

FIVE-MINUTE SERMON.

Sagesima Sunday. THE CHOSEN FEW.

To you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to the rest in parables; that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.

These are very important words which we should lay deeply to heart. Their meaning opens out the more we study them, and we would do well to spend a little time in finding out whether we come under the condemnation or not.

Our Lord was a personage that was constantly surrounded by crowds of men and women who were impelled towards Him by many and various motives. His fame had spread through out the country, and He was regarded by all as a great man; but all were not equally impressed as to the kind and extent of His greatness.

Now, with such a motley gathering always around Him, our Lord could not speak casually on subjects so new and difficult to be understood by His hearers. He was only carrying out His own command, "Give not that which is holy to dogs; neither cast ye your pearls before swine."

without anything else on man's part, can be a pledge of salvation, is nothing short of blasphemy, for God, after all, cannot abdicate his own sovereignty.

Pious beliefs are very useful and even if sometimes misinterpreted by Catholics, their main object is subverted, which in the last analysis is the honor and glory of God. And I may also apply this to relics and to sacred shrines, the object of which is to honor God in His saints or some mystery of religion, as the Incarnation inseparably connected with the Holy Eucharist.

In regard to modern miracles and revelations but little need be said. They may be believed or not, according as the testimony in favor of them furnishes a motive of credibility.

These few reflections show substantially what Catholics must believe and in what they are free. If the distinction were always kept in view, there would be less misunderstanding and less tendency on the part of papers, secular and religious, to make mistakes that to the enlightened Catholic are supremely ridiculous.

AUTHORITY.

Authority has the right of rule and sway inherent in itself, for the author of a thing, whence the word arises, must have all that pertains to carrying out the reasons for its existence.

The authority of the earthly ruler is but a shadow of the divine and has its root in God and its power from Him. Thus the apostle says, "All power, all authority is from God."

Through Me kings reign and rulers rule, says God in holy writ, and He bids us obey them. We are to give Caesar, that is, give to authority our submission, our respect and our obedience. We must be submissive to rule, though we know how strong is the feeling of rebellion in us, incited as it always is by the enemy of our souls.

How great is the responsibility of those who govern! They must answer not only for themselves but in large part for their subjects. The latter may have many griefs through their misrule, just like the children of a bad and indifferent father have their sorrows, or the workmen of a cruel and heartless employer know injustice and hardship, and all this must be accounted for before God, who bids the afflicted bear up through their trials and sorrows during the day of His justice soon to come.

faithful citizen; but this cannot be said vice versa. Many a man keeps the laws of the State and breaks the law of God. He is to all appearances a good man and is so regarded in the eyes of the law; he is just to his fellow-men, possible and law abiding and is considered a good and valuable member of society.

More plaything and the things of this world are vain and fleeting in comparison with the things of the life to come. Earth's laws are but for the day, but the laws of God are for an eternity. The law and order which we admire and gladly sustain are only so many shams across the dial of time which has its beginning and end in eternity.

PIANO SERVES AS ALTAR.

EXPERIENCES OF A MISSIONARY IN A TOWN NEAR CLEVELAND WHERE CATHOLIC CHURCH WAS UNKNOWN.

One would hardly expect to find today, in the great State of Ohio, a few miles from Cleveland, a thriving community, many of whose inhabitants had never seen a Catholic church. Such a condition was found to exist in Rittman, O., by Rev. Thomas J. O'Hern, of the Apostolate, when he went there recently to give a series of lectures to non-Catholics.

While the lectures were intended primarily for non-Catholics, they proved to be of the greatest value to the Catholics of the vicinity. A square piano on the stage served as an altar, and the Mass was celebrated every day.

A course of lectures was given in Doylestown about thirteen years ago by Father Cross and Wanderly. Their lectures were attended somewhat better than the recent course, but this was due to the fact that the weather was very inclement in the early part of the week.

The Presbyterians in Doylestown are at least making an effort. They held services every evening while the lectures were going on, and sang the bell furiously every time the bell of the Catholic Church began to ring.

A noble, large-hearted life, fruitful in good works, giving and receiving blessings, and finding, even in this world, a plentiful reward in the greatness of its joys, this is the gift granted, even here, to those who forgo self, give up self, and are ready to "lose their life for the Gospel's sake."

LIQUOR AND TOBACCO HABITS

A. McTAGGART, M. D., C. M. 25 Yonge Street, Toronto, Canada. References as to Dr. McTaggart's professional standing and personal integrity permitted by Sir R. Meredith, Chief Justice.

DOLLARS AND CENTS THINKING.

It is positively surprising to consider to what extent this habit of thinking in dollars and cents has assumed control of the men and women of to-day.

The soldier-saint of Loyola, in his famous meditation on "The Two Standards," reminds us that those who follow Satan go their way without a glimmer of reward from the base prince of darkness. In a like predicament are the derring, deluded mortals who think in dollars and cents.

PAGANISM AMONG THE "SMART-SET."

A staff correspondent in Reynold's Newspaper (London) notes and gives interesting, even if reviling, particulars of the pagan "Smart Set" dog-worship.

After 1,200 Years. From the beginning of the new year, writes the Marquis de Fontenay, the Augustinian nuns, who have enjoyed the privilege of tending and nursing in the Hotel Dieu at Paris, since the eighth century, will be excluded from that institution, with which they have been so closely identified for twelve hundred years.

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Held its Annual Meeting at its Home Office, in Toronto, on Thursday, the 30th day of January, 1908. The President, Mr. John L. Blaikie, was appointed Chairman, and the Managing Director, Mr. L. Goldman, Secretary, when the following report of the business of the Company for the year ended December 31st, 1907, was submitted:

Table with financial data: New Business, Saving in Expenses, Cash Income, Payments to Policyholders, Assets, Net Surplus Increased, Assets Safely Invested, Monthly Audit.

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