

FIVE-MINUTE'S SERMON.

Fourth Sunday in Lent.

CONSTANT PRAYER.

Watch ye and pray, that ye enter into the kingdom of heaven. (St. Matt. xxv. 13.)

Not infrequently, my dear brethren, a priest is told when he asks his penitents about their prayers, that they have been too much put out to say them; that they have had so much trouble, so many anxieties and disappointments that they have had no satisfaction in praying.

Some people think, or at all events act, as if they thought that prayer is a kind of spiritual luxury, a thing to practice as long as things go well and pleasantly, but to leave off when the times are dark.

Others do not go so far as this, but look upon prayer as a duty to be done, a command to be obeyed, and if they grow careless about their other duties and obligations, this must share the same fate.

I wish to point out, however, that prayer and its necessity stand in an entirely different position. While it is perfectly true that prayer is a duty, yet the necessity of prayer is greater than the duty of observing God's commands.

To understand this you must remember the difference which exists between those things which must be done because God commands us to do them, and those things which must be done, or which we must have, because God has made them means to obtain our salvation.

Now, we all know that to tell a lie is a sin; that Almighty God has commanded us not to depart from the truth. Yet there are many persons so dull, and possessed of so little sense and intelligence, as to think that in some difficult circumstance it is right to tell a lie.

But when we come to those things which are necessary, not merely because God has commanded or forbidden them, but because they are made by Him means to the end, then the omission of such things involves more serious consequences.

Perfectly well established is the value of cod liver oil in the various diseases of the air passages, and combined with maitine and the hypophosphites, its real value is very enhanced.

In his VEGETABLE PILLS, Dr. Parmentier has given to the world the fruits of his scientific research in the whole realm of medical science.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

A Boy Who Was Wanted.

"Well, I've found out one thing," said Jack, as he came to his mother, hot, tired, and dusty.

"That's the best of it," said his mother, "I don't want any more boys." "I don't want any more girls," said Jack.

"Patience, patience, my boy. In such a great world as this, with so many places and so many boys, it is no wonder that some of them do not find their places at once.

"I hope so," said Jack. "I remember father used to say: 'Just as soon as you undertake to work for any one you must bear in mind that you have sold yourself to him for a given time.'

"There are a great many applications for the place, but the greater number of the boys come and stay for a short time and then leave, if they think they can do a little better. When a boy gets used to our routes and customers we want him to stay.

"One day he was asked into the office of Mr. Lang, a gentleman to whom he frequently carried parcels of value.

"No, sir," said Jack. "Perhaps you could do better," said the other. "I want to get a boy who is quick and intelligent, and who can be relied on, and from what I see of you I think you are that sort of a boy."

"I don't believe I could," said Jack, looking with his straight frank gaze into the gentleman's face.

"I guess you are about right," said Mr. Lang with a laugh. "Come and see me when your time is out; I dare say I shall want you then."

"It would be a grand, good thing if I could take it, wouldn't it, mother?" "Yes, it would."

"Some boys would change without thinking of letting a promise stand in their way."

CHATTS WITH YOUNG MEN.

Do not be ashamed of doing the smallest thing that is helpful to others.

The opportunities for great usefulness come rarely, but the smaller things are always at hand, and he who does them constantly is of great usefulness; and sometimes, when the great opportunity comes, it is only the one who has trained himself in the little things that have come before him who is master of the situation.

Live up to Expectations. Somehow the world expects Catholics to be better than other folk. If one of us goes wrong, instantly the finger of derision is pointed at us and the sneer is uttered against us.

Next, our ideals are higher. We put down sensuality and the pride of life, we promise to reject the pomps of the world, and we exalt humility, obedience, poverty, and purity.

Again, we have better models and more of them. Not to speak of the Divine Model, we are accustomed to reverence the Immaculate Virgin, and to emulate the legion of other saints who in all ages, in all climates, in all conditions of life, have glorified the Church with heroic sanctity and made proof of its claim to be holy.

It applies the same test to young men as to other members of the Church. It looks to our young men to be pure, to be temperate, to be honest, to be truthful, to be patient, to keep holy the Sabbath, to refrain from profanity, and to observe every other requirement of the Christian life.

Our young men have a responsibility to live up to the expectations of the world in their regard. When they give scandal by drunkenness, by anger, by impurity, or by other transgressions, they do more harm than do other young men who commit the same offenses but of whom less is exacted by the community.

Many mothers entertain the notion that it is a good thing for children to have measles, whooping cough, and some other childish diseases while they are children. They have an idea that the system is then better qualified to throw off what they regard as children's ailments.

"No good reason," it says, "can be rendered for desiring any child to be sick with any disease, and what may be deemed right and safe in one case may be fatal in another."

"He looked up at me, his blue eyes dim with the anguish he endured, and replied, 'Captain, when you command me to go to the cannon's mouth I will do it if I can, but this I will not do.'"

Scrofula is a word you don't quite understand, but if you talk with your doctor, he will tell you that it is generally believed to be due to the same cause which gives rise to Consumption.

It appears mostly in those who are fat-starved and thin, usually in early life. A course of treatment with the Hypophosphites wherever Scrofula manifests itself, will prevent the development of the disease.

"Yes, but that is the kind of a boy who, sooner or later, is not wanted. It is because you have not been that sort of boy that you are wanted now."

AN ENGINEER'S STORY.

Life on a Railroad Conducive to Disease—Mr. Wm. Taylor, of Kentville, Attacked With Kidney Trouble—Soothened by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Restored His Health.

There are very few employments more trying to the health than that of a railway engineer. The hours of labor are frequently long, meals irregular, and rest and sleep hurriedly snatched "between runs."

Never be afraid to own the truth, let the consequences be what they may. Ever keep truth for your motto and guide, and you will surely be the gainer in the end.

A young man once picked up a gold piece lying in the road. Ever afterwards as he walked along, he kept his eye fixed steadily on the ground, in hopes to find another.

Why do you begin to do good so far off? This is a ruling error. Begin at the centre, and work outward. If you do not love your own, do not pretend to such love for the people of the antipodes.

The experience of years has proved that there is absolutely no disease due to a vitiated condition of the blood or shattered nerves, that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills will not promptly cure, and those who are suffering from such troubles would avoid much misery and save money by promptly resorting to this treatment.

WONDERFUL are the cures by Hood's Sarsaparilla, and yet they are simple and natural. Hood's Sarsaparilla makes PURS BLOOD.

The success of the Waverley Bicycle in '96 places it at the head of the leaders for '97. This year we produce a new and expensively made wheel, equipped with the only perfect bearings yet made—\$100

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