FIVE-MINUTE SERMONS

FOR EARLY MASSES

By the Paulist Fathers. Preached in their Church of St. Paul the Apostle, Fifty-ninth Street and Ninth Avenue, New York.

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST.

"God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted aboye that which you are able."

—Epistle of the Day.

There are Christians, dear brethren, who talk as if God were anything but faithful—Christians who look upon the trials and difficulties and temptations of this life as so many traps set by Almighty God to ensnare them. So it would seem at least from the excuse they offer for committing sin: \(\frac{\pi}{2} \) "I was sorely tempted and could not resist." To talk and act in this wise is to do a great injustice to a faithful and loving God, and comes either from an imperfect knowledge of the nature of the temptation, or an ignorance of God's providence in regard to it.

Know, then, that we must be tempted, and this from the very nature of our existence. We are made up of body and soul-at present two conflicting elements. There was a time when the soul, being the superior, had the right to command, and the body obeyed—but original sin destroyed that happy union of authority and submission, and the result has been a pitched battle ever since, the body with its passions striving for the mastery over the

Now, brethren, in this conflict the soul has to contend with many enemies. We have a battle-ground within us, our own evil inclinations and inordinate desires-a source of contention ever present, which we will carry with us throughout life, and for every action, every impulse, a battle has to be fought and a victory or defeat has to be scored.

And again, we have our enemies from without. The devil, who is always on the alert, ready to pounce upon us in our unguarded moments—who employs the world and the flesh in order the better to accomplish his ends-this is our great enemy from without.

All this is not very encouraging, this perpetual struggle with flesh and blood, with powers and principalities. But we must never forget that we are not alone in this conflict, that we have God with us, a God who is faithful and will not suffer us to be tempted beyond what we can bear. We must also remember that temptation, of whatever kind, is never permitted save for our good, as a source of merit, the raw material out of which our glory comes. Our moral powers need exercise. This is a principle in the divine economy. The use of a limb strengthens it, while an arm tied up loses its power. So it is with the soul—without temptations and trials it would lose most of its pointful rices. This experience which we have the soul and the soul arms to the soul and the soul arms and the soul arms are the soul arms. spiritual vigor. Things upon which much depends are worth nothing until tried, and an eternity of happiness or woe depends on the trials to which the soul is

Let us understand, then, the true nature of these temptations. A temptation may be said to be an allurement of the soul towards evil under the guise of something good, or the allurement of the soul to a forbidden good. It is this very appearance of a good to be obtained that makes the temptation dangerous and sin at all possible. For no man is base enough or fool enough to commit a sin simply and solely because he wants to offend God. For example: a man commits a theft, certainly not for the mere pleasure there is in robbery-no, but because he discovers that there is to accrue to him some present good from his theft. It is, therefore, the apparent good in the temptation that makes it at all palatable. So it happens, brethren, when the devil

would lead us astray, he transforms him-self, says the Apostle, into an angel of light, and we must be on our guard to detect him. If you were to meet, for instance, some venomous snake with loathsome spots upon his scales, his eyes full of rage, his head raised to strike you, hissing and showing his fangs, there would be no temptation to have to do with him; you would know that you had to do with an evil reptile, and you must either kill him or escape from him at once. But if, again, you were to meet, as you may meet in the tropics, a lovely little coral snake, its mouth so small that it seems impossible that it can bite, and so gentle that children may take it up and play with it, then you might be tempted, as many a child has before, to fondle it, wreathe it around the neck for a necklace, till the play goes one step too far, the snake loses its temper, gives one tiny scratch upon the lip, and that scratch is certain death.

So it is with most of our temptations; they appear pleasant at first, but their sting is soon felt, and we discover to our dismay that the wages of sin is death. Take this lesson home, brethren; we must needs be tempted; then let us fight our battles manfully, knowing that God is with us, that He is faithful, and that His grace is sufficient.

Helpless Upon a Friendless Sea! Who, in taking passage in a great trans-Atlantic steamer, does not feel a thrill of exultation over her magnificent power. Against her the Storm King may hurl his elemental forces, nor pierce her armor, nor stop her onward course.

But let me describe a scene when, one morning in mid-ocean, there came an alarm from the pilot house followed by a cry: "The ship's rudder is lost!" From the confident expression, consternation came to every face. The wheelman being helpless to direct her course, the vessel was at the mercy of wind and

The captain had been negligent—the hangings of the rudder were allowed to wear weak, and suddenly it had dropped deep into the sea!

Strong in intellect, in physical vigor, in energy and in ambition, man confronts, undaunted, gigantic tasks and commands applause for his magnificent achievements. But, all unexpectedly, an alarm comes—the rudder of his constitution is gone. He has been careless of its preservation; mental strain, nervous excitement, irregular habits, over-work, have destroyed the action of his kidneys and liver. This would not occur were Warner's safe cure used to maintain vigor. And even now it may restore vitality to those organs and give back to the man that which will lead him to the haven of his ambition,—The Traveler. NAPOLEON THE FIRST.

HOW THE EMPEROR WAS OUTWITTED BY A

WOODMAN. As Napoleon was riding out, attended by several officers, I was one of the party. We rode past a forest where some wood-

men were cutting timber.

Observing one of them singing, the Emperor, with a smile, turned around to

"Observe that man, who, though toiling hard for his daily bread, seems to be happy and content."

The woodman, observing so many persons looking at him, made a respectful bow, and approached us to inquire if we

had lost our way.

"No," said the emperor, "but tell me, my honest fellow, what makes you so cheerful? What may you earn a day?"

"Three francs, your honor," was the realy

reply.
"Three francs!" exclaimed the Emperor, Tell me how you manage to do so, my good fellow?"

"With pleasure, your honor, if you will step this way. With three francs I do not only keep my wife and family, but I also put money out at interest, and

pay off my old debts."

"Explain yourself," said the Emperor.

"Willingly, your honor. I keep my
wife and children; I place money out at
interest by educating the latter at school;
and pay off my old debts by maintaining my aged father and mother. So you see,

your honor, I may well be happy."
"Excellent man!" said Napoleon;
"here is a Napoleon for you," tossing him
the money. "Keep what you have said a secret. I am your Emperor; and on pain of my displeasure I enjoin you to tell no one till you have seen my face at least one hundred times." "Sire, it shall be so," said the wood-

Napoleon turned his horse's head and joined us. The same evening, as he appeared thoughtful, General Rapp asked him if anything unpleasant had occurred

that day.
"No," said the Emperor; but I met a man this morning, who, with three frances per day, told me he kept his family, placed money out at interest, and paid off his old debts. Gentlemen," continued the Emperor, "you will please me much if any of you can tell me the meaning of what

All of us were anxious to please our monarch, and knowing that he had spoken to a woodman in the forenoon, we rode off early on the following morning; and having found the woodman asked him did he know to whom he had spoken on the previous day. The man said:
"Yes, I had the honor of talking with
the Emperor."

"What did you say to him?" "Excuse me, gentlemen, that I must

One of the party said: "I will give you fifty Napoleons to tell

"No, I dare not."

"You shall have one hundred if you will oblige us," rejoined our companion. The woodman after pausing a minute "Place the money in my hand and I will

We placed it in his hand; and after he had carefully examined every piece he told us all that had transpired.

We rode off and on our arrival at the palace asked to be admitted to the Emperor, when we expounded his riddle. Napoleon, pale with anger, exclaimed:
"Bring that woodman before me, dead or alive!"

He was soon found and ushered into

the presence of his angry monarch. "Sirrah, how have you dared to break

your promise with me?" "Sire," said the woodman, "you told me I should tell no one until I should see your face one hundred times." Then putting

his hand deliberately into his pockets, he laid the pieces of money one by one before the Emperor with their heads up-"There, sire," continued he, "have I not seen your face one hundred times?"

Napoleon burst into a loud fit of laughter, gave him a slap on the shoulder, called him a clever fellow and made him a captain in the artillery, where he proved himself deserving of his good fortune.

A Sad Case of Poisoning

is that of any man or woman afflicted with disease or derangement of the liver, resulting in poisonous accumula-tions of the blood, scrofulous affections, sick-headaches, and diseases of the kidneys, lungs or heart. These troubles can be cured only by going to the primary cause, and putting the liver in a healthy condition. To accomplish this result speedily and effectually nothing has proved itself so efficacious as Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery," which has never failed to do the work claimed for it, and never will.

A Hint or Two.

It is the penny saved more than the penny earned that enriches; it is the sheet turned when the first threads break that wears the longest; it is the damper closed when the cooking is done that stops the dollars dropping into the coal bin; it is the lamp or gas turned low when not in use that gives you pin money for the month; it is the care in making the coffee that makes three spoonfuls go as far as a teacupful ordinarly; it is the walking of the care in the walking of the walkin one or six blocks instead of taking a car or omnibus that adds strength to your body and money to your purse; it is the careful mending of each week's wash that gives ease to your conscience and length of days to your garments; and last of all, it is the constant care exercised over every part of your household, and constant endeavor to improve and apply your best powers to your work, that alone give peace and prosperity to the family.

What can be more disagreeable, more disgusting, than to sit in a room with a person who is troubled with catarrh, and has to keep coughing and clearing his or her throat of the mucus which drops into it? Such persons are always to be pitied if they try to cure themselves and fail. But if they get Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy there need be no

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