

FIVE-MINUTE SERMON. First Sunday in Lent. THE RELAPSING SINNER.

"That every one of you know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor."

When we see a man given up to a life of some base, health and soul-destroying sin, and who perseveres in it in spite of all warnings and remonstrances of priest and dear friends, the remark will be heard from someone who knows him. How astonishing! And from another, How sad! But there is something more astonishing, and more sad, and that is to see a man who, having been converted from such a deplorable state, who has made extraordinary efforts of his own, and has received extraordinary graces from God to help him reform, suddenly gives himself up again to the very sins he has so lately abandoned. Just as if you had seen a man whose clothes were all bespattered with filth, mud and mire from lying like a beast in a gutter every night for a month and having resolved to live more like a man and a Christian, had taken a whole week to wash himself clean, beginning long before daylight and scrubbing away all day until long after sundown, until he was a sight of cleanliness, order, and neatness most agreeable to look upon; now, in a moment, lies down in the gutter again, and swallows there like a pig until he is, if possible, more dirty, more repulsive than he was before.

That is the man that took such pains to get up early in the harsh, cold weather, and come to the church, and again late at night, and worked hard during the week of the Mission to purify his soul and make himself fit for man and God to look upon with pleasure; and yet how astounding and how sad! He is soon back again into his old sinful ways, committing every sin he so solemnly swore to abandon for the love of God and with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

If you ask him: Friend how did you come to do this? Was not the friendship and love of God and the hope of heaven worth keeping? Why did you fall into sin again? He has but one answer, "I was tempted." Like Eve, he repeats the old excuse. "The devil beguiled me and I did eat of the forbidden fruit." Or like Adam, he says: "It was the woman's fault; she offered the fruit to me and I ate it."

I cannot help having some compassion for Adam and Eve, for it was their first sin. They had not been just rescued by a crucified God and Saviour from a state of hell and misery, and now again promised all the old lost love of God and hope of heaven. They had not been prodigal children, lately in rags and feeding upon husks with swine and now received back with joy and feasting to the father's house and the father's embrace.

But what shall I think of you, O relapsing sinner! of whom all I have just said is so true? Tempted! Have you not just now heard the Gospel of the temptation of Christ? Did He give way to the extraordinary temptations set Him by the devil? But you say "I am not Christ." I tell you you are. You are a Christian, and that means another Christ or it means nothing. Though it does not mean that you are a God as He was; yet it does mean that His divine humanity is yours. You are one of His divinely exalted human race just as much as you are one of Adam's fallen human race. And there is no grace which Christ's human nature had to keep Him from giving up to the temptation of the devil, that God would not also give you if you prayed for it. You are conceived and born of the Holy Ghost, a Christian son of the Church, your mother, as Christ was conceived and born of His Mother Mary by the same Holy Ghost. Therefore, our Lord in His prayer to His heavenly Father said: "I in the world and Thou Father in Me. Thou hast loved them even as Thou hast loved Me."

If the heavenly Father loves us the same He will strengthen us the same against temptations. Stop! turn back quickly and repair your fault, your own fault, your own most grievous fault. Or, at the Day of Judgment Adam and Eve will scorn to look upon you as a man, and Christ will say to you "Depart from Me: I know you not!"

If you fear such a horrible end may come upon you, pray, in temptation and out of temptation and the devil shall have no power over you.

REVELATION.

THE VEIL BEFORE THE HOLY OF HOLIES—NATURE TEACHES SOMETHING OF GOD—WHAT REVELATION MEANS—MYSTERIES.

The story is told of a beautiful young princess who was brought before the king veiled from head to foot. When the king demanded that the veil be withdrawn, he was answered: "Thou hast promised, O King, to accept the princess we should bring thee for thy queen. She stands here veiled. Trust us, O King, that we have brought one that shall please thee."

Nevertheless the king demanded that at least a portion of the veil be removed. When this was done the monarch beheld only a few strands of golden hair. Another unveiling betrayed a small white hand of exquisite loveliness. "Enough!" the king cried, "I have seen sufficient to make me know that the woman is worthy to sit on my throne. I accept her as my wife. Let me behold her face to face."

The veil was withdrawn and the king embraced with the beautiful being thus disclosed raised her to his side and she reigned a queen over his people.

NATURE SPEAKS OF GOD.

A veil of deepest mystery hangs before this Holy of Holies wherein reside our God, our King, our Creator. Nature has told us some truths regarding His being. She has told us, for instance, that He is the first Cause of all things, that He is infinite, that He is a personal Being, all powerful, all wise, all good. But the knowledge which Nature gives us of God is so meagre

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and attenuated that it falls utterly in the presence of His awful reality or the reality of that supreme heaven wherein He dwells. The veil, indeed hangs before His presence, and we see only darkly. At times however, God has withdrawn the veil, slightly it may be and told to men something of the mystery that lies beyond. This removing of the veil before the things of God is called revelation.

It teaches whenever God manifested a truth to one or more persons not by the ways of natural experience, but by the formal word uttered by Himself. In many and diverse ways did God in former times speak to our fathers by the prophets; in these last days He hath spoken to us by His Son.

Now, whether God speaks to one immediately or through the agency of another; whether He speaks externally, as He did to Moses, or internally as by way of inspiration, such an act is in itself supernatural, that is, it is something above the range of mere natural things.

THE OBJECT OF REVELATION.

It may be useful here to indicate in a general way what things may be revealed by God; in other words, what is the object of revelation. According to the Vatican Council, by revelation we can know both those things which we might discover by the light of reason, and, also, and especially those mysteries hidden in God, and which unless divinely revealed we should never be able to know.

MYSTERIES.

A mystery, generally speaking, is a hidden truth. Truths may be hidden from us in many ways; they may be absolutely hidden, as when we cannot know them by the light of reason. There are many truths existing of which our reason tells us nothing.

Again, truths may be relatively hidden, such for instance as we cannot know with certainty, but only conjecturally, or because they are not betrayed, for example, the secrets of the heart. They are truths which are hidden from the ordinary observer. So also we may know of a thing that it exists; but we may never learn what its nature is.

The Council of the Vatican defines true mysteries as truths which are absolutely and essentially hidden both as regards their existence and their nature. —Boston Pilot.

FATHER DEMPSEY'S HOTEL.

ST. LOUIS PRIEST COMES TO RESCUE OF HOMELESS MEN.

"Father Dempsey's Hotel" is a unique St. Louis institution. Father Dempsey is the rector of St. Patrick's Church, which stands almost at the entrance to the city and is well situated to bring its pastor in touch with the homeless and idle men, ten thousand of whom are estimated to be on its streets every winter.

Just two years ago Father Dempsey, with the approval of Archbishop Glennon, started his work in a small house and registered fifty-three the first day and over one hundred the second day. Presently he secured an abandoned school and through the press and private charity got the \$5,000 necessary to remodel it.

The hotel is now self-supporting. There is no religious test for admission. Ten cents a night entitles a man to an excellent bed, a bath, the newspapers and the recreation room. Meals cost from 5 cents to 15 cents apiece and are prepared from the best provisions.

But there are thousands who can't pay even the small sum of 25 or 30 cents a day. They are as warily welcomed as any in Father Dempsey's hotel. During its first year it gave free lodging to eight thousand and fifty-six, and for a period of six months ended April 1, 1908, two thousand one hundred and fifty free meals were served. During December, 1907, the worst perhaps of the panic months, four thousand four hundred and twenty-eight men slept on the floor of the recreation room after the four hundred beds had been filled.

There is an employment bureau at the hotel, and through it five hundred secured work the first year. Father Dempsey keeps his kindly interest in his lodgers even after they have left him for good work and through his influence some of them have started bank accounts, their savings totaling \$3,000.

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The Priest in the Confessional.

As difficult and irksome as is the office of the priest in the hearing of confessions, as regards the labor and fatigue of the body, comforting and consoling, beyond all that is the happiness his soul experiences. The confessor feels a supernatural strength of the body and a supernatural power of the mind in the duties of the confessional. How quickly pass the happy hours, and where is the good priest so eloquent or so truly wise as within his holy precincts? Again and again he recognizes a power of thought and word not his own when in the sacred tribunal, and like the joy and consolation of the soul he reconciles to God, so all the priest's experiences likewise tell that confession is something not of man, but of God, of our Divine Lord, who founded the Church and who with His own sacred person

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and power has so wonderfully enriched her.—Bishop Colton.

To strive to repress unkind conversation and unkind feeling is to be in earnest in loving God with our whole heart. Therefore, it is to secure for ourselves safety in the day of judgment. "Judge not, and you shall not be judged."

If God gives me work to do, I will thank Him that He has bestowed upon me a strong arm; if He gives me danger to brave, I will bless Him that He has not made me without courage; but I will go down on my knees and beseech Him to fit me for my task, if He tells me it is only to stand and wait.—Jean Ingelow.

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Let us send you a Peerless Incubator and Brooder to-day and start you on the right road to profitable poultry raising

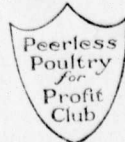
YOU can make more money out of poultry for the time, attention and investment it requires, than any other department of your farm will produce. The money is there. Others are getting it and you can get your share. But you must go about it the right way. Anyone who is making money out of poultry to-day will tell you, that to be successful you must use an Incubator. All you have to do is get the facts and decide which incubator will give you the best results.

Now we have studied poultry conditions in Canada very closely—have been doing so for years. We have been raising poultry for years on our farm—the Poultry Yards of Canada Limited at Pembroke—and making good money out of it. We know that the incubators that are successful in the United States are not suited to Canadian conditions. We know, for we have tested every one of them. It was because these machines failed to come up to the standard of success which we were looking for, that we produced the Peerless Incubator. It has proved to be the most successful of all the ones we have tested. The Peerless is the only incubator used on our farm. If there was a better one made any place in the world we would use it—for our object is to make the biggest possible profits out of poultry.

It stands to reason that the Peerless Incubator must be the most successful in Canada. It is the only one that is made in Canada to suit Canadian conditions and as the direct results of experience in poultry raising in Canada. The Peerless Incubator has been thoroughly tested in all parts of Canada under all prevailing climatic conditions. In every case it has proven the most successful.

We have thousands of letters from all over Canada telling of the success our customers are having with the Peerless Incubator. Very likely some of these letters come from your neighbors. What we have said of the Peerless Incubator also applies to the Peerless Brooder. It is built to suit Canadian conditions and has proved itself to be the best brooder for use in Canada.

Right in your district money is being made out of raising poultry the Peerless way—you can make it too. Write for our book "When Poultry Pays." It tells the whole story. Sit down now, while you are thinking of it, and write for this free book.

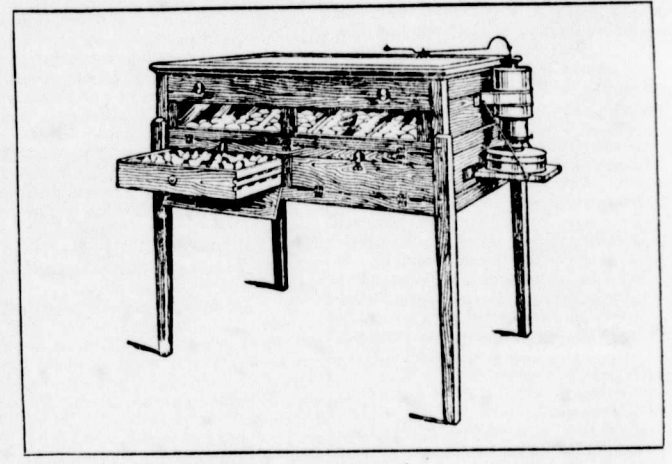


Genuine advice and help for poultry raisers given by the Peerless Poultry-for-profit Club



We are honestly interested in the success of every purchaser of a Peerless Outfit. We want to help him in every way make every cent he can out of poultry. For this reason we have formed the Peerless Poultry-for-profit Club. Every user of a Peerless Outfit is entitled to the free advice and help of the experts on the farm of the Poultry Yards of Canada Limited. No matter what problem comes up—hatching, fattening, laying more eggs—just write us and the return mail will bring you full instructions. If you cannot get all the profit you think you are entitled to, just write us and we'll put you in touch with buyers who will pay the very highest market prices.

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We are thoroughly interested in the poultry industry of Canada. We want to see it become much bigger and more profitable. We want to see Canadian poultry raisers take more interest in their work and become more proficient in the operating of incubators. We know that if we can create a competitive feeling among poultry raisers we will have done much for the industry in Canada. For these reasons we offer \$510 in cash prizes to the poultry raisers who are most successful. The prizes are divided as follows:—

- First Prize - - - \$100.00
Second Prize - - - 50.00
Third Prize - - - 25.00
Ten prizes \$10 each - - 100.00
Twenty prizes \$5 each - 100.00
Twenty prizes \$3 each - 60.00
Twenty-five prizes \$2 each, 50.00
Twenty-five prizes \$1 each, 25.00

The competition is open to every owner of a Peerless Incubator. Professor A. G. Gilbert, Chief of the Government Poultry Department at Ottawa, has kindly consented to act as judge. The names of the winners will be published in this journal after the awards are made. Write to-day for full particulars.

We are helping lots of Peerless users to make big money now—we can help you do it, too. Write us to-day for particulars.

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