FIVE-MINUTE SERMON

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

THE CHRISTIAN STANDARD

"Go and relate to John what you have heard and seen." (Matt. xi, 4)

When the disciples of John asked: "Art thou He that art to come, or look we for another?' Christ answered: "Go and relate to John what you have heard and seen." The Lord thus informed them that He was the Messias, as was evident from His teachings and miracles. Christ demonstrated by His miracles that He was the son of God, the Redeemer of the world, and He demanded that the Jews should believe in Him. Therefore He said: "Go and relate to John what you have heard and seen. The blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead arise, the poor have the Gospel preached to them." One lesson that we may take from this Gospel is that we should not only be Christians by profession, but that our actions should proclaim us Christians. "Beware of false prophets," said Our Saviour; "by their fruits you shall know them" (Matt. vii, 15, 16). "Many will come to you appearing pious and truthful, but be on your guard, for they are false and seek your destruction. In order to know them observe their actions, for actions tell the true character of man, mark him as virtuous or wicked, a child of God or of the devil. So our actions show whether we are Christians or not. "There are many," says St. Augustine, "who cross their foreheads with the sign of Christ, but in their hearts they despise His teachings and commandments; therefore it does not matter much what they claim to be, but what they live up to." To be a true Christian it is not sufficient merely to recite the Creed. This is affirmed by the words of St. John to the Bishop of Sardis: "I know thy works, that thou hast the name of being alive: and thou art dead. For I find not thy works full before my God" (Apoc. iii, 1,2).

St. John does not find the works full, and therefore gives him no credit. There are even many who think themselves good Christians according to their works, but in truth they are not. Some go to church regularly, pray, give alms, and do other good deeds; yet they will not forgive their enemies; they refuse to forget offenses committed against them; they will not root out their bad habits; they have no patience in suffering and trials, nay, they even complain that they do not deserve the adversities that God sends them. Of these Christians we can readily say: I know thy works, that thou hast the name of being alive: and thou art dead. For I find not thy works full before God. Such Christians may be compared to the fig tree, from which Christ sought in vain for fruit; they pride themselves on their Christian name and Christian life, but they have not the true Christian spirit and their fruits are not "full;" that means they have no real virtue; they are Christians only in as far as it suits their desire and convience.

My dear Christians, we acknowledge the true faith. Let us, then, also show by all our actions that we are truly Christians. Let us turn to Jesus and follow in His footsteps. Let us follow His example in thought, word and deed, so that we may exclaim with the Apostles: "I live, but Christ lives in me." We shall then "lay hold on eternal life, whereunto we are called." (Timothy vi, 12). Amen.

CARDINAL GIBBONS

SERMON ON THE OBLIGATION OF GIVING THANKS TO GOD AND TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ALWAYS

"All whatever ye do in word or in work, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God and the Father through Him."—Col., iii., 12 18.

It is a source of great satisfaction to every devout Christian that the Chief executive of the nation, as well as the Governors of the States, is accustomed once a year to invite the people of the United States to return thanks to God for His blessings to the country. The public act of our Chief Magistrate proclaiming the supreme dominion and Providence of our Creator cannot fail to exert a salutary influence on our citizens at large and to secure for us a continuance of Divine favors.

—"Gratitude to God is a most acceptable form of prayer. It has been called the respiration of the soul. As in every human breast there are two movements—the one that inhales the air, the other that exhales it after it has enriched the blood—so should there be in every soul two movements—the one receiving gifts from the Holy Spirit, which invigorates our inner life; the other pouring forth those gifts in the form of thanksgiving. Every blessing we enjoy in the order of nature or grace is a gratuitous bounty of our Creator, every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights."

"God has given us natural life. How precious it is! How delightful it is to cross the mysterious boundary that separates nothingness from existence to spring from darkness to light, to breathe the air of heaven, to contemplate the starry firmament above us, to commune with our fellow beings!

MAN'S CREATION GREATEST BOON CONFERRED BY GOD

"Life would be precious in any shape or form. It would be an unmerited gift if we were made birds of the air, or beast of the field, or fish of the sea, or creeping reptiles, for even the crawling reptile clings to life and instinctively shrinks from death. But how inexpressibly greater is the boon God has conferred upon us in creating us human beings and the lords of His earthly domain! He has made us in His own image and likeness. 'God created man in His own image.' He has endowed us with a sublime intelligence, with a free will with an immortal soul. 'What is man, O Lord,' says the Psalmist, 'that Thou art mindful of him, or the son of man that Thou visitest him? Thou hast made him a little less than the angels. Thou hast crowned him with glory and honor and hast set him over the works of Thy hands. Thou hast subjected all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen; moreover, the beasts also of the fields, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, that pass through the paths of the sea.' That universal jurisdiction which He gave to our heritage. He repeats to us what He said to Adam: 'Rule over all living creatures that move upon the earth.'

"We are indebted to God, not only for the life He has gives us but also for its preservation and continuance; for as only an Almighty hand could have created us, so none but an Almighty power can sustain us. Not only must we say with the Prophet: 'Thy hands, O Lord, have made me and fashioned me,' but with the same inspired writer we must exclaim: 'If thou turnest away Thy face, Thy creatures shall be troubled; Thou shalt take away their breath, and they shall fail and shall return to their dust.' He is the life of our life and the breath of our nostrils. He is the invisible sun that illumines our path. Every day we live, every breath we breathe, every pulsation of our heart is a fresh manifestation of divine power and a new expression of divine mercy.

AFFLICTIONS AND HUMILIATION OFTEN EVIDENCE OF GOD'S LOVE

"Perhaps you will object and say you have little or nothing to be thankful for. Your lives have been cast in barren places. While others around you enjoyed robust physical health, you have the victim of various diseases. While others have been honored and flattered, you have been ignored and despised. While others have possessed in abundance the good things of this world, you have been in straitened circumstances. To this I reply that we should thank God, not only for the temporal blessings that He sends us but also for the afflictions and humiliations with which He has visited us. We should love Him, not only when as a Father He cherishes us, but also when as a physician. He holds to our lips the cup of sorrow and humiliation. We should kiss the hand that strikes us as well as the hand that caresses us; He does so in love as our Father.

"It may seem paradoxical and hard to realize, nevertheless it is true, that in the day of the Lord, when He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and make manifest the counsels of the hearts—in that day we shall discover that we owe a heavier debt of gratitude to the Lord for the trials we have endured than for the comforts we have enjoyed. For how many more are drawn toward Him by sufferings than by consolations! What are the heavy rains of tribulation that fall on us but the refreshing flowers that quicken and make them grow into fruits of sanctification? What are afflictions if patiently endured but the raw material out of which we can weave the royal robe that we shall deserve to wear at the banquet of the great King?

INGRATES FORGET BENEFACTORS IN PROSPERITY.

"And yet, alas! are there not some of you before me to-day who, in both auspicious and adverse circumstances are wanting in thanksgiving to God? You do not show your gratitude in prosperity, but rather you are then so intoxicated with delight as to be oblivious to your benefactor. You fail to thank Him in adversity for the frost of tribulation congeals the fountain of grateful affections. The only time you feel disposed to make some pretense of gratitude is when you have some favor to ask or some danger to avoid, and then your sense of gratitude is a lively appreciation of benefits to be received.

"But if we should be grateful to God for the benefit of creation, how much more beholden we are to Him for the supernatural gift of redemption. We should give thanks to our Heavenly Father that we were not born and reared amid the darkness of idolatry, but in a civilized and Christian country; that we were nourished by Christian parents, and that we live under the benign influence of a Christian civilization. Above all, how grateful we ought to be that we have Christ, the Lord, for our teacher who "is the power of God and the wisdom of God," whose knowledge surpasses that of the pagan philosophers immeasurably more than the light of the sun excels that of the flickering lamp. He teaches us not only by word, but by example also.

He has rescued us from spiritual poverty that we might be rich in grace and in good works. He has delivered us from the bondage of sin to enjoy the glorious liberty of the children of God.

"If, therefore, we should be thankful for our temporal life, how much more for the supernatural life with which He has endowed us! If we should be grateful that He has sent His sun to shine on us, how much more that He has sent His Holy Spirit to illumine our mind and inflame our heart.

BLESSING CONFERRED ON MAN OUT OF PURE LOVE

"If we should have a profound sense of the Divine goodness in giving us daily food for the support of corporal life, how much stronger should be our obligation for the supersubstantial Bread of the Eucharist that is given us for the nourishment of our soul! If we should be thankful that He has given us dominion over the birds of the air and the beasts of the field, how much more grateful should we be that He has given us power to subdue those more voracious monsters and birds of prey—namely, our passions! If, in a word, we are indebted to our Heavenly Father for having made us lords of His earthly manor, how much greater is our obligation for having chosen us as prospective heirs of His everlasting kingdom! And all these blessings our Savior has granted to us out of pure love and at the price of His blood. He can truly say to each of us: "Greater love than this no man hath, that a man lay down his life for his friends." But even more than this Christ has done, for "when we were enemies," says the Apostle, "we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son."

There is no vice more hurtful to ourselves, more abhorred by man and more odious to God than the sin of unthankfulness. "Ingratitude," says St. Bernard, "is a parching wind that dries up the fountains of piety, the dew of mercy and the torrents of grace." "The earth," says St. Paul, "that drinketh in the rain which cometh upon it, and which bringeth forth thorns and briers, is rejected, whose end is to be burnt."

GOD HATED AND DENOUNCED INGRATITUDE

"So hateful is this vice in the sight of God that it provoked His most severe denunciation against the Jewish people: "I have brought up children," He says, "and exalted them, but they have despised Me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib, but Israel hath not known Me. My people hath not understood."

"The one recognizes with affection the master that feeds him, and we are indifferent to the Divine Hand that sustains us. The ox meekly submits to the yoke, and we grow impatient of the restraint of the gospel. The ox ploughs the field which yields a harvest to his master, and we fail to cultivate in our soul the seeds of sanctification.

"The Apostle of the Gentiles never wearies in giving thanks to God. In eleven of his fourteen epistles he pours forth his gratitude for the spiritual blessings vouchsafed to himself and his disciples. And in every instance these expressions of grateful acknowledgment are found in the opening chapter, as if to admonish us that our prayers and good works should be inaugurated by acts of thanksgiving.

COMMEMORATION OF CHRIST'S SACRIFICE AN ACT OF THANKSGIVING

"The church in her liturgy imitates the Apostles by the practice of thanksgiving. Our Savior was once sacrificed for redemption on the altar of the cross. From the rising to the setting of the sun that great event is commemorated on thousands of altars by the Eucharistic Sacrifice which, as its name implies, is a sacrifice of thanksgiving. Embodied in the prayers of the Mass is the angelic hymn, 'Glory to God in the highest! We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we give Thee Thanks for Thy great glory, O Lord God, Heavenly King, God, Father Almighty. And in the sublime preface these words are daily recited or chanted: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is meet and just. It is truly proper and worthy just and salutary that we should always and in all places give thanks to Thee, Holy Lord, Almighty Father, Eternal God.'

"Let each of us, also, beloved brethren, be diligent in offering thanks to God for individual blessings we have received and then we may hope to be more abundantly refreshed at the Fountain of Grace, for the prayer of thanksgiving is a heavenly stream that flows into the ocean of divine love and returns to us again in showers of benediction."

To seek happiness as a final aim is like loving love as a business—the end is desolation, death.—Herbert.

All things are ours in just such measure as we labor to make them ours. In just such measure as we fully appreciate the fact that God is in us and of us, not merely for us! In just such measure as we rise to our boundless inheritance of power!

A PROTESTANT VIEW OF ST. TERESA

An Englishman and a Protestant writing, in the Cornhill Magazine, of the French town of Sens, notes that the Carmelite Convent in the Rue de Tambour d'Argent stands empty and shuttered to-day. He says: "It is to become a distillery, I hear. MM. Combes and Briand have acted strenuously and Teresa's nuns have gone to Brazil." Of St. Teresa and her nuns this writer seems to know something. He likes the Saint for her common sense. He calls her the "sanest of mystics and most sensible of Saints;" although did he know more saints than Teresa he would discover that practical-mindedness was not so infrequent among them as he seems to think. He also likes St. Teresa because she had a sense of humor, and a hatred of dirt whether mental or physical. He quotes a saying ascribed to her: "Mirth is from God and dullness from the devil;" and another: "God dwells in the scullery too." But he loves Saint Teresa above all because of the thought of others which underlay her devotions. He writes:—

Well, they are gone, Teresa's nuns are gone. . . But wherever they be tonight, safe in port or ill upon the swaying ocean, they will be praying for you and me. Let us think of them nicely for that. The best of St. Teresa's doctrine was its unselfishness. A nun was not to be votive or ascetic for her own sake only—she was to renounce the world for the sake of the world. Carmelites mainly bent upon their own spiritual education were unworthy Carmelites, Teresa told them. And that is why to-night and every night the daughters of her doctrine agonize for you and me.

ABUSE OF CATHOLIC COUNTRIES

The Christian Advocate of St. Louis, in a recent issue, has the following hysterical sentence; "I therefore feel constrained to call the attention of the Church to the fact that Roman Catholicism is responsible for moral and religious conditions as deplorable as those which prevail in pagan and Mosleum lands. Nor can she remedy them, because Romanism is too Catholic." There you have it; a Daniel come to judgment.

But let us look at the matter calmly. Is it true that Catholic lands are conspicious in the way alleged by the Advocate? In the manner of criminality, we defy the Advocate to produce proofs that will overturn our contention that the Catholic lands have an immensely smaller percentage of criminality than the non-Catholic. There are more murders in England and the United States in a year than in all the Latin countries. The other crimes are equally preponderating in the non-Catholic countries. Take the matter of suicide, that personal revolt against God and religion. In all the earth the number of suicides is three times as great among Protestant people, than among Catholics. Prof. Von Oettingen, a statistician in moral matters declares: "It is a most certain fact, that here in Germany suicide rages fiercely, and in the Kingdom of Saxony it is like a violent contagious pest." In fact, in Protestant Saxony there are 400 suicides out of every million, whereas in the Catholic Rhine provinces, the ratio is only 60 to 70 to the million. One might bring forward the fact of drunkenness with its attendant crimes. Until English influence came into Italy, Spain and Portugal' drunkenness was almost unknown. As it is the Italians still speak of an unfortunate as being "as drunk as an Englishman." There are crimes unnamable, the extent of which in England and Saxon countries is so great, that they are often tolerated as an incorrigible evil.

The secret of the unceasing torrent of abuse and obloquy poured out in certain circles upon the Catholic Church in the Latin countries, is the utter failure of the English and American agencies to make any impression on the faith and piety of the Catholic principles. Another fact, worth recording—and it is a very palpable fact—that wherever British or American proselytizing agencies have not penetrated in Catholic lands, there is found a faith and a morality without reproach. The missionaries in Italy, Spain and Portugal have aroused no better sentiment in the hearts of those unfortunates who have fallen their way, than feelings of anarchy, revolution and absolute irreligion. That is their record, whether it be in Lisbon, Barcelona or Rome. The trail they have left behind them is one of blood and revolution. Where they found the people good, happy and industrious, they have left them corrupted, miserable, and lazy beyond belief. And yet these are the people who lift up their hands in holy horror at the "abominations" of the "Romish" Church Pilot.

HEAVY DRINKER CURED

Samaria Cured Him and He Helps Others

A man who has been released from the awful cravings of drink, and whose first thought is to help others, shows the spirit of true brotherhood and philanthropy. Read his letter:

"The Samaria Remedy Co., Toronto, Ont.

"Will you please send me book on drink, also circulars relating to your valued remedy for the drink habit. I wish to hand these to a friend who is going to ruin through drink. You will remember that I have taken your remedy, and I find it all you claim it to be. I never think of taking or using strong drink in any way, as all desire for it has left me. I cannot speak too highly of your wonderful remedy. You may use my name in any way you wish in public.

H. Lilywhite, Brigden, Ontario."

Samaria Prescription is tasteless and odorless, and dissolves instantly in tea or coffee, or can be mixed with food. It can be given with or without the patient's knowledge. It removes the craving for drink, builds up the system and restores the nerves. Drink becomes distasteful and even nauseous.

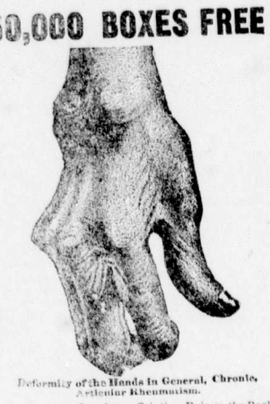
Drink is a disease, not a crime. One drink of whiskey always invites another. The inflamed nerves and stomach create a craving that must either be satisfied by more whiskey or removed by scientific treatment like Samaria Prescription. Samaria Prescription has been in regular and successful use by Physicians and Hospitals for over ten years.

If you know of any family needing Samaria Prescription, tell them about it. If you have a husband, father or friend that is drifting into drink, help him save himself. Write to-day.

A Free Trial Package of Samaria Prescription, with booklet, giving full particulars, testimonials, price, etc., will be sent absolutely free and postpaid in plain sealed package to anyone asking for it and mentioning this paper. Correspondence sacredly confidential. Write to-day. The Samaria Remedy Co., Dept. 11, 49 Colborne St., Toronto, Canada.

Cure Your Rheumatism

50,000 BOXES FREE



Deformity of the Hands in General, Chronic, Articular Rheumatism.

Rheumatism, Lumbago, Sciatica, Pain in the Back have been cured, in the real meaning of the word by a little Stillingia, Iodide of Potassium, Poke Root, Guaiac Resin and Sarsaparilla. Any person can take these remedies in any reasonable amount with perfect safety, and the results have been found to be astonishing. It has been proven that this combination makes up the best rheumatism remedy in existence, having actually cured many stubborn cases of over 30 and 40 years' standing—even in persons of old age.

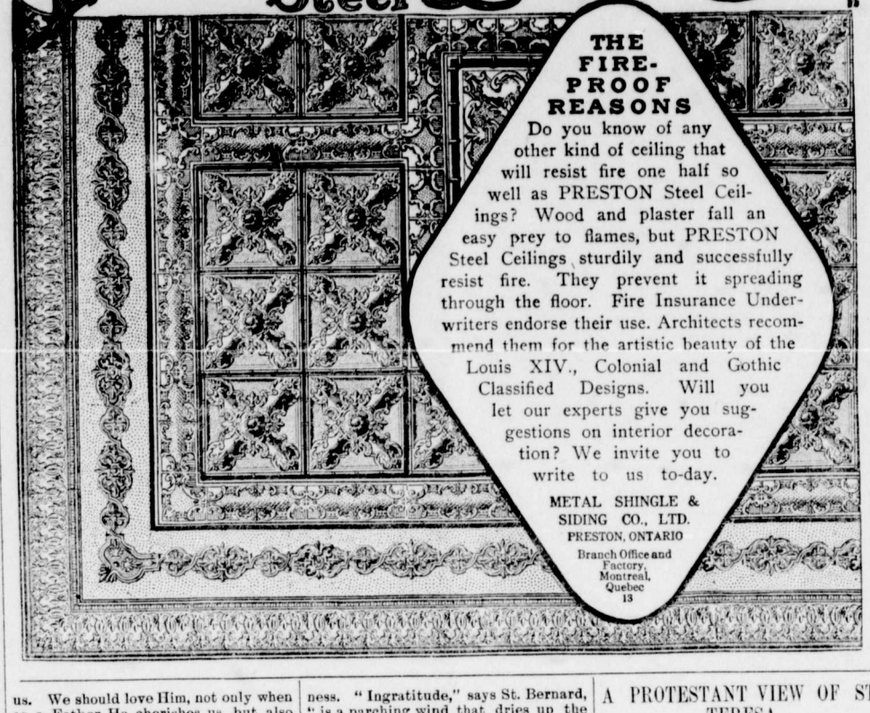
The five ingredients mentioned above prepared with great accuracy and skill, not only in regard to proportion, but also in selecting the best material have been put up in compressed tablet form, and are called

"GLORIA TONIC," and

fifty thousand boxes are offered free to introduce it.

If you suffer from any form of uric acid in the blood, and have Rheumatism, Gout, Lumbago, Sciatica, this is the way to drive it out of your system in quick time. Simply send your name and address, enclosing this advertisement, to JOHN A SMITH, 732 Laing Building, Windsor, Ontario, and by return mail you will receive the box absolutely free. It is only in "Gloria Tonic" that you can get the above combination ready for use.

Preston Steel Ceilings



THE FIRE-PROOF REASONS

Do you know of any other kind of ceiling that will resist fire one half so well as PRESTON Steel Ceilings? Wood and plaster fall an easy prey to flames, but PRESTON Steel Ceilings sturdily and successfully resist fire. They prevent it spreading through the floor. Fire Insurance Underwriters endorse their use. Architects recommend them for the artistic beauty of the Louis XIV., Colonial and Gothic Classified Designs. Will you let our experts give you suggestions on interior decoration? We invite you to write to us to-day.

METAL SHINGLE & SIDING CO., LTD.
PRESTON, ONTARIO
Branch Office and Factory, Montreal, Quebec
13

The Northern Life
Assurance Company of Canada

We have positions on our field staff for reliable producers. As several good districts are open, the opportunity is now. Take advantage of it by writing to our Head Office at London.

W. M. GOVENLOCK, Secretary
JOHN MILNE, Managing Director

THERE ARE FEW SIGHTS

more pitiable than that of the man seeking employment who is met with the response; "You are too old, we require a younger and more vigorous man." Yet sooner or later that may be your own experience unless some provision is made against it now.

Life insurance in one form or another offers the best and only certain way of making provision for one's family and also for advancing years. A company that is in every way a most reliable one for insurers is the

North American Life Assurance Company

"SOLID AS THE CONTINENT"

Head Office Toronto

Memorial Church Windows

LEADED ART GLASS

Estimates and Sketches on application.

Cutler Art Glass Co.
434 Richmond St.
LONDON, CANADA

O'KEEFE'S LIQUID EXTRACT OF MALT WITH IRON,

is an ideal preparation for building up the

BLOOD and BODY

It is more readily assimilated, and absorbed into the circulatory fluid than any other preparation of iron.

It is of great value in all forms of Anemia and Ceneral Debility.

For Sale at Drug Stores

W. LLOYD WOOD,
Toronto, - Canada
General Agent

From Father to Son

The voluntary renewal of confidence in any institution is regarded as the best proof of its merits. The

Mutual Life of Canada

has many policy-holders who not only take out new policies as they can afford to do so, but insure their sons in it just as soon as they attain an insurable age.

A PROFESSIONAL MAN, when acknowledging cheque in settlement of his matured endowment, says:

"I am well pleased with my investment, and expect to have insured in your Company in the near future my son for a good amount."

Head Office—Waterloo, Ontario

TOBACCO HABIT

Dr. McTaggart's tobacco remedy removes all desire for the weed in a few days. A vegetable medicine, and only requires touching the tongue with it occasionally. Price $2.

LIQUOR HABIT

Marvellous results from taking his remedy for the liquor habit. Safe and inexpensive home treatment, no hypodermic injections, no publicity, no loss of time from business, and a cure guaranteed.

Address or consult Dr. McTaggart, 75 Yonge treet, Toronto, Canada.

Church Chime Peal BELLS
Memorial Bells a Specialty.
McShane Bell Foundry Co., Baltimore, Md., U.S.A.

MENEELY & CO. WATERVLIET, (West Troy), N.Y.
The Old Reliable Meneely Foundry, Established nearly 100 years ago.
CHURCH, CHIME, SCHOOL & OTHER BELLS

EDDY'S "SILENT" MATCHES ARE SURE AND SAFE

EDDY'S WASH-BOARDS are acknowledged to be the BEST on the market

THE E. B. EDDY CO., Limited HULL, CANADA
Branch at 155 Carling St., LONDON

Whooping Cough
CROUP ASTHMA COUGHS
BRONCHITIS CATARRH COLDS

Vapo-Cresolene

ESTABLISHED 1879

A simple, safe and effective treatment for bronchial troubles, avoiding drugs. Vaporized Cresolene stops the paroxysms of Whooping Cough and relieves croup at once. It is a boon to sufferers from Asthma. The air rendered strongly antiseptic, inspired with every breath, makes breathing easy; soothes the sore throat and stops the cough, assuring restful nights. It is invaluable to mothers with young children.

Send us postal for descriptive booklet. 309

ALL DRUGGISTS

Try Cresolene Antiseptic Throat Tablets for the irritated throat. They are simple, effective and antiseptic. Of your druggist or from us, 10c. in stamps.

Vapo Cresolene Co.
Leeming-Miles Bldg.
MONTREAL

Sell your Turkeys NOW, while the price is high. Nearly all farmers are planning to hold their TURKEYS until a few days before Christmas. If this is done there will likely be a slump in prices the same as last year, when farmers were glad to take 3c. a pound less than our buyers offered one week before. From reports the supply of TURKEYS being held back is more than sufficient to fill the Eastern Xmas demand. The best plan is to sell now and supply the Western and Export trade. We have large orders to fill, but the TURKEYS must be delivered to us before December 10th. Write immediately for our top-notch prices. NOW is the profitable time to sell. We buy all other kinds of poultry, too—get prices.

FLAVELLE-SILVERWOOD, Limited, LONDON, ONT.