

FIVE-MINUTE SERMONS.

Forgiveness of Injuries. If therefore thou offer thy gift at the altar, and there remember that thy brother hath anything against thee, leave there thy offering before the altar, and go first to be reconciled to thy brother; and then coming, thy shall offer thy gift. (Gospel of the Day.)

There are few things in common life, my dear brethren, more surprising than the fact that some people seem to consider themselves good Christians, and well worthy to receive the sacraments, who have a grudge against some of their neighbors and never speak to them; perhaps never answer, even if spoken to by them. These people seem to think, I say, that they are worthy to receive the sacraments; and this not only at Easter, but, it may be, quite frequently. Some of them, I fear, consider themselves to be pious and devout; they say, it may be, long prayers every night and perhaps also in the morning—though, if they really thought of the words on their lips, I do not know how they could get through one Our Father. As we forgive those who trespass against us, ought we to stick in their throats. They will not speak to those persons who, as they think, have trespassed against them; they wish, then, that God should have nothing to say to themselves. "Forgive us," they say to him, "as we forgive: we will not speak to others, so do not thou speak to us; turn thy back on us, pass us by; that is what we do to our neighbors. Cut us off from thy friendship, send us to hell"; that is what every Our Father means in the mouth of these detestable hypocrites when they say, "Forgive us as we forgive."

How these people get through their confession and receive absolution is as surprising as that they should make the attempt to do so. They are caught, no doubt, once in a while, but it is to be feared that a large proportion of them slip through the priest's fingers, either by saying nothing about the sinful disposition in which they are or by telling a lie to the Holy Ghost and to their own hearts, if they would but examine them, by putting all the fault on the other party. When the other party appears, then we come nearer to the truth. "I spoke to So-and-so, so they say," but got no answer. Now, let it be distinctly understood that to refuse to answer any one who speaks to us with a good intention; to take no notice of a word or a salute, given to us with a view to renewing friendship, or even out of ordinary politeness, is, in almost every case, a mortal sin. Of course I do not mean that it is so when the omission comes from inattention or carelessness; no, I mean when it is intended as a cut to the other party. About the only instance in which it can be allowed is that of a superior, who has a right to take the matter in his own hands, and can put off reconciliation for a time without danger. A father, for instance, may keep his child at a distance for a while in this way as a punishment for an evident offence; but I speaking of equals, one of whom can have no right to punish the other.

But you may say: "This person has injured me grievously. He or she ought to beg my pardon." Perhaps this is so; though often, if you could see your own heart, and that of the other as God sees them, you ought to beg pardon as much as he or she. It is rare that an unprovoked injury is done by any one consciously and without what seems a pretty good excuse to himself. But even granting that the injury is really grievous and unprovoked, do you expect your neighbor to go down on his knees to you, or to humble himself by a formal apology, not knowing how it will be taken? Would you find it easy to do such a thing yourself, however guilty?

No by turning him off in this way you put the balance of injury against yourself, however great may have been the other's offence. No one should dare to go to Communion after such a slight unatoned for. And yet even brothers and sisters have done such things, and I fear, received Christ's Body and Blood with this sin on their souls. Let us have, then, no more of this. If one is not willing to be charitable with his or her neighbor, let him or her not come to confession, or, at least, if coming, take care to state the matter as it really is. "Go first and be reconciled with thy brother; and then, coming, thou shalt offer thy gift."

The wonderful energy of Leo XIII. is shown by a recent incident. The Holy Father began work on his last Encyclical to the clergy and faithful of France on the 2nd of February. For ten days he wrote almost constantly, and the aged Pontiff could be seen deep in the study of his work morning, noon and night. The Cardinal Secretary of State was not aware of the Holy Father's intention until February 12. The document was printed in the Vatican, and on the 17th of the same month Count Pecci, nephew of the Pope, was on his way to France, bearing copies for the Government. When it is considered that Leo is nearly eighty-two years of age, the feat appears all the more remarkable.

Her Ladyship. Personages of high rank in England are patrons of a great remedy. Bridgford House, near Bucks, Eng. Lady Edwards has suffered from rheumatism for several years, especially the knees. She was persuaded to buy St. Jacob's Oil, and after a fortnight's use of it, all the rheumatic pains have left her. The relief is such that Lady Edwards will never be without a bottle.

If you feel languid and bilious, try Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery, and you will find it one of the best preparations for such complaints. Mr. S. B. Maguire, Ethel, used Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery, and cured a severe bilious sick headache which troubled him for a long time.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

For Thee. The Heart of Jesus waits for thee; For thee His loving choice. And while the Angels sweetest sing, He longs to hear thy voice.

For love of thee on Calvary's Cross He suffered, bled and died. Ah! canst thou, then, refuse His wish? He calls thee by His side! Within the lonely church He dwells, A prisoner for thy sake. How seldom has He prayed—"Oh, give!" How often cried—"Oh, take!" He fain would ease thy suffering heart, He fain would grant thee peace. Oh, tell thy anguish out to Him, And he will bid it cease. —Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart.

Honesty. The Duke of Buccleuch, a Scotchman, in one of his walks, purchased a cow, which was to be sent to his place on the following morning. The duke, in his morning dress, espied a boy ineffectually attempting to drive the animal forward to its destination. The boy, not knowing the duke, bawled out to him: "Hi, mun, come here, and gie's a han' wi' this beast. Come here, mun, and help us, an' as sure as anything, I'll give you half a guinea."

The duke went and lent the helping hand. "And now," said the duke, as they trudged along, "how much do you think you'll get for the job?" "I dinna ken," said the boy, "but I'm sure o' somethin' for the folk at the big house are good to a' bodies."

As they approached the house the duke disappeared from the boy, and entered by a different way. Calling the butler, he put a sovereign into his hand, saying: "Give it to the boy who brought the cow."

The duke having returned to the avenue was soon rejoined by the boy. "Well how much did you get?" "A shillin'," said the boy, "an' there's half o' it to ye."

"But you surely got more than a shilling," said the duke. "No," said the boy, "that's a' I got an' d'ye no think it plenty?" "I do not," said the duke, "and as I am acquainted with the master of the house, if you return I think I'll get you more."

They went back: the duke rang the bell, and ordered all the servants to be assembled. "Now," said the duke, "point me out the person who gave you the shilling."

"It was that chap there," pointing to the butler. The butler confessed, fell on his knees, and attempted an apology; but the duke indignantly ordered him to give the boy the sovereign and quit his service instantly.

"You have lost," said the duke "your money and your situation by your covetousness; learn henceforth that honesty is the best policy." The boy by this time recognized his assistant in the person of the duke; and the duke was so delighted with the sterling worth and honesty of the boy that he ordered him to be sent to school and provided for at his own expense.

Faithful. Two boys were at work rigging a small sailboat. It lay in an inlet on the New Jersey coast, and had been hired from them for the season by a stranger from New York. "Come along, Bob!" said one of the boys. "It's all right now. We'll be too late to see the ball match, if we don't start at once."

Bob had taken down some of the old ropes, and rigged the boat with new ones. The halyards he had not yet examined. "They're all right," urged his companion, trying them,—"strong enough to last for years."

"No; I'll put in new halyards; I promised to make a thorough job of it." "Then you'll miss the game. I'm off!" "Tom ran across the field; Bob hesitated as he looked after him. It was a sharp disappointment to miss the game. The old halyards were worn, but they were still stout.

"They'll stand this summer well enough!" quipped Bob. Then, with a quick, decisive movement, he cut them, and proceeded to put in new ropes. "I'll make the job thorough," he said. That very evening the New York gentleman took a party of his friends out for a sail, among them several persons whose lives were especially valuable to the community, and whose death would have been a calamity. When a mile from the land, a fierce squall struck the boat. They steered toward the shore. The boat was carrying too much sail for such a wind.

"If your gaff gives way, we are gone!" said a physician in the party, in a low voice. "It all depends on the halyards. They are new. But there's a terrible strain on them."

Every eye in the boat was upon the short, knotted ropes. They creaked ominously; but they bore the strain, and in a short time the boat was driven up on the beach. Bob's stout bits of new rope had saved the lives of all on board.

Bob's faithfulness in doing a "thorough job" would have been comparatively little to his credit could he have foreseen the momentous consequences of his actions. Who would not be particular about a rope if he knew beyond a question that human lives would hang upon it within twenty-four hours? The truly faithful souls are those who do their duty, as he did, no matter how unimportant it may seem in itself, or how remote and uncertain its results.

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LORETO ACADEMY.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES FOR MERIT AFTER SIX MONTHS' WORK. Stratford Herald.

On Thursday and Friday afternoon the closing exercises of the Loreto Academy took place, the examination of the junior division being held Thursday afternoon and of the senior division Friday afternoon. The prizes were also awarded on Friday afternoon, when the spacious hall of the academy was crowded by an admiring assemblage of parents and friends, the parents, especially, being well represented, who were much edified by the character of the proceedings and the manner in which the young people acquitted themselves. Rev. Dr. Kilroy awarded the various prizes. There were also present the clergy, Rev. Father O'Neill, Kin-kora; Rev. Father Cook, Seaford; and Rev. Father Austin, curate of St. Joseph's. The exercises both afternoons were full of interest, and exemplified the different branches of study taught in the institution. On Thursday afternoon, in addition to the various classes in arithmetic, grammar, and religion, proper in literature, history, grammar, etc., recitations were given by Master L. Duggan, Miss Gerald Megan, and Miss H. Craig, and three full choruses, one a picture of the Virgin Mary, another a picture of the Holy Child, and a third a picture of the Holy Family. On Friday afternoon the programme observed was in the following order: Full chorus, "Gloria"; address by Miss M. Long; exercises in arithmetic and grammar; recitation of the "Duchess of Suffolk" exercises in history, literature and hygiene; full chorus, "Little Children"; distribution of prizes to the junior division; full chorus, "Music and Song"; distribution of prizes to the senior division, and closing with "God Save the Queen."

The art department contained a very fine display of painting and crayon work by the pupils, nearly all the work of the last half year. Miss Joannie Megan, of Stratford, had the handsome water colors, one a scene in Germany which is very fine, also a picture of a child, in all of which the execution shows her to be possessed of excellent taste. Miss M. Long, of Stratford, had a picture of St. Mary's, who exhibited a couple of water colors, a crayon portrait of her mother and a pretty easel scarf. Miss Macdonald, of Stratford, had the handsome water colors, one a picture of a young cousin by Miss O'Leary, another a picture of the Holy Family, and a picture of her late father by Miss Enright, Kin-kora, and a portrait by Miss Larkin, of Pickering. The pictures all evinced the possession of a good taste on the part of the pupils, which had been happily trained and cultivated to a high degree by the good Ladies of Loreto. The number of pupils in the academy during the last year was eighty, nearly all of whom took the regular course. For other particulars readers are referred to the prize lists as below:

JUNIOR DIVISION HONOR LIST.

Crowned for good conduct—Miss Teresa Scanlan. Prize for catechism, equally merited by the Misses M. St. Louis, M. O'Brien, M. Devlin, Olive Macklin, M. Hergott and Master Willie Long, and obtained by Master W. Long.

Prize for regular attendance, equally merited by the Misses Devlin, Hergott, McGrath, Lottie Lavalley, Loreto Collins, M. Dillon, Leon Duggan and Hilda Wilnot; obtained by J. Goetz.

Special prize for geography, equally merited by the Misses M. St. Louis, M. O'Brien, H. Wilnot, L. Collins, M. Hergott, O. Macklin, E. McGrath, M. Devlin, Leon Duggan and W. Long; obtained by Miss M. Hergott.

Special prize for grammar, equally merited by the Misses Wilnot, M. St. Louis, M. O'Brien, Devlin, Hergott, Macklin, Collins, McGrath, and Masters G. Megan, M. Long, and obtained by Master G. Megan.

Third Class.

Miss M. Hergott, 1st prize in junior division 3rd class English, 2nd in preparatory class instrumental music, 2nd in grammar and geography.

Miss O. Macklin, 1st prize in junior division 3rd class English, 1st in 2nd class junior division arithmetic, prize in grammar and geography.

Miss M. Devlin, 1st prize in junior division 3rd class English, 2nd in 2nd class junior division arithmetic, 1st prize in grammar and geography.

Miss M. St. Louis, 2nd prize in junior division 3rd class English, 2nd in 2nd class arithmetic, 2nd in 1st class instrumental music, in grammar and geography.

Miss M. O'Brien, 2nd prize in junior division 3rd class English, 1st in 2nd class arithmetic, 1st in preparatory class instrumental music, 1st in 2nd class junior division English, 2nd in 2nd class junior division arithmetic.

Master W. Long, 1st prize in junior division 3rd class English, 1st in 2nd class arithmetic, prize in grammar and geography.

Master H. O'Leary, prize in English, arithmetic, geography and grammar.

Miss E. McGrath, 1st prize in 2nd class English, 2nd in 2nd class arithmetic, prize in grammar and geography.

Master J. Goetz, 1st prize in 2nd class English, 1st in 2nd class arithmetic, prize in grammar and geography.

Master L. Duggan, prize in 2nd class English, 1st in 2nd class arithmetic.

Miss M. Dillon, prize in 2nd class English, 1st in 2nd class arithmetic.

Master Leon Duggan, prize in 2nd class English, 2nd in preparatory class instrumental music, 2nd in 2nd class English, 2nd in 2nd class arithmetic, prize in grammar and geography.

Miss Lottie Lavalley, prize in 2nd class English, 1st prize in preparatory class instrumental music, 1st in 2nd class English, 1st in 2nd class arithmetic, and in language lessons.

Master J. O'Leary, prize in 2nd class English, 1st in 2nd class arithmetic.

Master C. Cooper, prize in 2nd class English, improvement in preparatory class instrumental music.

Master J. McIntyre, prize in 2nd class English.

Miss T. Scanlan, 2nd prize in 2nd class English and in preparatory arithmetic.

Miss M. Macklin, 2nd prize in 2nd class English and in preparatory arithmetic.

Miss A. Salkeld, 2nd prize in 2nd class English.

Master E. O'Donoghue, prize for improvement.

Prizes for being good little girls—Misses E. Conig, S. Gidd, L. Welsh, L. McQuade, Beatrice King, M. Stock, Ellie Goodwin, W. O'Brien.

HONOR ROLL SENIOR DIVISION. Gold medal awarded by His Lordship, Right Rev. Dr. O'Connor, Bishop of London.

for Christian doctrine, and obtained by Miss M. Long, Stratford. Crown and prize for good conduct, equally merited by the Misses Blair, Daly, Keane, Kennedy, Alice Boyd and, obtained by Miss K. Blair.

Gold medal, presented by Rev. P. McCabe, Dublin, as first prize in under-graduating class, and obtained by Miss K. Blair. Gold pin, presented by Dr. Devlin for grammar and poetry class English, competed for by the Misses B. Taylor, Ida Taylor, May Daly, Carrie Richardson, R. Lyons, and obtained by Miss B. Taylor.

Crowned for fidelity to school rules, Misses K. Blair, L. Keane, M. Daly and Alice Boyd. Prize for regular attendance, presented by Mrs. Dignam, equally merited by the Misses Kennedy, Megan, M. Daly, K. Blair, M. Goodwin, G. Dillon, M. Graham, and obtained by Miss G. Dillon.

Gold bracelet, presented by Rev. Dr. Kilroy as a prize in sixth class literature, and obtained by Miss J. Megan. Gold pin, presented by Rev. Dr. Kilroy as first prize in 4th class senior division arithmetic, and obtained by Miss M. Kennedy. Crowned, in water color painting, Miss J. Megan.

Crowned, in oil painting, Miss Florence Macdonald. Crowned, in past drawing, the Misses F. Macdonald, J. Megan. Prize, in fancy work and plain needle work, Miss L. Keane. Crown and prize, in 6th class instrumental music, Miss A. Dignam.

Prize for penmanship, equally merited by the Misses Blair, Dignam, Keane, Kennedy and Ida Taylor, and obtained by Miss A. Dignam. Prize for order and neatness, merited by the Misses Keane, Megan, Blair, Long, Macdonald, Kennedy, Dignam, Richardson, Bartha Taylor, Ida Taylor, H. Barnsdale, Helen Craig, and obtained by Miss M. Long.

Division 4th Class.

Miss R. Lyons, crown and 1st prize in division 4th class English, 1st in 1st class senior arithmetic, 1st in 2nd class French, 2nd in division 3rd class instrumental music.

Miss Gerrie Dillon, 1st prize in division 4th class English, 1st in 2nd class French, 1st in 2nd class senior division arithmetic, 3rd in preparatory class instrumental music.

Miss M. Goodwin, 1st prize in division 4th class English, 1st in 2nd class French, 1st in 2nd class senior division arithmetic, and 3rd in 1st class instrumental music.

Miss Alice Boyd, 1st prize in division 4th class, 1st in division 3rd class instrumental music.

Miss H. Craig, 2nd prize in division 4th class English, 2nd in 2nd class French, 2nd in 1st class instrumental music.

Miss B. Goodwin, 2nd prize in division 4th class English, 1st in 2nd class French, 1st in 2nd class senior division arithmetic, 2nd in 2nd class instrumental music, improvement in 2nd class instrumental music.

Miss H. O'Leary, 2nd prize in division 4th class English, 2nd in 2nd class French, 2nd in 2nd class senior division arithmetic, and 3rd in 3rd class instrumental music.

Miss R. Taylor, crown and prize in senior 4th class English, 2nd in 2nd class senior division arithmetic, 1st in 1st class instrumental music.

Miss M. Daly, 1st prize in senior 4th class English, 1st in division 3rd class instrumental music.

Miss Ida Taylor, 2nd prize in senior 4th class English, 1st in 2nd class instrumental music.

Miss O. Elder, 2nd prize in 4th class English.

Fifth Class.

Miss L. Keane, crown and prize in 5th class English, 2nd in 3rd class French, 2nd in 2nd class senior division arithmetic, 2nd in 2nd class past drawing, 1st in 2nd class water colors, and improvement in 2nd class instrumental music.

Miss M. Long, 1st prize in 5th class English, 2nd in 3rd class French, 2nd in 2nd class oil painting and past drawing, 2nd in 2nd class division 4th class instrumental music.

Miss F. Macdonald, 1st prize in 5th class English, 2nd in 3rd class French, 2nd in division class instrumental music, and improvement in singing.

Miss L. O'Leary, 2nd in division 4th class instrumental music.

Miss A. Dignam, 2nd prize in 6th class English, 2nd in 1st class French, 2nd in 2nd class water color painting, 2nd in 2nd class past drawing, and improvement in singing.

Miss M. Kennedy, 2nd prize in 2nd class instrumental music.

Miss J. Megan, 1st in division 5th class music.

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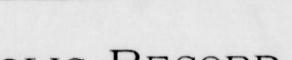
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