QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY

MATRIMONY

This morning, dear brethren, will say a few words with regard to the remote preparation for marriage in the hope that they who contemplate entering upon this state either at once or in the future may receive the sacrament of matrimony with perfect dispositions, and thus receive more fully of the graces pur chased by the Blood of Christ.

The choice of a husband or of a wife is something of the highest importance. It marks a period in one's life and brings with it a future full of possibilities for good or evil, according as the choice has been wise or the contrary.

And not only is it a question of one's own happiness; others are involved in the consequences of our act and the lives of several may be

clouded by our imprudent step.

For, when a man marries, he contracts a relation with his helpmate which death alone severs; he sumes responsibilities which cannot be shifted from his shoulders upon those of another; he has duties which must be performed with exactness. With the married man and voman it is not a matter of option how long they shall live together nor how they shall live together; with them their choice of a state of life has been final.

This being the case, too much can hardly be said of the necessity of earnest preparation for a manner of life bringing with it so many and so serious engagements; too much thought cannot be given to the consideration of our choice, nor too much attention to the motives impelling us to this choice. Truth should be ever with us at this all-important time, and passion excluded, so far as it can be excluded, that our judgment may not be biased. Reason right reason, should reign over affection, that our eyes may not be closed to our own faults nor to those of our beloved, and that we may not suffer a cruel recognition of these when it is not in our power to correct them.

We should be honest too-not posing for what we are not-not pre senting only our amiable side. other words, we should not act a lie Let us not wreathe our face in smiles for our lover's advent if a frown mars our common expression; fill our mouths with honeyed words when sharp speech is our wont. Such conduct is dishonest and untruthful, and good cannot come of it. The cloven hoof will

we are deceiving.

Do not view things either with rose-tinted ones, or you will make many mistakes. Do not be sordid, but be not rash either. Both courses are wrong; both, therefore, should Listen to advice, weigh the counsel you receive. Do not despise the wisdom that the years have brought because your spectacles are Prudence is a beautiful virtue, so try to cultivate it. Perhaps the advice you receive may not be good, but you will never know whether it is or not if you do not consider it. Do not be cynical, but rather believe all men perfect. Few of us are perfect, alas! Perhaps you have found a perfect man, but you would do better if you suspended judgment for a while and awaited the proof of it. Your joy will be increased if you discover good qualities you did not look for, but that day will not brighten for you upon which you see your ideal shattered, and find that your god is only a man after all.

TEMPERANCE

SOCIAL DRINKING

If social drinking in the society world could be made unfashionable the cause of temperance would be greatly advanced. If social drinking among men could be made unpopular total abstinence would receive a mighty impulse. It is a social custom that strong drink must often begin its deadly work. The young man does not take his first drink because he thinks it will make him seem manly and up-to-date to do so. does not purchase a bottle of whiskey and go off by himself to drink it. He may do that later on, but at first he drinks for the social pleasure

he expects to derive from it. In these days of close competition and small margins it is necessary for a man to be at his best if he would succeed; and no man can be entirely fit who is ever so slightly under the

influence of strong drink. Then there is the domestic or home side of the drink question. The man who drinks brings wretchedness and misery to his family. If he is poor they suffer deprivation and want. If he is rich they look to the time when bad management or neglect will reduce them to poverty, and added to the humiliation of his habits there

will be the discomforts of penury. Whiskey has been driven from nearly every place of honor, and trust. It is a bar to achievement, an enemy to happiness, and a menace to health. Even as a medicine alcohol has lost its vogue, and the best phy sicians seldom prescribe it.

But in spite of business requirements and domestic needs, social drinking continues. There is some-thing incomprehensible about the tolerance of a custom which, if con-tinued, may ruin a man's prospects.

FIVE MINUTE SERMON There is a note of inconsistency in a policy that finds its pleasures in

undermining its possibilities.

Sobriety is stock in trade for the ambitious man. It opens the door of opportunity. It gives him a chance to utilize his ability. It converts his energy into cash. It materializes his aspirations. Inebriety blights ambition, closes the door to opportunity paralyzes energy, and destroys the

aspirations.
Social drinking does not in all cases lead to drunkenness; but nearly all drunkenness begins in social drinking. The young man who be gins to drink does not intend to be come an inebriate. He means to be a moderate drinker. He knows of prominent business men who drink moderately, but who are respected

and esteemed. If he thinks at all, he thinks he will be like them.

It must be remembered that the moderate drinkers who occupy high resisting them. positions have reached those posi-tions in spite of their drinking prac-

WHY THEY ARE AGAINST LIQUOR

Why is it that in France the officers placard the barracks of the soldiers with notices warning against drink? Why is it that British officers, accustomed to the moderate use of liquors have become total abstainers as an example to the men? Why is the total abstinence movement in the British army so popular that 40 per cent. of the Indian troops are total abstainers? Why is it that the Gernan emperor is earnestly urging ab stinence in the German army and navy? It is because the leading army men in France, England and want efficient fighting machines, and they know that liquor even in moderate amount does not make an efficient soldier.

THE GIRL WHO MARRIES A DRINKING MAN

Did you ever try the impossible task of persuading a young woman who is keeping company with a man addicted to drink? The task frequently falls to a priest, sometimes to the lay folk. It ought to be an easy job. It is not always such. The im possibility of curing a drunkard by marrying him is obvious. Yet it is being attempted daily. What matter if the last ninety-nine young women failed in their attempt and are already regretting it, this particular one before us is going to succeed, so she thinks. Poor, silly mortals. It makes no feel that the offer of marriage to a certain proportion of women temporarily drives them mad. Use logic, quote examples, plead, coax, threaten and hold up to scorn the proposed match; the lady show itself eventually. Our life will listen, shed a few tears, tell you cannot well be a mockery of truth that you are right, agree that you are always, and our own happiness is at the best friend she ever listened to, much at stake as that of him whom bid you good-bye, then go out and marry the man! The awakening inevitably comes within a year and colored glasses, especially not with then we hear some hard criticisms of the rigidity of the Church's law on the indissolubility of the marriage bond. If Brooklyn cast its millions of gallons of liquor into the sewers the next few years, we could afford to close our orphan asylums for want of

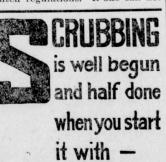
inmates.—Brooklyn Tablet. THE ENGINEER WAS DRUNK The fast express train was taken out of Elmira, New York, the other day, for the run to Buffalo on the Lackawanna Railroad. It had on board valuable property and still more precious lives. It went along safely until it approached Corning and then it ran into a limited passen ger train, piled up a wreck of engines and cars, killed forty persons and in-

stupor of liquor he passed by the the warning fusee that was and disregarded the fluttered cloth of the flagman who had been sent back from the other train to flag him. Booze" had make him dull.

One more is added to the long list of horrors due to drink. It is a black It is the most powerful sermon for total abstinence that could be preached—hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of property destroyed forty lives blotted out, and sixty cripples made—all by one man who was drunk.—Catholic Columbian.

DON'T WAIT TILL LENT IS OVER

"Many Catholics," says the Catholic Bulletin, "constitute themselves judges in their own case by dispensing themselves from the obligation of fasting during Lent. This is not in accordance with the law of the Church which authorizes a priest, for good and sufficient reasons, to commute the obligation of fasting into some other form of self-denial for those who can not observe the Lenten regulations. If one can not



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fast he should apply to his confessor at the beginning of Lent in order to submit his case and abide by the decision given by the priest. Do not wait until Lent is over before telling your confessor that you did not ob-serve the Lenten fast. He is the judge in all cases submitted to him."

It's Strength That Counts

If you were buying a watch you would look for excellence, not size or weight. It is the same with yeast cakes. White Swan Yeast cakes contain more "virtue" than any other, no matter what the size. Send for free sample. White Swan Spices & Cereal Co., Ltd., Toronto.

THE FEAST OF THE PURIFICATION

The feast of the Purification occurs, this year, on Sunday, February, 2nd, and on that feast comes the and known "blessing of the candles," from which it gains its other name of Candlemas Day. Yet, when we say "the well-known blessing, are we so sure that it is truly wellknown to many among us? Do we realize the occasion from which it takes its rise? Do we know the beauty of the Divine offices which are recited for this feast? Do we understand how suitable they are for our own souls and their salvation

See what the Gradual says:

We have received Thy mercy, O God, in the midst of Thy temple; according to Thy name, O God, so also is Thy praise unto the ends of the earth. As we have heard, so have we seen, in the city of our God and in His holy mountain. Alleluia, alleluia. The old man carried the Child: but the Child governed the

old man. Alleluia.

These words are explained by the gospel, which tells us how the stain-less and Immaculate Mother Mary went, nevertheless, humbly to the temple like an ordinary mother, for What was the cause of the disaster?
The engineer was drunk. Under the the holy birth of her Divine Child; and how aged Simeon took Him in danger signal, paid no attention to His arms, and blessed God, and said, the sublime chant now known as the Nunc Dimittis

Now Thou dost dismiss Thy ser vant, O Lord, according to Thy word in peace; because my eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all eoples: a light to the revelation of the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.

This "Light" is symbolized by the candles that are blessed on the feast of the Purification. We ought to become familiar with these beautiful prayers. For instance :

O almighty and everlasting God, Who didst this day present Thy onlybegotten Son to be received in the arms of holy Simeon in Thy holy temple: we humbly implore Thy clemency that Thou wouldst vouch-safe to bless, sanctify, and burn with the light of heavenly benediction these candles, which we Thy servants, receiving, desire to carry lighted to magnify Thy name: that, by offering them to Thee, the Lord our God, being worthily inflamed with the holy fire of Thy most sweet charity. we may deserve to be presented in the holy temple of Thy glory And still more beautiful is this

O Lord Jesus Christ, the true O Lord Jesus Christ, the true Light, Who enlightenest every man coming into this world: pour forth Thy blessing upon these tapers and sanctify them with the light of Thy grace; and mercifully grant that as these lights, enkindled with visible fire, dispel nocturnal darkness, so our hearts, illumined by invisible fire,—that is, the brightness of the Holy Spirit,—may be free from the blindness of all vice; that our mental eye being purified, we may per-ceive those things which are pleasing to Thee and profitable to our salvation; so that, after the dark perils of this world, we may deserve to arrive at never-failing light; through Thee, Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world, Who in perfect Trinity livest and reignest God, world without end.

We have shown, here, only a part of the beauty and appropriateness, and of the applicability to our own spiritual needs, that the Divine ffices for this feast contain. May it lead us to seek more earnestly into the treasures of the Missal, and thus to keep in touch more and more com pletely with the mind and spirit of our Mother, the Catholic Church !— Sacred Heart Review.

SAINT BLASE

On Monday, February 3, Holy Mother Church celebrates the Feasi

of St. Blase. This saint devoted the earlier years of his life to the story of philosophy, and afterwards became a physician. In the practice of his profession he saw so much of the miseries of life and the hollowness of worldly pleasures that he resolved to spend the rest of his days in the serrice of God, and from being a healer of bodily ailments to become a phy sician of souls. The bishop our saint, much to the gratification of the inhabitants of that city, was appointed to succeed him. St. Blase at once began to instruct his people as much by his example as by his words, and the great virtues and sanctity were attended by many miracles From all parts the people came flocking to him for the cure of bodily and spiritual ills. Agricolaus, governor of Coppadocia and the Lesser

to prison. While on his way there a distracted of a throat disease, threw herself at the feet of St. Blase and implored his intercession. Touched at her grief the saint offered up his prayers and the child was cured; and since that time his aid has often been effectually solicited in cases of a similar dis-

Refusing to worship the false gods of the heathens, St. Blase was first scourged; his body was then torn with hooks, and finally he was beheaded, in the year 316.

SOCIALISM AND THE GOSPEL

REFUTATION OF BASELESS CON TENTION THAT THE ESSEN. TIALS OF CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIALISM ARE THE SAME

"Though the fundamentals of Socialism and real Christianity are the same, one need not be a Christian to be a Socialist. In the Socialist movement are men and women of all shades and colors of religious belief and disbelief. We may take our Socialism from Karl Marx if we like it better in that form. The essentials are the same, and the acceptance of the Christian religion is not neces sary to the acceptance of the philosophy of Socialism. A man may be a Socialist and not be a Christian, but no man can be a Christian and not be a Socialist if he knows what Social ism is, for the one is the basis of the

The foregoing statement, made by Kate Richards O'Hare in "Church and the Social Problem,' is answered as follows by David Goldstein in "The Live Issue.

The fundamentals of Socialism and eal Christianity are as far from each other as the seductions of Lucifer are from the counsels of Christ. One cannot consistently be a Christian and a Socialist at one and the same time. That there are men and women of all shades and colors of disbelief in the Socialist movement is a fact that is patent to any one who comes in contact with the propagators of that cult or reads its "classical literature." All leaders of international standing in the Socialist movement are materialists. Prof. Edward Avel-'son-in-law" of Karl Marx, says ing, "son-in-law" of Karl Marx, says:
"Marx was an avowed atheist. And those who desire to know the scientific reasons for the materialism of Marx, Engels, Bebel, Liebknecht, Guesde, Lafargue, Adler, Plechanoff, in a word, of all the founders and

PRESIDENT NONE - SO - EASY

teachers of scientific Socialism, should read the whole of the introduction written by Frederick Engels in 1892 to my translation of his 'Socialism' Scientific and Utopian.'

In "Socialism and Character "we read: "At the present moment I cannot remember a single instance of a person who is at one and the same time a really earnest and intelligent Socialist and an orthodox Christian Those who do not openly attack the Church and the fabric of Christianity show but scant respect to either the or the other in private. And while all of us are thus indiffer-

ent to the Church, many of us are frankly hostile to her." . . , . That the Socialist movement has Sebaste, in Armenia, having died, within it men and women of all shades and colors of religious belief is beyond a question of doubt, but they far in the minority. vestigation will prove that there are two main reasons why some religious persons associate themselves with the army of revolt; namely, first their lack of understanding of the fundamentals of Socialism or Christianity, or both, and secondly, their determination to read into Socalist philosophy Armenia, having begun a persecution by order of the emperor, Licinius, what does not properly belong there.

A man's Socialism may take any

form he may conjure up in his cran-ium, but whether he likes it or not, if ur saint was seized and hurried off While on his way there a distracted mother, whose only child was dying organization Kate Richards O'Hare works for, he centralizes political and economic power into a movement organized to propagate the Karl Marx variety of Socialism—the variety founded upon the philosophy of Materialism.

The essentials are not the same An acceptance of the Christian religion makes the acceptance of Socialist philosophy an impossibility. Christian philosophy is based of the belief in God.

Socialist philosophy denies the exstence of God.

Christian philosophy is based on eternal principles.
Socialist philosophy says " nothing

is eternal in nature or in human life; change is the only eternal factor." Christian philosophy says God created man, endowed him with free

will and ordained that his life here upon earth shall have as its purpose the attainment of eternal salvation. Socialist philosophy says man is but a part of this universe, which is self-created. He is a mere animal differing only from the lower animals in degree. Man is an irresponsible being, the subject of his environment wholly. He is what the blind forces of the ages have made him to be free will he has not, and the only happiness he may ever hope to attain is right here and now. "His religion," says Karl Marx, is the striving after an imaginary happiness; it springs from a state of society that requires an illusion," but it will disappear in the Socialist society to come.

Of course, a person may be a Socialist and at the same time assert quite loudly that he is a Christian, but no one who knows what Socialism is can truthfully do so. Kate Richards O'Hare will no doubt favorably impress some of her readers with the statement that she was born and raised in a good Campbellite family and educated for the ministry of the Campbellite church," but it shall require more than that to establish her standing as a Christian. Her credential can be justly questioned when she ridicules the conversion of Con stantine and refers to him as "The vilest, most licentious old libertine that ever cursed the earth;" when she dubs the Son of God a "hobo," not once, but a half a dozen times in pamphlet; and when she a small charges the Church He established with "cruelly, heartlessly, brutally killing those who "even suggested they had a right to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience.'

The greatest of faults is to be con-

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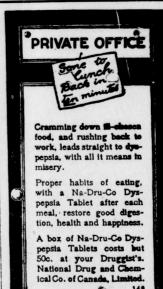
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