FIVE-MINUTE SERMONS

Third Sunday After Epiphany.

MIRACLES.

As the Gospel of to day relates one of the miracles our Lord performed, I

am led to say a few words about mir-acles as used in evidence of the truth of the Divine doctrine of Jesus Christ.

Certainly our Lord appealed to miracles sometimes as proof that He had Divine

power, but that was by no means the rule. The miracle of changing water into wine was performed for no such purpose. On other occasions He bade

about it. And St. Matthew expressly said that the reason why He wraught

not many miracles among those who knew Him best was because of their

unbelief: the very reason we would think why He ought to have worked

miracles before their eyes so as to oblige them to believe in Him And St. John also intimates that our Lord did not

place much reliance upon belief that only depended upon miracles; for he

the history of Christianity, that the triumph of His Divine truth has not

spite of them. If there was then, or has been since, anything which the world

hates to learn of, and obstinately refuses to credit, it is a miracle.

have to acknowledge God knows what I cannot know." That is the way men think, if they do not speak out their

thoughts quite so plainly. There have always been miracles, plenty of them, enough to convert the whole world to Christianity if that were the means in-

tended by Almighty God to bring about

conviction and conversion. A man convinced against his will is of the same

opinion still; and miracles convince en against their will-the will of their proud, self conceited, rebellious

heart. They see them plainly as you

and I do, but they won't believe them. The triumph of our Lord's holy relig

ion, therefore, has not been due to miracles of healing. These are the

thingsunbelievers hate, as they do every other sign of Christ that demands their

submission. But what conquers the world despite itself is Love and the

sacrifices that it makes. They cannot

stand out against the sight of our Lord's

love, even unto death, nor gaze upon

arguments as strong as the reasoning of St. Thomas. Go and show them a

them see how sweet spoken and kind you are to the poor, how patient you

are in affliction, how nobly you conquer

your passions for God's love, and resist temptations to drink and steal and gratify desires of the flesh. Did I say

never mind about miracles? I make a

mistake. For if you do what I have just told you, I am inclined to think

some of you will be doing as great a

vidence, submit to your lot like a man

and a Christian. You that are a drunkard, take the pledge and keep it.

You that are living like a beast, get

honorably married and live chaste.

You that have hands getting hot for hell with ill-gotten money, make full restitution. These will be miracles—

miracles of grace; and against such miracles unbelief neven will have any

argument, or power to resist either

conviction or conversion. And then

you can say to the unbeliever: If you

will not believe in the Catholic religion for its truth's sake, look at me, and believe it for the work it can do. It

can bring a sinner back to God, and

that is a greater miracle than raising

Realize the influence of early impres-

sions, and never refuse your daughter

the confidence she seeks, nor your son

the words of sympathy he craves.

Give to the boy all the information, advice and sympathy he needs, but

to her mother no trace of evil lurks. A girl is naturally full

of affection, and she longs to open her heart to mother and be her friend.

But if the mother once shows, by the slightest word or action, that this con-

fidence is under-valued or unsought, it will quickly be withdrawn, and, hence-

forth, in the quiet working of your hearts and lives, you will be to each

other as strangers.

What a pity! The most beautiful.

tie between you broken, never, per-haps, to be mended. And all because

of the rude laugh or unkind remark

which treated lightly the things held

due to miracles, but rather in

whom He healed to say nothing

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'Speak gentle words, for who can tell The blessings they impart! How oft they fall (as manna fell) On some nigh fainting heart!" Look out for colds at this season. Keep yourself well and strong by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, the great tonic and blood puri-fier,

sacred in another's heart!

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

Getting Acquainted.

I got acquainted very quick With Teddy Brown when he Moved in the house across the street, The nearest one you see.

I climbed and sat upon a post
To look, and so did he.
I stared and stared across at him,
And he stared back at me.

I s'posed he wanted me to speak.

I thought I'd try and see.
I said "Hello!" to Teddy Brown.
He said "Hello!" to me.
—Exchange.

What a Little Girl Did, A good many years ago a little girl of twelve years of age was passing an old brick prison in the city of Chicago on her way to school, when she saw a hand beckoning from behind a cell window and heard a weary voice ask-

ing her to please bring him something For many weeks after she went to the prison every Sunday, carrying the poor prisoner a book to read from her father's

prisoner a book to read from her father's library. At last one day she was called to his death bed.

"Little girl," said he, "you have saved my soul: promise me that you will do all your life for the poor people in prison what you have done for me."

The little girl provised and said and said.

only depended upon miracies; for ne says, "Many believed, seeing the signs that He did. But Jesus did not trust Himself to them, for He knew what was in man." If we read the Gospels attentively we shall see that it was true then, as it has been all through the history of Christianity, that the The little girl promised, and she has kept her promise. Linda Gilbert has been all her life the steadfast friend of the prisoner. She has established good libraries in many prisons, and visited and helped hundreds of prisoners; and of the great number of whom she has "The idea of God or any messenger from God pretending to do things a man cannot understand! Don't I know nature well enough to know that even if God made it He cannot change it? To believe in miracles I would helped six hundred are now, to her knowledge, leading honest lives. Prisoners from all parts of the country know and love her name, and surely the God of prisoners must look upon her

work with interest.

And all this because a little girl heard and heeded the call to help a suffering soul!

Girls Everybody Likes. You have undoubtedly met disagree able girls, who without doing any-thing especially spiteful or mean, have thing especially spiteful or mean, have impressed you as girls to avoid. But have you ever met the girl that you, as well as everybody else, likes? You are unfortunate if you have not met

her. She is the girl who is not "too bright and good "to be able to find joy and pleasure all over the world. She is the girl who appreciates the

fact that she cannot always have the first choice of everything in the world. She is the girl who is not aggressive, and does not find joy in inciting aggressive people.

She is the girl who never causes pain

fault with the weather.
She is the girl who, when you invite

the love of those who through all generations have taken His place, and spoken, prayed, preached, suffered, and died in His name, without being wenter belief. her to any place, compliments you by looking her best. So, my brethren, if you are anxious She is the girl who makes this world to convert anybody to our holy faith, never mind about miracles; and do a pleasant place because she is so

pleasant herself. And, by and by, when you come to think of it, isn't she the girl who makes you feel she likes you, and, not be astonished if they pooh pooh little of the unselfish, charitable, self-denying, suffering love of Christ. Let therefore, you like her?

To Morrow

BY FANNIE MERRILL. I hurt my friend tc-day with careless words; I saw the foolish arrow rankle sore; I did not heed to soothe the pain away, But laughed and sang and jested yet the

more.

more will sue with humble mien Her pardon. I will bring at early dawning, Pale dew, drenched roses, from the hedges miracle as there is on record. You And she will smile upon me in the morning.

that are stingy, give freely. You that dislike the poor, go and serve them. You that are complaining of God's pro-Fell from her heavy eyelids teardrops cold Upon dead, white roses, as they lay Upon the dead, white face and hair of gold, A sound of bitter anguish filled the air; An anguish hopeless in its great despair, "Too late! Too late! All life I'd give to be a support of the support of the life in the support of the support of

borrow
The hours from then until his fatal morrow.'
—Young Eagle.

Learn to Work.

No young man can make a success in life unless he works. He cannot loaf around street corners and saloons without deteriorating. He must learn a trade, or do some honest work : or. before he knows it, he will be a chronic loafer, despised by all with whom he

comes in contact.

Do something, no matter how small, and do it well, and you will eventually find yourself climbing the ladder of There are many obstacles to overcome, but toil, grit and endurance will overcome them all. Help yourself, and God and good men will help you.

About Birthdays.

A lonely woman, one who was bearadvice and sympathy he needs, but give to the girl your confidence and affection. "Look for the opening heart and you will surely find the budding flowers." In the heart of the daughter who confides everything to her mother no trace of evil to her mother no trace of evil to her mother here. "A fonely woman, one who was bear ing patiently a great sorrow, surprised a friend one day by saying, "Come with me next Tuesday, it is my birth-day, and I want you to help me celebrate her birthday?" thought the friend. But the next week she learned, for the sorrowful one went loaded with gifts to an institution in which she took a keen interest. "I want some one to be glad that I was born," said she, and that is the noblest, best and happiest thought that can come to us on our birthdays. It is pleasant to be remembered and to receive presents, but whether surrounded with love or suffering from neglect, which is more often thoughtlessness than intention, we can make some one happier because

The Child's Petition.

BY M. H.

She stole into the church alone, With shy and timid grace, A little child with wondrous eyes And dimpled, smiling face.

we were born.

"I come to see You, dearest Lord, Sweet Jesus, are You here?

Ah, yes, the light is burning bright I know that You are near.

"I'm glad that we are all alone Because I want to bring, A letter to your Sacred Heart To ask for everything.

Now, it some older people saw Me write this little letter, They'd take it, maybe, from my hand And try to make it better.

But no one saw me write it, Lord. I think it's written right. But you won't mind if it's spelt wrong, Because it's clean and white.

I'll drop it in Your treasure box But kiss it so 'twill speed, Right up to Heaven to Your Heart To ask for all we need.

"And then to make it very sure
I'll say a decade too
To forward quick, this little note
I wrote, dear Lord, to You."

Consult Your Parents, Girls. Girls should never forgot for one moment that no being on earth takes so deep and so true an interest in their welfare as does their father and mother Their advice springs ever from the very soul of affection, pure as the love of God Himself, and their command should be obeyed as the command of God. As sins brings its inevitable punishment on this earth, so disobedience of the parents is sure to be followed by sorrow and other she says. She is blinded and led away by the youthful passions; the parents are guided by the soul light in which they have enshrined her, and they can see the breath of evil—the faintly approaching mis of misfesture.

Spoiled Children.

first glass of whiskey often proves the ruin of the boy so too the first deliberate disobedience of the girl to her parents may lead her to ruin and

A child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame. It is a sad thing for parents to love their children so much as to make everybody else hate them. Many children, says a sensible writer, form intolerable habits and become abhorent to everybody, through the weakness and indolence of the mother with a thoughtless tongue.

She is the girl who, whether it is warm or cold, clear or stormy, finds no teasing, and it is easier to overlook insolent disobedience than to call the culprit to account and insist upon repara-tion for the offence. But the inability to say no, and the neglect of requiring works of practical repentance after his evil doing mean ultimate ruin to the child. Lesser offences are overlooked in the same weak way—slovenliness of speech, slang that is unpardonable and nearly as reprehensible as profanity; slipshod pronunciation and defective English. All these could be corrected and radically cured with a little per-sistence. The same is true of bad manners at table, of thoughtlessness and incivility everywhere, which will easily become fixed habits. Certain people have a practice of sneering at refinment as it is exemplified in good the world, trim and restrain them.

Teach them and control them in the fear of God. They will rise up and call you blessed by and by, and will thank you for making them what they

A Cardinal in Gaol.

When the late Cardinal Melchers, then Archbishop of Cologne, was in 1874 hurried off from his palace by Commissary Klose and a guard of soldiers and police, and marched through the dense crowds, numbering over 10,000, of his Catholic subjects, reciting the rosary and singing hymns as they accompanied him, he was interred in the prison of the Klingel-putz; then he was placed in a vast common room, with some thirty convicts of all kinds, thieves, forgers, incendiaries, etc. All slept and worked together, their occupation being the making of straw-bottomed chairs. The Archbishop's name was inscribed in the register as "Paul Melchers, straw-plaiter," and during all his so-journ in prison he was officially known

by this designation.

His imprisonment, however, was like a mission for his fellow prisoners. They voluntarily divided among themselves the daily task of work of the illustrious confessor of the faith, while he in turn devoted himself to instructing, advising and converting the many unfortunates who gladly listened to his preaching. Rarely has a prison witnessed such scenes as passed during those eight months in the Cologne gaol, and the convicts who had the good fortune to be fellow-prisoners of the future Cardinal carried away an indelible impression of the time spent in his comchapter out of the persecutions of the early Church of Japan.

Make Yourself Strong.

If you would resist pneumonia, bronchitis, typhoid tever, and persistent coughs and colds. These ills attack the weak and run down system. They can find no foothold where the blood is kept pure, rich and full of vitality, the appetite good and digestion



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The Experience of a Lady Well Known in Coaticook. — Stricken With La Grippe. — Followed by Pneumonia. She Languished For More Than a Year. — Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Saved Her When Other Medicines Failed.

From L'Etoile de l'Est, Coaticook, Que.

The town of Averill, Vt., is situated about eight miles from Coaticook, to be followed by sorrow and other shame. A girl may say, in the pride of her budding womanhood, that she is of such an age, and can judge for herself,—she may be even guilty of irreverence of thinking her parents as "old fashioned" or "old fogyish," but at such times she knows not what she says. She is blinded and led away by the vertiful passions, the parents Que., and is the home of Mrs. Ada woman enjoying a healthy constitution until about two years ago, when she was, like hundreds of others in this vicinity, stricken with influenza, or, as steals into the clarified spiritual atmosphere with which their pure love has surrounded her. Let girls honor in the case of numerous others left beand obey their fathers and their hind wrecked constitutions. As often mothers and their days will not only happens, pneumonia followed the first be long but happy and lead to an symptoms of la grippe, and Mrs. Hart-eternal happiness hereafter. As the well was sick, nigh unto death. The



ABLE TO RIDE WITHOUT FATIGUE. pest of medical aid was summoned, and Mrs. Hartwell was saved from what seemed to her friends imminent death, but when convalescence came, she remained deprived of her appetite extremely weak, and in constant danger of a relapse, and all her physic-ians could do could not bring about her former condition of health. Num-erous medicines were tried, but to no avail; she was weak, dispirited and despaired of again enjoying her former vigor and health. For a whole year after her attack of pneumonia she continued to languish in this state. At last one day her husband purchased a few boxes of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. He had read of the many cures wrought by this wonderful medicine, but procured them, he says, for his wife in order to be able to say "we Pale dew, drenched roses, from the hedges and she will smile upon me in the morning.

And she will smile upon me in the morning. The morning came in robes of shivering grey;
Fell from her heavy eyelids teardrops cold Upon dead, white roses, as they lay. husband, when, after taking three boxes she was able to take a short ride without feeling any fatigue. She wisely resolved to continue the treatment, and before long found that she had regained her old-time strength, and she declared that she owes her re-covery entirely to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Last winter Mrs. Hartwell felt a slight recurrence of her former weakness and again resorted to Pink Pills, since which time she has not had

a day's illness.
Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have a more potent influence on the blood and nerves than any other known medicine, and speedily restore the bloom of health to pallid cheeks. Pink Pills cure when all other medicines fail. Sold by all dealers or sent by mail at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2 50, by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., or Schenectady, N. Y. Refuse all substitutes alleged to be "just as good."

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Cod-liver oil suggests consumption, which is almost unfortunate. Its best use is before you

fear consumption; when you begin to get thin, weak, run down; then is the prudent time to begin to take care, and the best way to take care is to supply the system with needed fat and strength. Scott's Emulsion pany. The whole episode reads like a of cod-liver oil, with hypophosphites, will bring back plumpness to those who have lost it, and make strength where raw cod-liver oil would be a burden.

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