## FIVE-MINUTE SERMONS.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost.

PRAYER FOR SINNERS.

And the other is like unto this: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. (St. Matt. xxii.

How great must be the dignity of human nature, my brethren, since we learn by this day's Gospel, our Lord couples the love of His fellow-men with the love of His own sovereign and divine self! Perhaps if we appreciated the native worth of human nature we should be a trifle more patient with its faults. I mean, of course, other people's faults, for with our own faults

we are all too patient. The pratical lesson conveyed by the commandment, "Love thy neighbor as thyself," is that it is our duty to love sinners and to pray for them. To love good people is easy enough, and we think a man a kind of a monster who has not at least one or two dear friends whose virtues has won his love. But it takes a good Christian to love what at first sight seems so hateful — a drunkard, a liberatine, an apostate, a bully, a thief. To have an actual, practical affection for such persons, even when one is related to them, seems quite a special thing—a peculiar vocation, a side path in the spiritual life, and not by any means the common business and regular vocation of everyday Christians. Yet a moment's thought shows that it is, without any doubt, our Lord's blessed will that we should have a special affection for just such hardened sinners. Are they

men, and are they not purchased by the Blood of Christ?

How much we mistake our duty in reference to such poor wretches! When you say of one, "Oh! he is a worthless creature," how surprised you would be if you could hear a whisper coming from his guardian angel "Jesus Christ thought him worth dying for." And when you say of another, "Oh! I can't bear him; I can't stay a moment in his company," how surprised you would be to hear And I, an angel of God, gladly keep him company day and night." Surely, brethren, there is something worth loving, heartily loving, in a soul that our Lord would die for, and to whom God would give a bright angel as a constant companion. We are like men going through a picturegallery : we admire only the brilliant and unmistakable beauties displayed there-here a gorgeous sunset, there a fine battle-scene, and again a ship tossing upon the waves. But one of better taste than common, without forgetting all these, will be able to detect the work of a great master, though faded with the lapse of many years and covered all over with dust. So it is with the poor sinner's soul: is the work of a great Master. And what though it be all stained and with mortal sin, is there no such thing as true repentance? Are there no fountains of living waters in the sacraments in which it may be washed whiter than snow? Are there no gems of divine grace with which it may be decked out as a bride wait-

Prayer for the conversion of sinners should be far more practised than it is. Why, brethren, look around you in this great city, and if you can count the stars of heaven or the sands of the sea-shore you can count the men and women in mortal sin; and, alas! very many of them belong to our religion. Nay, look about in your own families. How seldom will a family be found where there is not at least of living openly at enmity with God! Now, just here, in the midst of the worst wickedness, are many thousands of devout servants of God, and in every family one or two souls whose very names might be Faithful and True. And God arranges this mingling of good and evil, that the good souls by their prayers may save the bad ones from eternal death: just as in southern countries men plant eucalypus-trees in low, marshy places, for the eucalyptus, with its fragrant leaves, counteracts the poisonous vapors of the swamp.

ing for the bridegroom?

If, therefore, you pray for yourself you do well; but do not forget that, if you are a true Christian, the poor sinner in your other self. And if you pray for the souls in purgatory, do not forget that there are many souls about you who are always in danger of hell, and unless many prayers are offered for them they are likely enough to be lost for ever.

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Peter Kieffer, Buffalo, says: "I was badly

Peter Kieffer, Buffalo, says: "I was badly bitten by a horse a few days ago, and was induced by a friend who witnessed the occurrence, to try Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil. It relieved the pain almost immediately, and in four days the wound was completely healed. Nothing can be better for fresh wounds.

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### LADY JANE.

CHAPTER V. -CONTINUED.

"It's a stranger, a relative of Madame Jozain," said one who knew. "She came from Texas with her little girl, less than twe weeks ago, and yesterday she died, and last night the child was taken down with the same fever, and they say she's unconscious to-day, so madame couldn't leave to go to the funeral. No one will go to the house, because that old doctor from the

other side says it is catching."

That day the Bergeron tomb in the old cemetery was opened for the first time since Madame Jozain's father was placed there, and the lovely young widow was laid amongst those who were neither kith nor kin.

When Raste returned from the funeral, he found his mother sitting beside the child, who lay in the same heavy stupor that marked the first days of the mother's illness. The pretty golden hair was spread over the pillow; under the dark lashes were deep violet

Madame was dressed in her best black gown, and she had been weeping freely. At the sight of Raste in the door, she started up and burst into heart-breaking sobs.
"Oh, mon cher, oh, mon ami, we are

doomed. Was ever any one so unfortunate? Was ever any one so punished for a good deed? I've taken a sick stranger into my house, and nursed her as if she were my own, and buried her in my family tomb, and now the child's taken down, and Doctor Debrot says it is a contagious fever, and we may both take it and die. That's what one gets in this world for trying to do

good!"
"Nonsense, mum, don't look on the dark side; old Debrot don't know. I'm the one that gave it out that the fever was catching. I didn't want to have people prying about here, finding out everything. The child 'll be better or worse in a few days, and then we'll clear out from this place, raise some money on the things, and start fresh

somewhere else. "Well," said madame, wiping away her tears, much comforted by Raste's cheerful view of the situation, "no one can say that I haven't done my duty to the poor things, and I meant to be kind to the child, and nurse her through the fever whether it's catching or not hard to be tied to a sick bed this hot weather; but I'm almost thankful the little thing 's taken down, and isn't conscious, for it was dreadful to see the way she mourned for her mother. Poor woman, she was so young and pretty, and had such gentle ways knew who she was, especially now I've put her in the Bergeron tomb."

## CHAPTER VI.

Every one about that part of Good Children street knew Pepsie. She had been a cripple from infancy, and her mother, Madelon, or "Bonne Praline," as she was called, was also quite a noted figure in the neighborhood. lived in a tiny, single cottage, wedged in between the pharmacist, on the cor-ner, and M. Fernandez, the tobaccon-ist, on the other side. There was a ist, on the other side. There was a narrow green door, and one long window, with an ornamental iron railing across it, through which the interior of the little room was visible from the outside. It was a very neat little place, and less ugly than one would ex-pect it to be. A huge four-post bed, with red tester and lace-covered pillows. lmost filled one side of the room; opposite the bed a small fire place was nung with pink paper, and the mantel over it was decorated with a clock, two vases of bright paper flowers, a blue small armoire, a table above which hung a crucifix and a highly colored lithograph of the Bleeding Heart, and a few chairs completed the furniture of the quaint little interior; while the floor, the door-steps, and even the sidewalk were painted red with powdered brick dust, which harmonized very well with the faded yellow stucco of the walls and the dingy green of the door

and batten shutter.

Behind this one little front room was a tiny kitchen and yard, where Madelon made her pralines and cakes, and where Tite Souris, a half-grown darky instead of a "little mouse," washed, cooked, and scrubbed, and "waited on Miss Peps" during Madelon's absence; for Madelon was a merchant. She had a stand for cakes and parlines up on Bourbon street, near the French Opera House, and thither she went every morning, with her basket and pans of little by little. fresh pralines, sugared pecans, and calas tout chaud, a very tempting array of dainties, which she was sure to dispose of before she returned at

And Pepsie sitting at her window was as much a part of the streets, as was as much a part of the streets, we were the queer little house, the tiny shops, the old vegetable woman, the cobbler on the banquette, the wine merchant, or the grocer. Every one knew her: her long, sallow face with flashing and provide mouth with large ing dark eyes, wide mouth with large white teeth, which were always visible in a broad smile, and the shock of heavy black hair twisted into a quaint knot on top of her head, which was abnormally large, and set close to the narrow, distorted shoulders, were always visible, "from early morn till dewy eve," at the window; while her body below the shoulders was quite hidden by a high table drawn forward over her lan. On this table Pensis over her lap. On this table Pepsie a good-sized window on each side had shelled the peeans, placing them in three separate piles, the perfect halvest to strong a sit was scarcely wide enough the strong of the perfect halvest to strong on The roof projected well in one pile, those broken by accident to stand on. The roof projected well

and a little rancid, in still another The first were used to make the sugared pecans for which Madelon was justly famous; the second to manufacture into pralines, so that they had given her the sobrique of "Bonne Praline;" and the third pile, which she disdained to use in her business, nothing imperfect ever entering into her concoctions, were swept into a box, and disposed of to merchants who had less principle and less patronage.

All day long Pepsie sat her window, wielding her little iron nut-cracker with much dexterity. While the beau-tiful clean halves fell nearly always unbroken on their especial pile, she saw everything that went on in the street, her bright eyes flashed glances of recognition up and down, her broad smile greeted in cordial welcome those who stopped at her window to chat, and there was nearly always some one at Pepsie's window. She was so happy, so bright, and so amiable that every one loved her, and she was the idol of all the children in the neighborhoodshadows, and the little cheeks glowed with the crimson hue of fever.

Modern Mo business was business, and pecans cos money, and every ten sugared pecans meant a nickel for her mother; but they loved to stand around the win outside the iron railing, and watch Pepsie at her work. They liked to see her with her pile of nuts and bowl of foaming sugar before her. It seemed like magic, the way she would sugar them and stick them together, and spread them out to dry on the clean white paper. She did it so rapidly that her long white fingers She did it so

> sugar, the pile of nuts, and the paper. And there always seemed just enough of each, therefore her just discrimination was a constant wonder.
> When she finished her task, as she

nuts, after Pepsie had counted them and put the number down in a little book, as much to protect herself against Tite Souris's depredations as to know the exact amount of their stock in trade; then she will open the little drawer in the table, and take out a prayer-book, a piece of needle-work, and a park of cards.

She was very pious, and read her prayers several times a day; after she put her prayer-book aside she usually devoted some time to her needle-work for which she had a real talent; then, when she thought she had earned her recreation, she put away her work, spread out her cards, and indulged in an intricate game of solitaire. was her passion; she was very systematic, and very conscientious but if she ever purloined any time from her duties, it was that she might engage in that fascinating game. She decided everything by it; whatever she wished to know, two games out of three would give her the answer, for

or against. Sometimes she looked like a little witch during a wicked incantation, as she hovered over the rows of cards, her face dark and brooding, her long, thin fingers darting here and there, silent, absorbed, almost breathless under the fatal spell of chance.

In this way she passed day after day always industrious, always contented, and always happy. She was very comfortable in her snug little room, which was warm in winter and cool in sum-mer, owing to the two high buildings adjoining; and although she was a cripple, and her lower limbs useless, she suffered little pain, unless she was moved roughly, or jarred in some way; and no one could be more carefully protected from discomfort than she was, for although she was over twelve Madelon still treated her as if she were a baby. Every morning, before she left for the Rue Bourbon, she bathed and dressed the girl, and lifted her tenderly, with her strong arms, into her wheeled chair, where she drank her coffee, and ate her roll, as dainty as a little princess, for she was always exquisitely clean. In the summer she wore pretty little white sacks, with a bright bow of ribbon at the neck, and in winter her shrunken figure was clothed in warm, soft woolen.

Madelon did not sit out all day in rain and shine on Bourbon street, and make cakes and pralines half the night, for anything else but to provide this crippled mite with every comfort. As I said before the girl was her idol, and she had toiled day and night to gratify her very wish; and, as far as she knew, there was but one desire un-satisfied, and for the accomplishment of that she was working and saving

Once Pepsie had said that she would like to live in the country. All she knew of the country was what she had read in books, and what her mother, and the treasure of her life, remained at home, sitting in her high chair by the window, behind the iron railing.

And Pepsie sitting at her window almost touching the sky, and broad fields shaded by great trees, and covered with waving grass and flowers. That was her one unrealized idealher "Carcassonne," which she feared she was never to reach, except in imagination.

> CHAPTER VII. THE ARRIVAL.

On the other side of Good Children street, and almost directly opposite Madelon's tiny cottage, was a double house of more pretentious appearance than those just around it. little higher, the door was wider, and a good-sized window on each side had

in another, and those slightly shriveled, over the sidewalk, and there was some attempt at ornamentation in the brackets that supported it. At one side was a narrow yard with a stunted fig-tree, and a ragged rose-bush straggled up the posts of a small side

> This house had been closed for some The former tenant having died. his family, who were respectable, pleasant people, were obliged to leave it, much to Pepsie's sorrow, for she was always interested in her neighbors, and she had taken a great deal of pleasure in observing the ways of this household. Therefore she was very tired of looking at the closed doors and windows, and was constantly wishing that some one would take it. greatly to her gratification, one pleasant morning, late in August, a middle aged woman, very well dressed in black, who was lame and walked with a stick, a young man and a lovely little girl, appeared on the scene, stopped before the empty house, and after looking at it with much interest mounted the steps, unlocked the door, and entered.

> > TO BE CONTINUED.

#### ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN FAMILIES.

The Sovereign Pontiff has issued a Brief approving anew the association of Christian families, and ratifying the regulations recently made by the Sacred Congregation, whereby this pious society may be spread and per-petrated throughout the world and from one universal association. His fairly flashed between the bowl of Holiness deems such an organization to be of salutary use, and in accord with the necessities of our times. "the work of devoting and dedicating Christian families to the Holy Family; so that Jesus, Mary often did before dark, Tite Souris took away the bowl and the tray of sugared the homes thus consecrated, and may

protect them as their very own. . . All who know of and deplore the corruption of Christian morals, the extinction within families of the spirit of religion and of piety, the uncontrolled desire of earthly things, will strive to bring timely healing to evils so grea and so many. And nothing could be conceived of is greater help and succor for Christian families than to set before them the example of the Holy Family wherein all Christians, of whatsoever condition, may see the most perfect type of domestic society and a model of all virtue and of all holiness.

The Holy Father desires that associations of the Holy Family now existing shall be absorbed into this one confraternity, which has its centre in Rome with the Cardinal Vicar as its chief director. In each diocese the Ordinary shall appoint a "Diocesan Director," who shall communicate with the parish priests, to whom exclusively is given the charge of inscribing the families of their representative parishes. In the month of May every year a report is to be made through the Diocesan Directors to the head centre in Rome. The statues further provide that the image of the Holy Family of Nazareth shall be found with each of the families inscribed, and the members of such families shall at least once a day, and as generally as possible in the evening, pray together before the image. A special recommendation is given for this purpose to the formula of prayer approved by the Sovereign Pontiff, and also to the frequent use of the three well-known ejaculatory prayers: "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and my life." "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may my soul pass away in peace with you.

The Brief concludes with this fervent "May Jesus, Mary and blessing: Joseph, invoked at the hearth, favorable to us. May they b with them charity; may they rule our morality; may they move hearts t virtue by their example; and may they sweeten and make more tolerable the miseries wherewith man every where is burdened.'

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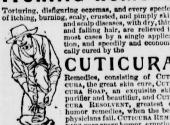
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The pilgrimage which is to preceed from England to Rome on the occasion of the jubilee of the Pope will probably be the most insignificant that has left English shores for centuries. It will not only be representative of the eccle siastical and lay chiefs of the community, but it will also be representative in a special sense of the principal in dustrial centres of the country. For instance, places like Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, and Plymouth will in all probability have a special delegation. The pilgrimage will be under the control of the Catholic Union, with the Duke of Norfolk at its head.

At the request of Bishop Northrop, the Fathers of the Pious Society of Mis sions have taken charge of St. Peter's Church for the colored Catholics of Charlestown, S. C. Rev. Joseph Murray, P. S. M., and Rev. A Loisel, P. S. M., will be the new pastors.

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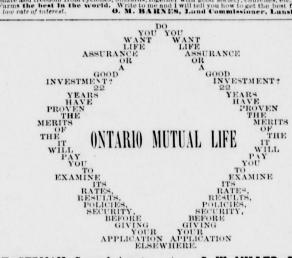
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