## FIVE MINUTE SERMON

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

VIGILANCE

Let him take heed lest he fall." (1 Cor. x. 12.) "Let him take heed lest he fall." (I Cor x. 12.)
When St. Paul, my dear brethren,
says, 'But with the most of them
God was not well pleased," in one
word he gives us the most cogent
reason why we must take heed, and
great heed, lest we fall. Most men
do fall. We must be of the few that
do the utmost not to fall. And he
mentions their grimes—coystousness. ons their crimes—covetous mentions their critics didalary, fornication, tempting Christ, murauring, which brought destruction upon them. Bidding us beware, he adds: "These things were written for our correction. . . Wherefore, for our correction. . . Wherefore, he thinketh bimself to stand, let him take heed lest he fall."

take heed lest he fall."
We see, then, why we have to take heed. It is not only through the warning of St. Paul, but past talls of our own and of others have taught us fear, Yes, we have seen others fall away, who were once far mor strict and fervent than we have been. And it humbles us now to think of them—not in any uncharitable spirit, but in fear and in our prayers. How has it happened? They did not take heed, and they fell! Such seemingly little things occasion great disasters. The waves incessantly wash away the earth at the foot of the cliff—for years, it may be—when suddenly some stormy night thousands of tons of rock crash down into the sea. Why? Their foundation had been undermined, lapped away by the waves imperceptibly. Others have come to ruin thus, and we must watch ourselves. When we have watch ourselves. When we have once fallen, there is a greater change to fall again, so the past should whisper humility and tear to our souls, and bid us take heed.

A second reason bids us be vigilant —that is, because we have enemies.

Snares and temptations beset our footsteps, and shall we walk heedlessly and blindly, or not rather warily watch every footstep for fear of a lurking danger? It they are crafty, must we not be vigilant and crafty too? Yes, alert we must be, and armed as well, for our foes are stronger than ourselves. Prayer is our weapon, and the name of the Lord our defence. "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I rear? The Lord is the protector of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?" (Ps. xxvi. 1 2.) "The Lord is my helper and my protector; in Him hath my heart confided, and I have

been helped." (Ps. xxvii. 7.)

The last reason that bids us take heed is the dread of the consequences of falling again. What may not the next fall into grievous sin bring upon us? It may be the last sin in our lifetime. We may never have the grace to pray or repent again. Death may be at the door waiting to claim us. Even it not so close to of "Not Justice, but Charity," contrib-the end, we know that mortal sin utes to the Survey a powerful addi-

and turn to God now, and not wait till we have failen again. Let love and humility bring us to His feet, and not the servile fear of everlasting punishment. "Know ve that no one hath hoped in the Lord and hath been confounded. For who hath continued in His commandment and hath been forsaken? or who hath called Him and He despised him? For God is compassionate and merciful, and will forgive sins in the day of tribulation, and He is a protector to all that seek Him in truth." (Eccles, ii, 11-13.) Anyone who resolves to take heed can trust in the infinite goodness of God and take courage, Daily prayer and confidence will win from God all the help we need. God loves to be overcome by prayer, and often He delays His an risk our souls again.
Yes let us resolve to take heed, courage. Daily prayer and confidence will win from God all the help we need. God toves to be overcome by prayer, and often He delays His answer to make us pray the more; but when the answer does come, it repays us a thousand times for the prayers we have persevered in. And pray with confidence, nothing doubting, for God wants us to be valiant soldiers in His service. "Ask in soldiers in His service." Ask in soldiers are also were amply warned. In holy scriptures, by the very word of the very word of the very word of the very word of the strength of the nations, a principle of self determination under international guarantee, is to take the place of national armaments at sea or on land as the main reliance both of ambient of the strength of the nations is to be stronger than ever, but out of the strength of the nations is to be will a common security for all soldiers in His service. "Ask in soldiers in His service." Ask in soldiers are always aball be more internation under internations a principle of self determination under internations at league of nations, a principle of self determination under internations at league of nations, a principle of self determination under internations and large for the passe of nations, a principle of self determination under internations at league of nations, a principle of self determination under internations at league of nations, a principle of self determination under internations at league of nations, a principle of self determination under internations at league of nations, a principle of self determination under internations at league of nations, a principle of self determination under internations at league of nations, a principle of self determination under internations at league of nations, a principle of self determination under internations at league of nations, a principle of self determination under internations at league of nations, a principle of self determination under internations at league of nations, a principle of self determination under internations at but when the answer does come, it repays us a thousand times for the prayers we have persevered in. And pray with confidence, nothing doubting, for God wants us to be valiant soldiers in His service. "Ask in faith, nothing wavering." (Jas. io. The hardship of the vigilance required is that it has to be daily and hourly and for that we require God's constant help and grace. Many can and for that we require God's constant help and grace. Many can in the course of justice none of us make a great effort now and again, but to be always taking heed, always the two-edged nature of the sword of of make a great effort now and again, but to be always taking heed, always on the watch, wears away the strongest resolution and determination. We could not do it of ourselves; we need the constant help and grace of God. And He will not be wanting. "Casting all your care over throw is not a yindication of

as the all but universal American desiration. Of one thing we may be sure:

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whether under the present soviet

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would save our souls. We cannot go by others, for "with the most of them God was not well pleased." Constant heeding is an undertaking beyond our strength, but in prayer beyond our strength, but in prayer and confidence we have the means to secure the help of God. God never deserts those who trust in Him. God is faithful. He is our Father, we are His children, and as children let us cast all our care upon Him, and He will have care of us.

### IRISH FREEDOM

WILL KEEP WORLD DEMOCRACY SAFER SAYS CHARLES DEVINE

Charles T. Devine, under the title subjects us to the power of the devil; that we are helpless to free ourselves; that all our hopes are in Him Whom once again, diliberately, wilfully, we have just offended and outreged. Let us take heed, lest we risk our souls again. engaged in Red Cross work. The article by Major Devine fol-

wanting. "Casting all your care upon Him, for He hath care of you," says St. Peter, (I Pet. v. 7); and David bids us "Cast thy care upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee." [Pe. 1]; 23) Take these words with are human relations to be clarified.

(Ps. liv. 23.) Take these words with full faith and confidence. We do not trust in ourselves, but in the power and goodness of God. Temptations will come, the enemy will scheme, ourselves sometimes grow weary in well-doing, but we must not give up our prayers or lose our confidence in God.

"And God is faithful," and will strengthen us to sustain and to overcome. St. Paul encourages us: "God is faithful, Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that which you to be tempted above that which you are sustained full faith and confidence in Confidence in God.

The conclusion will keep the world the swester and will keep the world the swester and will keep the world the swester and the more sane and the safer for democracy.

"Justice and charity should never have been made contrasting alternatives. 'Not' and 'but' have no appropriate use in connection with the more sane and the swester and the more sane and the safer for democracy.

"Justice and charity should never have been made contrasting alternatives.' Not' and 'but' have been made contrasting alternatives.'

### BLESSED CANDLES

on charity rather than on justice, on

pontaneous uncalculating coopera-ion rather than on legal rights and

ndence in the name of

manner of English speech

The Irish claim to self-determina

justice as nations are above their own law courts, as life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness are

ton. History does not break, but holds, through such incidents as mi-

"The one return which no wise

Englishman will ask of America is

that we should relinquish one jot of

our conviction that Ireland should be self governed. Those who love Eng

land best and wish her best are not

such as acclaim self-determination

for other oppressed nations and remain silent and embarrassed when Ireland is named. An English

man recently asked an American what could be done to remove the lingering prejudice of which

in spite of all the cordiality of Anglo-American relations, he was still con-

scious—not perhaps among those who have fought with the English, but in

the man on the street. One answer was obvious: Settle with Ireland.

His only comment was that now so

familiar, which is quite true, but also quite inadequate: The English would be only too glad to settle the Irish question, but the Irish cannot

"There is, of course no compromise between those who think that Ireland

is a nation-and one nation-and

those who think she is not. Through no fault of the Irish nation, she has

a minority to be coerced or won over. The nation must evidently have its

chance to win Ulster, and if she can not be won, to coerce her. Who can doubt that she would infinitely prefer

charity to justice? The last people in the world to demand justice in

the world to demand justice in Ireland are the representatives of those who in time past have exploit-ed her, expropriated her, robbed her, and kept her in poverty. The last people in the world, however, to re-member ancient wrongs with rancor, to wreak vengennce on the present

minority for the injustice of earlier

generations, would be the emotional, highly belligerent but wholly unmili-

nations.

the new

agree among themselves.

can

or the Saxon political development. His ways are primitive, backward, crude. But ours may seem to him artificial, constrained, perverted. Slav civilization, with its emphasison charity rather than on justice, or Practical Catholics will never neglect to have a blessed candle in their home. It is disedifying, to say the least, when in case of sickness or any sudden need a Catholic family has to borrow a blessed candle from a neighbor. Sometimes the priest is kept waiting while the search for a candle soes on. Many unnecessary. police regulations, may prove to be a very wholesome corrective to western civilization. Even her land system may work better—in Russis—than one borrowed from the West. a candle goes on. Many unnecessary, use ess things are purchased for the nome, and the failure to be provided 'Irish patriots make their pleawith blessed candles is due not to lack of means but to indifference or for independence in the name of justice, but that is only the concession neglect. The offering for a candle is so small that no Catholic home tion, to a government which shall derive its powers from the consent of the governed, is as far above mere

need be without a supply.
On Candlemas Day, Feb. 2,—the
Feast of the Purification—the ceremony of blessing the candles for the
service of the altar and for the people to use in their homes takes place. The attendance at Mass in the city churches and the numbers who present themselves with candles to be blessed award in to Jesus and above the lesser rights of man which the authors of our Declaration did not think it worth while to enumerblessed must give joy to Jesus and Mary, who had with them in the England and America are bound together by indissoluble ties. Americans did not break with their history at Plymouth Rock or at Yorktemple only Saint Joseph, Simeon and Anne

Cardinal Newman writes in verse of this pious commemoration;

gration and revolution. America owes England more for what she which shot across the sky, has done in the past four years than Away they pass at Candlem The angel lights of Christmas morn Away they pass at Candlemas, can ever be repaid. The old Eng land has shown herself a new, virile They sparkle and they die.

Comfort of earth is brief at best, England, whom to have known at close range is to love and admire, to close range is to love and admire, to desire for a partner in the years Like funeral lights for Christmas

Old Simeon's tapers shine. And then for eight long weeks and

We wait in twilight grey, Till the high candle sheds a beam On Holy Saturday.

We wait along the penance tide Of solemn fast and prayer; While song is hushed and lights grow

In the sin laden air.

And while the sword, in Mary's soul Is driven home, we hide In our own hearts, and count the Of passion and of pride.

And still, though Candlemas be spent, and Allelulia's o'er, Mary is music in our need

And Jesus light in store.

#### OUR LADY OF THE KEYS

AN ANCIENT FRENCH SHRINE

F. Denneley in Rosary Magazine The ancient city of Verdun has become famous during the Great War because of its heroic defense by the French in the face of the fiercest onslaughts of the Huns. Indeed, the magnificent fighting of the poilus against overwhelming of odds will go down in history as one of the high-lights of the world conflict.

And just how overwhelming those odds were the world at large has never realized. The officers charged with defense of the citadel, however, were well aware of the disaster threatening them; they well knew that nothing short of a miracle could prevent the Germans from passing. That the apparently in evitable did not happen, and that the tide was turned before Verdun and the great army of the Grozza with defense of the citadel, however,

great excitement and alarm as news was brought of the rapid approach When Ireland has become free and prosperous she will no doubt, like the new Russia that is to be, of the enemy forces, especially as they were reported to be committing terrible outrages at every step of the strengthen the heart of the world way. The Bishop, Nicholas Psaume, mindful of the devotion entertained rather than it's backbone of law and order. But that is just what the world needs. The Anglo American world needs. The Anglo American by his flock toward the Queen of civilization which will more or less overrun the world is strong on law and order—of which we can of course intervention in their favor. In the new the course of their faith the inhabitants never have too much. Irish humor, Irish passion for spiritual beauty, Irish long-suffering and kindness, Irish charity, in a word, as all the Irish charity in a word in Irish charity in a word in Irish charity in a word in Irish charity in Irish chari says St. Peter (I Pet. v. 7); and David bids us "Cast thy care upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee." (Ps. liv. 23.) Take these words with full faith and confidence. We do not trust in ourselves, but in the Nations have need of charity quite says and the safer for de large surdum. Not by the one rendering sizes have known it, since the days gates of the city, known as the sign which this statue stood close to one of the sign which the size have known it, since the days gates of the city, known as the "Porte d'Allemange." The niche in which this statue stood close to one of the sizes have known it, since the days gates of the city, known as the sizes have known it, since the days gates of the city, known as the whom Irish missionaries converted will keep the world the sweeter and the safer for de Nations have need of charity quite.

Nations have need of charity quite ceremony, in which not only the clergy but the civic officers took part, the keys of the city were sol-emnly laid at the foot of the statue, whereupon, the old chronicle states the Blessed Virgin inclined her head

In addition to fervent and constant prayer, all possible military precau-tions were taken to defend the city. The crucial hour finally arrived on the night of September 3d, 1562, when Francis de Bethune, the leader of the heretical troops, endeavored to take it by climbing over the walls. The attempt, however, proved a failure, as in the very act of assaulting the soldiers were seized with an inexplicable fear and fled in the greatest discrier.

As no adequate explanation was yer made of this remarkable deliverance, the grateful city attributed it to the powerful protection of its Patroness, the Blessed Virgia. For some months the heretical soldiers ravaged the surrounding country, but they could never again be induced to attempt the capture of Verdun. From that date the Bishop ordered that each year, on Septem-ber 3rd, a procession in honor of God and Our Lady should take place from the Cathedral to the Church of St. Victor, to which the miraculous statue had been transferred. This procession, made up of members of the various parishes of Verdun, took place annualty without interruption

except for a short time during the French Revolution—until 1904, when it was interdicted by the Prefect. That this prohibition did not lessen the confidence of the Verdunese in the power of their Madonna's intercession is proved by the fact that each year on the anniversary of the deliverance of the city the story is

read aloud before the ancient statue

in presence of the Bishop and his chapter.

When the tide of the German invasion swept up to Verdun its inhab itants, full of confidence in her who had saved their city in the past, fled to her for protection from the new danger that menaced them. Under the storm of shell fire that burst over the city, the powerful maternal care of the Blessed Virgin was soon felt, and the people realized that a divine force was aiding the heroic defenders of the old fortress. History will, later on, give more details.
Although the repeated attacks of the enemy were so terrible that even among the Allies the fall of Verdun was predicted as probable, if not, indeed inevitable, the people continued to implore the intercession of their heavenly Mother, begging her not to abandon the city she had so long be-friended, but to repeat the miracle of the sixteenth century and save it from destruction at the hands of the enemiqs. Once again Mary's ears were open to the prayers of her devout clients, and, thanks to her intervention, the brave poilus were able to drive back the Huns—and Verdun was saved!

It is worthy of note that during

the terrific bombardment of Verdun the Church of St. Victor, in which the miraculous statue is still preserved, escaped with almost no injury, the only damage sustained

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Our actual wants have definite conditions and limite; our fictitious ones obey no interior law, but run wild without rule or measure.—Mad-

As we know among ourselves, it is love that awakens love, it is friend-ship that kindles friendship, it is the sensible mavifestation of kindness and of tenderness of heart, of disinterested, self-denying love-it is this that awakens us to love again; so it is toward Our Lord—He endured all things first to persuade us to trust in His love.—Manning.



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