FIVE-MINUTE SERMONS.

Third Sunday After Epiphany.

PRACTICAL FAITH. Many shall come from the east and the west, and shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; but the chil-dren of the kingdom shall be cast into the ex-terior darkness. (Gospel of the Day.)

These words, my dear brethren, were spoken by our Blessed Lord to the Jews on the occasion of the cure of the servant of the centurion. This centurion was an officer, like what we would call a captain, in the Roman army; he was not a Jew, so he did not belong to God's chosen people, His Church of the Old Law. No, he was a heathen by birth; he had been brought up in error, ignorance of the religion; he had not the prophecies which the Jews had to tell him clearly that a Saviour was to come into the world. He was indeed in darkness compared with this favored Hebrew people among whom his lot was cast; but he saw our Lord, and that was enough for him. He saw the power of God, and he believed. He knew that this Messias, whom the Pharisees were rejecting, was the Master of life and death. "Lord," said he, "I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant shall be healed." Immortal servant shall be healed." Immortal words these, which the Catholic Church has treasured up, and puts on thou-sands of lips every day, and which were rewarded by the divine acknowledgment, "Amen I say to you, I have not found so great faith in Israel. And I say to you that many shall come from the east and the west, and shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; but the children of the kingdom shall be

Now, my brethren, what lesson have we to learn from this praise of the heathen centurion, and this warning to God's own people, coming to us from the mouth of God Himself? Simply this: that our salvation depends on the use which we make of the graces which He gives us; that the least will suffice, if we will but avail ourselves of them; but that the greatest will only serve for our eternal condemnation and ruin

if we slight them and pass them by. A simple and evident truth this surely, and yet how apt we are to forget and neglect it! We are Catholics from our infancy, we say; we belong to families which have always kept the faith. We are indeed the faithful, to whom the kingdom of heaven is promised. And if we have not been always so, but been brought from darkness into light, then still more is the divine favor to us manifest. Will He, then, who has done so much for us, not complete His work? We believe His word, we are in His true Church, we receive His saving and life-giving sacraments; how, then, shall we not be saved? Are we not indeed those of of whom He said, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give them life everlasting, and they shall not perish forever, and no man shall pluck them out of My

Yes, my dear brethren, we think that we shall be saved because we are Catholics. But the truth is, that our being Catholics only gives us greater means of salvation: it is far from means of salvation; it is far from making our salvation sure. We have greater means and helps to save our souls; but woe be us if we abuse them! And when we look around, and see many good and earnest souls, simitar, as far as we can see, to that of the Roman centurion, deprived of the light that we have, not by their own fault, but by that of their fathers; fault, but by that of their fathers; when we see them trying to do their best with the little knowledge and the few helps that they have, must we not fear that God will take away from us the graces that we despise; that we, the children of the kingdom, will be cast into the exterior darkness, while others shall come from the east and the west and take the place which we have

but do not deserve?

Let us, then, each and every one, if we have been unfaithful to the great.

Catholics graces which we have as Catholics—and which of us has not been so? rouse ourselves to our danger. Yes, having the faith and the sacraments is a great privilege, but is one for which we must give a most strict account when we stand before the throne of

Monthly Prizes for Boys and Girls.

Monthly Prizes for Boys and Girls. The "Sunlight" Soap Co., Toronto, offer the following prizes every month till further notice, to boys and girls under 18, residing in the Provide State of the provide the provide of the provide state of the prize of the prin

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OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

The Child's Prayer. Dear Infant Jesus! come to me And make a docile child of me; My heart with glee, Though small it be Dear little One! I give to Thec.

Obedience is Thy own decree, What parents, teachers, order me; Most cheerfully And lovingly, Dear little One! I'll do for Thee.

But when sly Satan says to me:
"Come, darling child! and follow me,"
I'll spurn his plea,
Away I'll flee,
Dear little One! for help to Thee.

And when at death my Judge I'll see, O Guardian Angel! stand by me; Then pray for me, That I may see My Infant God eternally.

How great the joy that waits for me In Heaven's bright eternity. When all with me In endless glee, Dear little One! we'll sing with Thee.

A Japanese doctor never dreams of asking a poor patient for a fee. There is a proverb among the medical fraternity of Japan: "When the twin enemies, poverty and disease, invade a nemies, poverty and disease, invade a new type takes another frame." home, then he who takes aught from that home, even though it be given him, is a robber."

The heart grows so large and so rich, and so variously endowed, when it has a great sense of bliss, that it can give smiles to some, and tears to others, with equal sincerity, and enjoy its own peace throughout all. — Hawthorne, Marble Faun.

The grave buries every error, covers every defect, extinguishes every resentment. Who can look upon the last resting place, even of an enemy, and not feel a compunctious throb that he should ever have warred with the poor handful of earth that lies mouldering before him.

Good Hands.

That is a good hand that is put out to help some one that has fallen by the wayside. That is a good hand which knows

how to make pain easier and headaches vanish.

That is a good hand which knows how to give heartily and freely.

That is a good hand which is put out to help you or me as we walk along in life; when we feel we need some one to protect us.

That is a good hand which never wrote anything of which it was ashamed, and which never puts its hand to fraud and dishonesty.

That is a good hand which helps along the sick and the weak, the helpless and the poor.

The prompt Result.

DEAR SIRS,—Two years ago I was very ill with jaundice and tried many medicines which did me no good until I was advised to try B. B. B., when, after using half a bottle, I was effectually cured.

CHARLOTTE MORTON,
Elphinstone, Man. That is a good hand which never

less and the poor. That is a good hand which does its

work well; whatever it may be, where ever it may lie, it doth not grow weary, and it doeth its work so it is worth its wage. - Atlanta Constitution.

Sanctity the Perfection of Virtue. The saints were very plain people. In one sense they became the more so the more saintly they were. Their lives were not spent in a halo, except before God. There is a good reason

for this. A sound judgment and com-mon sense are the only just and adequate basis of a supernatural life. Sanctity is the perfection of good judgment, of prudence, of uprightness, of integrity, and of every other virtue which is conceived of the making of a steady, plain mind. To the carnal

A Drankard's Curse.

A poor woman died in Charlotte, S. C., on last Monday, and was buried or Tuesday. One year ago she followed her husband to a drunkard's grave. Already her life had been blighted by the rum curse, but her trials did not end till last Monday. She had two sons who followed in the footsteps of fear that God will take away from us and cursed her for everything that was bad, fairly exhausting the vocabulary of the bar-room in imprecations upon the head of the mother that gave him being—the mother that cared for him in infancy, and loved him in childhood as only a mother can. And she died with the curses of this frenzied son ringing in her cars. On the day of her funeral he was too drunk even to stagger along in the drunk even to stagger along in the little procession that followed her to the grave. There was a time when that boy prattled on that mother's knee, and was the joy of her heart. The bar-room stole away the reason and the heart of his father, and broke the heart of his mether. the heart of his mother.

The Cross Her Hope. A young girl once went to a convent and asked to be received as a novice. She was the child of rich parents, and though she had been virtuously reared and well educated the Reverend Mother feared that she would not be content to be always deprived of the luxuries to which she had been accustomed in the world. So she spoke to her very earnestly of the plain and laborioas iife which nuns lead, and conducted her through the unpretending rooms, the poor refec-tory, and the other parts of the con-vent, to show her what a solid spirit of

Mother, in the various places you have taken me to?" asked the girl.

"Yes, you will find the crucifix everywhere." "Then I am prepared to lead the life you describe. If I feel pain at any time one look at the Lord who died for me, at His pierced side and heart, will give me courage and perseverance." This reply, which was dictated by a true and fervent love for God, won for her the favor she so earnestly sought.

The Messenger's Friend.
A very small boy was crossing Lafayette square, the most beautiful of Washington's parks, one Sunday morning. He wore the blue uniform of the district messenger boys and was lugging with both hands a basket containing some potted palms and roses which doubtless were to decorate a rich dinner-table.

Dear little One! we'll sing with Thee.

Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understand. All is riddle, and the key to a redale is another riddle. There are as many pillows of illusions as flakes in a snowstorm.—Emerson, Illusions

A Japanese doctor never dreams of asking a pear patient for a fee. There leads to the big basket down and looked at it helplessly.

helplessly.

"Tired out, are you my boy?"
came a friendly voice from behind
him, and the messenger glanced up at a distinguished looking man.
"Tired out?" the question was re-

peated. "Yes, sir."

"Have you to go far?"

"Yes, sir."
"Well, I am going your way, I can help you a bis," and the gentleman picked up the basket and carried it for

some distance, the little chap trudging at his side. As they walked along, the small boy grew confidential, told who he was and where he lived and finally, in a burst of good comradeship, asked his companion where he lived.
"Just across the street from where I

met you," was the answer, as the gen-tleman slipped a coin in the boy's hand, "in the white house opposite Lafayette For it was the occupant of the white house, the president of the United States, who was carrying the flower-

boy's basket. The Best Authorities.
Such as Dr. Dio Lewis, Prof. Gross, and others, agree that catarrh is not a local but a constitutional disease. It therefore requires a constitutional remedy like Hood's Sarsaparilla, which effectually and permanently cures catarrh. Thousands praise it.

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Elphinstone, Man.
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Dr. Spalding's Church.

The trustees of Christ Church, Cambridge, from which Rev. J. F. Spalding resigned to enter the Roman Catholic fold, passed a series of resolutions which effectually dispose of the story that a bitter feeling towards their former pastor was entertained by the parishioners. The resolutions were as

follows:
"Resolved, that in parting with our late rector we desire to express to him our sincere regrets that such 'imperative reasons have obliged him to sever his relations with us.

"That we thank him most warmly for his twelve years of conscientious and untiring work among us, in sea-son and out of season, as well as for his honest and earnest efforts to unite and interest us in the worship of our Church, and—since he feels it his duty to leave us—we trust that he will in other walks find the peace and happi-

ness he seeks and so fully merits."

It will be seen that the reverend gentleman possessed the confidence and esteem of the flock to the very last, and that they wish him happiness and contentment, not only in his new field of endeavor, but in his new religious associations. Dr. Spalding is to be congratulated on his success as a pastor, and those who have met and conversed with him believe that he is a devout and earnest Catholic. He is a man of convictions, and he possesses the courage to give them expression. He has decided to enter the true Church after years of study and prayerful examination of its doctrines; he has sacrificed a home and a comfortable living and the personal and spiritual friendship of a devoted congregation to do this. His sincerity is above question, and this fact is recognized by those from whom he has separated. Boston Republic.

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Don't take it for granted that all patent medicines are alike. They are not. Let the years of uninterrupted success and the tens of thousands of cured and happy men and women, place Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and Dr. Pierce's Favorite Perscription on the side of the comparison to which they belong. And there isn't a state or territory, no-nor hardly a country in the world, whether its people realize it or not, but have men and women in them that're happier because of their discovery and their effects.

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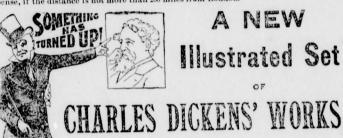
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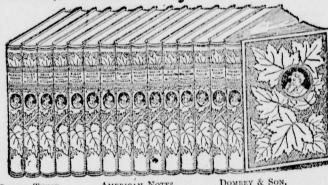
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