism had once the semblance, but of which it is fast losing every vestige.

It is not the lack of play, but the lack of Christianity in the Protestant creeds of to-day, that makes up the problem in the decadence of rural churches. To assign other reasons for it may be plausible, but they hit far away from the truth. Thus when the writer, inviting discussion of the matter, says: "Changing social conditions, improved machinery, the introduction of the automobile, rural delivery of mail, the telephone, these and other innovations have gradually forced the church to ask: 'What must we do to save ourselves from death?' he either has not found the true causes that threaten disaster, or fails to state why they do not act discouragingly upon the attendance at Catholic churches.

According to a recent official report from 25 to 70 per cent. of the farming population in the prairie states belong to no church and attend none.

Ought it not to be food for deep thought and criticism that in the rural districts the Catholic Church is everywhere the most flourishing? There is no complaint that the churches are not well filled at every service; and there is no need of heroic methods to bring the people in. Their interest centers about a real Christ, truly and substantially present on their altars and the word of God which they hear preached to His divine nature, is the Son of God. It is not surprising, therefore, that not only the rural churches are well filled, but many of them are specimens of architectural beauty. Thus we read that on a Kansas prairie, five miles from a railway station, German Catholics built and paid for a \$30,000 church. In the Catholic Church there is no problem to solve, for Catholics have an abiding faith, which is the impelling force of all loyal church attendance. —Intermountain Catholic.

PRESIDENT SUSPENDERS advertisement with image of suspenders and text: YOUR DEALER KNOWS why the SLIDING CORDS feature of the "President" Suspenders is such a wonderful improvement over the old common kinds. Ask him. The price is 50c. at all dealers. Light, Medium or Heavy Weights. DOMINION SUSPENDER CO. NIAGARA FALLS

POINCARÉ SAYS HIS PRAYERS

In France the people and the press have not yet stopped talking about the unusual and significant honors heaped upon M. Poincaré during his recent visit to Russia. But an incident occurred while he was there that has made some people merry and has provoked others to anger. He was compelled to say his prayers in public. It was at the grand review of 40,000 men. The sun was just setting, and the rays illuminated the faces, as well as the armor of the troops. It was 7 o'clock, and as the bell tolled from the adjacent tower a bugle call commanded attention. Instantly the Czar uncovered, and with him the 40,000 soldiers stood bareheaded listening with the profoundest reverence to the recitation of the Our Father. It was their evening prayer.

What were Poincaré's thoughts at that moment as he stood bareheaded, and to all outward appearances praying? A short time before he had publicly announced that religion prevented even the prominent politicians of his own party from having a voice in the government of the country. He was once a Catholic, and now before him he sees what was substantially all schismatical Russia, from the autocratic Czar down to the humblest soldier in the ranks, uniting in a solemn act of homage to Almighty God. And yet he was asking Russia to help the atheistic Governments of France in case of war. Would they make good allies?

Some of his friends at home are indignant over the whole affair, and are protesting that the Czar had no right to "drag" him, as they express it, to such a ceremony. The same men saw nothing when Fallières a few months ago courteously received the representatives of Mohammedanism in Algiers and benignly assured them of his protection. It was noticed also that the Marseillaise was not played at any of the receptions, but that, on the contrary, the authorities paid him the dubious compliment of making him listen to the Marche Napoleonienne. Was it to remind him that Russian soil was once littered with

PEWS AND CHURCH FURNITURE advertisement: VALLEY CITY SEATING CO. DUNDAS ONT.

O'KEEFE'S Liquid Extract OF Malt with Iron advertisement: W. LLOYD WOOD General Agent Toronto :: Canada

The Northern Life Assurance Company of Canada advertisement: ENTHUSIASM is the key note of success in the profession of a Life Insurance man. The Northern Life has room for good men who are honest and have the ability to write Life Insurance. W. M. GOVENLOCK, JOHN MILNE, Secretary, Managing Director

Could You Be Sure? advertisement: If Death called you tomorrow, could you be sure that your wife and children would have food to eat and clothes to wear? Let the North American Life assume the responsibility. Its policy-contracts are liberal. North American Life Head Office, 112-118 King St. W., Toronto, Ont.

Cure that Bunion advertisement: DR. SCHOLL'S BUNION RIGHT removes the cause of your bunion or enlarged toe joint by permanently straightening the crooked toe. Gives INSTANT RELIEF and a FINAL CURE of all bunions, corns, blisters, stretchers never cure. Dr. Scholl's Bunion Right is comfortable, sanitary, convenient. Guaranteed or money back. 25 cents each or \$1.00 per pair at drug and shoe stores, or direct from Dr. Scholl Mfg. Co., 111 King St. E., Toronto. Illustrated Booklet Free

The Range is the Soul of the Kitchen advertisement: The modern housewife knows the important part the range plays in the household economy. She knows how vitally important it is to eliminate from the kitchen all possible work, worry and waste. And the range is the soul of the kitchen. Its influence is felt every day and all day by the entire family. The Gurney-Oxford Range is a strong advocate of modern household economy. Not only does it cook and bake without disappointment or failure, but it is a positive influence for economy. It burns less coal—it requires less attention—it conserves time. The Gurney Foundry Co., Limited TORONTO - CANADA MONTREAL - HAMILTON - WINNIPEG - CALGARY - VANCOUVER