SIX

FIVE MINUTE SERMON BY REV. M. BOSSAERT

LOW SUNDAY

HOW PEACE, THAT HAS BEEN LOST, MAY BE REGAINED

Our Divine Saviour was announced by the prophet Isaias as the Prince of Peace, and at His Birth the angels proclaimed peace to men. Now, when He has accomplished the great ork of our redemption, our risen Lord greets His followers with the words : "Peace be with you." In order to supply men with the means of regaining peace of heart, after losing it by sin, He breathed on His Apostles and addressed to them the memorable words : "Receive ye the Holy Ghost : whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained." It was on this occasion, as you know, that our divine Saviour instituted the Hely Sacrament of Penance. Lat us take this Sacrament as the subject of our

meditation today. 1. It was by no mere accident that our Lord instituted this Sacra-ment on the evening after His glorious Resurrection. By His Passion and death He had reconciled the whole human race with God, and obtained grace for all men. Now He wished to provide a means where by the grace of forgiveness, that He had won for all, should be conferred upon each individual, a means whereby the full tide of God's grace might be conveyed by innumerable channels to every needy soul. Therefore when, after completing the work of our redemption, He again appeared in the midst of His disciples, His first care was to institute a permanent means of enabling every human being, who truly and earnestly desires it, to participate in the forgiveness of sine. This is the Holy Sacrament of Penance, which He instituted when He gave to His Apostles and their successors power and authority to remit in His Name the sins of all who are of a contrite beart.

By instituting the Sacrament of Penance, that is so necessary and so beneficial to us all, our Divine Saviour gave us fresh proof of His infinite love and mercy, and we must always be grateful to Him for it. In this way He made the Apostles and their successors, and all priests pos-sessing faculties from their bishop, the friends, confessors and counsel lors of His people. A Catholic readily confides in them and opens his heart to them, disclosing all his inclinations, his passions and the motives of his actions. A confessor can point out the dangers in his condition, and the proximate and remote consequences of his actions ; he can admonish him as a father, and warn him against possible disas. ters : he can spur him on to adopt a way of life that will make him pleas ing to God and man, and happy both in this life and the next; he can show him how to resist sin in the future, and how eventually to overcome it; he can suggest means of improvement and of attaining perfection; in short, he can be his instructor and the physician of his coul.

3. Many would have made ship. wreck of their lives, had they not been warned in time by their confessor : many would have plunged deeper and deeper into sin, had not deeper and deeper into sin, had not his voice induced them to return to the safe path; many would have rendered themselves miserable for But to return to more important applause. And why? Sacrament, of Penance not existed, had they never confessed their sins, and had they not thus been extricated from the abyss into which they had fallen. How useful and beneficial is this Sacrament! Let us therefore thank our Lord

If women refused to go to see sex plays or nasty plays of any kind, the failure of such plays to make money for their producers would take them off the stage." THE NEW SPIRIT IN FRANCE

"Los Vou Rom!-Away from come!" Many of us are familiar with that war cry which for some the considerable time roused up German Protestants, and troubled certain Catholic consciences on the other side of the Rhine. Many of us know, too, that that same cry caused the most serious thought even in Austria itself. And here, - today, France is pulsing with an aspiration that may be summed up in these two words: "Towards Rome!" It is quite plain, from the testimony

of the most prudent statesmen and the more clear sighted interpreters indeed, perhaps it has no underlying of public opinion, that today France and conjectures, which are more or less officially inspired, which fore-shadowed an approaching representation. ment between the Republic and the Holy See. These rumors are per-haps premature. But whether they originate with these journalists who originate with those journalists who hasten to anticipate the events of tomorrow; or whether they are spread abroad by political wire-pullers who wish to make abortive a pullers who wish to make abortive a reconciliation which is disturbing them, for all that they constitute an unmistakable sign of the direction of personage of the State. national thought.

Another indication of the same kind can be gleaned from the conversations among parliamentarians. For instance there is a story going the rounds these days of a conversa tion overheard in the lobbies of the Chamber between two ex Ministers, both of whom are avowedly in favor of the resumption of relations with the Vatican.

"Ars you still favorable," said the Ars you still lavorable, said the one ex-Minister to the other, "to the embassy to the Holy See." "Oh," was the raply, "more than ever!" "Ah, it is evident that you aspire to become President of the Council!" That any prospective candidate for Cabinet office should have the interest to demand the re-opening of relations with the Pope is, in itself,

spirit

a very remarkable sign of the new It is true that this opinion is not skared by all the former political leaders of pre-war days. Many of them who forget their animosities during the War, now that that search. ing time has passed have returned to their former rancors and prejudices. Look at M. Combes, for instance. That former persecutor of the Church has fallen into merited oblivion but has tried to occupy again the public mind by calling for the resuscitation of the old blocs of political parties. But this ridiculous attempt has been followed by misadventure that is more than fortuitous ; it is symbolic! Here is the incident: Some forty years ago M. Combes was elected mayor of the town of Pons in majority. Charente-Inférieure, but at the

councilor, for they cast their ballots against him. Again, he used to represent his canton in the Depart-mental Assembly as Councilor General, but he lost that seat last November and his old constituents

as and for eternity, had the Hely Bat to return to more important applause. And why? atters. Pending the re-opening of Colonel Fabry, a Republican of the Left, and one of those elected last diplomatic relations with Rome, the Government has missed no opportunity of recognizing the prestige and November, who gave the explanation when he called to mind the fraternal authority of the Princes of the Church. The recent presence of two spirit that pervaded the army. "Liberty of conscience," Colonel Cardinals in Paris has a significance Fabry said, is something we learn to that should not be overlooked. love batter on the field of battle. The first of these, Cardinal Mercier, We saw the strength it gave to men, strength that carried them to the Auchbishop of Malines, came to attend the session of the Academy of consummation of the supreme sacri-Moral and Political Sciences. That fice ; strength that they were enabled frequently availing ourselves of this Holy Sacrament, and always prepar-foreigners to corresponding memberto draw upon from the treasury of their unshaken faith !" Yes, indeed, ing carefully and conscientiously for its reception. If we do this, it will the War of receiving into its corpor there is a new spirit!-Francois Veuillot in America. be of the greatest benefit to us, and ate body the Primate of Belgium, and bring us a rich blessing, so that we it wished to make the reception of shall enjoy true peace both in this world and for eternity. Amen. SIGNS OF SOCIAL portance of the affair was due not so DECAY much to the solemnity of the pro cedure, as to the character of the discourses. On the day following the reception a member of the Institute declared that he had never Institute declared that he had never taken part under the dome of the Palais Mazarin, "at a cession so remarkably Christian." Now it was not solely the address of Cardinal Mercier which inspired this apprecia-tion, for one expects the language of the Gospel from the Archbishop of Malines. Nor was it the allusion to Malines. Nor was it the allusion to the presentation oration, which the Academy had entrusted to Pére Spiritism Sertillanges, for in choosing a clairvoyancy. It is perhaps safe to bended knees, sat back and surveyed say that never has fortune telling the few waiting penitents. In loud extravagance of today and Institute knew that it would hear an the extravagance of today and for the audacious dress or undress, the luxury and the suggestive dances. "With no idea of shifting the blame or of minimizing the responsi-the the received the prince of Cod. In the the representative of God. In the the representative of God. In the the secrets of the past, present, and the secrets of the past, present, and the two farger girls decided which of the patient fathers should bring peace to their not over-burdened souls. Then the four went the representative of God. In the the representative of God. In the the representative of the aviant the the secrets of the past, present, and the the representative of the aviant the secrets of the past, present, and the church door sung to upon their the the representative of God. In the the secrets of the past in understand the the representative of the aviant the church door sung to upon their the the secrets of the past in the church door sung to upon their the church door sung to upon their bility of men for many of the evils of same moment when they affirmed future. The increase in numbers clacking heels and they were gone, today, we must say that in our opinion, their admiration for the great patriot and in prosperity of those who they saluted also the great Bishop. They called to mind the courageous appeal to the judgments of God results of after the war hysteria. which Cardinal Mercier had made to Such practices are expressly for- confession and there was no doubt at women must accept the measure responsibility that the Belgian urchman lays at their door. "It women should refuse to adopt e extreme styles in dress, there und soon be a change for the tter. If women refused to read there was no doubt sing in the cars of yon Bissing. "You have been heard of God, "It women should refuse to adopt the tas answered." Such practices are expressly for-bidden by the first commandment, No unbiased investigator can deny that some times extraordinary revela-absolution, why were they not at the same time given a loving realization of the Divine Presence of Him who said, "Forbid them not, for of such is better. It women refused to read in bars do in human events. and practernatural means. The re-such books as "Three Weeks" such Divine action in human events. and practernatural means. The re-books would not become best sellers. "You have participated," he declared sourcefulness of fortune-tellers is World.

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to the Cardinal, "in the designs of God on the earth." If I add that the Primate of Bel. gium, after having been applauded in the Institute, was the object of the enthusiastic veneration of the population of Paris, and was received by the Head of the State with the most cordial and respectful courtesy I shall have indicated sufficiently, I believe, the importance and the

haracter of his visit. The other Cardinal, who was in Paris at the same time, is Cardinal Dubois, Archbishop of Rouen. He left very shortly after for Toulon, where he embarked for Palestine. He has gone to carry the greetings of the French Catholics to the numerous missionary enterprises which our Religious Congregations are conducting in Asia Minor, enterprises which have remarkably increased the prestigs of France in the Near East. I do not pretend to know the

underlying motives of that journey; motives. I know nothing whatever about any part the Government may that are common knowledge. The Archbishop of Rouen has crossed the Mediterranean in a French battle-ship, placed at his disposal by the and will be received with all the honors that befit a great dignitary of the Church considered as a high

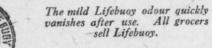
Now, will any one say that these tributes are rendered to Cardinal Dubois simply because he has gone on a long voyage? On the day that Cardinal Dabois embarked at Toulon the President of the Republic, at a solemn reupion at the Sorbonne naid a tribute to the work of national relief in which he called to mind the devoted labors of Cardinal Amette in the cause of the union sacrée

M. Poincare said among other things that the reconciliation between the proverbial. It is unscientific to at-Prince of the Church and the representatives of the State, brought about by the War, was no less indispensable for the maintenance of peace than

for the winning of victory. On the following day, this patriotic speech was echoed at an important banquet, in a way that five years ago would have seemed wildly and fantastically impossible. The members of the national bloc in Paris, elected last November, met to celebrate their triumph. Seated on either side of M. Adolphe Carnot, President of the Democratic Alliance, were that notoriously extremist Radical, M. Bonnet, and M. Xavier de la Rochefoucauld, delegate of the Action Liberals Popularie. This latter association, which is uncompromisingly Catholic, was at one time the object of hostile and scorn-ful derision, but it had the place of honor, and, as one of the orators at the banquet said, the time has come when it must take its place with the

Has that association, by enychance. bought its prominence at the price recent elections the voters would of compromise? There would be no not have him even for municipal need to ask that question if one could have heard the speech of M. de la Rochefoucauld, when he boldly and unequivocally ended his dis-course with the invocation: "God protect France and the Republic !" The same guests, five years ago,





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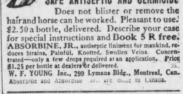
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Rome !"

most heartily for His goodness in instituting this Sacrament, which makes it so easy for us to cleanse ourselves from the guilt of our sine ; and let us show our gratitude by world and for eternity. Amen.

WHERE WOMEN COULD HELP

Under this title the Arkansas Gazette of March 5, ran the following editorial advice to our womankind. The editor surely had his eye out and on for some of the sights presented daily and nightly by some our Arkansas women, at home and abroad. He wrote :

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"Cardinal Mercier, the Belgian churchman, who won a high place in history by his conduct during the Great War, has issued his Lenten pastoral letter in which he puts upon the women responsibility for much of

Cardinal Mercier is right. The evils for which men are responsible are many, but there can be little doubt that women must accept the measure of responsibility that the Belgian churchman lays at their door.

the extreme styles in dress, there would soon be a change for the better. If women refused to read books would not become best sellers.

press commands of God and the Church. Catholics who have any part in these deliberation sin against light. They are also guilty of encouraging the work of the devil and his agauts by supporting agencies of superstition. When religion decays, superstition thrives. The present resurgence of paganism is a direct consequence of the banishment of raligion from the hearts of a large portion of the human race. To keep the heritage of their faith unsullied Cathelics should scrupulously avoid this Spiritistic contagion abroad in the world.-The Pilot.

DECORUM

A little child's mind is as receptive as a thirsty blossom, with petals spread to receive haavan-sent dew. Children love the mysterious in any

Modern life shows many signs of a reversion to barbarism. Much that today is the vogue among so-called bension. The fault lies not with form, and are ready to be impressed today is the vogue among so-called hension. The fault lies not with cultured classes is but a renewal of them therefore, when a shocking

Co-incident with the revival of spiritism has come the growth of and without even one moment upon had the vogue it has today. Cards, whispers, the two larger girls decided crystal gazing, sand reading and the which of the patient fathers should make a livelihood by fortune telling has been one of the deplorable is this: if those little ones were taught the need and desirability of



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