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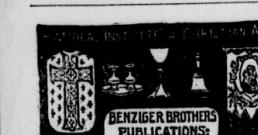
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FETHICK & McDONALD, 393 Richmond Street.

FIVE-MINUTE SERMONS.

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost.

SHAMELESSNESS IN SINNING.

There met him three men that were lepers, who stood afar off and lifted up their voice, saying: Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. (The Gospel of the Sunday).

Leprosy, my brethren, is often spoken of in Holy Writ, and is considered a type of sin. It is a loathsome and contagious disease, and when a man was so unhappy as to contract it, besides being driven away by the Mosaic law, he fled in very shame from the company of others.

But, brethren, it happens in our times that there are many sinners without shame. Many great sins are done almost as a matter of course, and some even made matter of jest, perhaps of boast. Need I mention them? Time was that if a man wished to see a vulgar par he was forced to creep up some dark alley; now he may go to a fifty opera in a coach and four, and with the lords of the land, ay, even the ladies of the land. When you and I were boys there was but one commonly known illustrated paper with immoral pictures and bad reading matter; the news-dealers now hang their stands all over with them, and young men, and even young women, buy and read them without a blush.

Don't You Know

That to have perfect health you must have pure blood, and the best way to have pure blood is to take Hood's Sarsaparilla, the best blood purifier and strength builder. It is a specific which has never been known to fail. It promotes a free and easy excretion, thereby removing the phlegm, and gives the diseased parts a chance to heal.

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FETHICK & McDONALD, 393 Richmond Street.

A CHILD OF THE FLOODS.

By MAURICE F. EGAN, LL. D.

Helena came to Cincinnati with her grandmother, in the month of December of last year. Her grandmother loved Helena so much that Helena loved her grandmother almost as well as her mother.

Six years ago Helena's father and mother came to Cincinnati, bringing with them their other three children. But the old grandmother—Frau Ida, pronounced in the German way, "oeds"—would not let her dear grandchild leave her; so rather than leave the good grandmother sad and lonely, Helena was left behind with her.

It was a sad time for the poor German people in the province where Frau Ida and her little granddaughter lived—a sad, sad time. Prince Bismarck and his followers had exiled many of their priests, and deprived others of their churches. There was no Mass, there were no sacraments for the people of the village. But Frau Ida's house and plot of ground were there, and, hoping for better times, she stayed there, too.

Every month she went to a big city, many miles away, where she could hear Mass, and her little charge went with her. But this could not always be, the distance was very great and often the weather was bad.

Helena, however, made her First Communion; and, young as she was, the persecutions to which she saw religion subjected made her love it more and long to die for it. Like the old pagan Romans who were proud to say, "We are Roman citizens," Helena felt her face flush when she said— "I am a Catholic."

It seemed to Frau Ida that the good times when the priests would come back, and the church bells ring out again, and the crowds kneel at Benediction, were very far off, long as she had waited for them; so one day she said to Helena— "Wouldst thou like to go to America, thou dear child?"

They were in the kitchen—the dear old kitchen that Helena loved so much. Frau Ida sat in her carved arm-chair. She was knitting, and the kitten was hiding behind the stove waiting for her to drop her ball of yarn. The hands of the clock in the wall pointed to 3. Frau Ida had just drunk her usual cup of coffee; all was quiet and peaceful. Helena could scarcely believe that her grandmother had asked her this question. Go to America—far, far away from the dear Fatherland. It was almost too much for her to grasp. She threw her arms around her grandmother and kissed her. The ball of worsted fell upon the floor, and the kitten was happy.

"Must I leave thee, grandmother?" "No, no, my child," said Frau Ida; "I will go with thee."

Helena put her face close to her grandmother's and whispered— "I am afraid of the Indians and the buffaloes, grandmother."

Frau Ida smiled. "Thy father wrote to me that the cities in America are larger than our village, and that he has never seen an Indian in Cincinnati. There are churches there, wherein the Holy Mass is said, and many good priests. It is a beautiful country." And Frau Ida began to sing in her sweet, low voice— "Kannst du das Land wo die Citronen blahn? (know'st thou the land where the lemons bloom?)"

Helena joined in, for singing was with her and her grandmother a second language. "Ach, it is a beautiful country! Thou shalt see oranges and lemons in the streets and wondrous trees, and the golden sun all day long, and no rain. It is a strange land, too. The housewives do not work in the fields or drive the cattle, but sit in their cottages and sew with their feet!"

"Have they no hands, grandmother?" "I do not know," answered Frau Ida, picking up the ball of yarn. "Thy father did not say. They have curious machines which help them to sew faster than I—when I was young—could sew with my hands."

Helena's eyes became round as saucers. "But we shall see father and mother?" "Yes, yes, beloved child."

At this moment Herr Wilhelm, the chapel-master, who was to buy Frau Ida's cottage, entered, and Helena ran upstairs to think about this beautiful new country, and to pray in her oratory.

II.

Frau Ida and Helena had a pleasant voyage. Helena's father met them at Castle Garden.

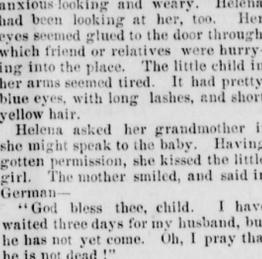
There, among the crowd of immigrants rushing forwards and backwards, he found them keeping guard over their trunks and bundles. Several steamers had come in that week. Groups of men in long coats and queer caps were smoking pipes, and lounging on the benches around the enormous building. Women and babies were quite numerous. Some of the people were chatting and laughing, others looked very anxious, as if they were looking for friends. It was warm inside, but the smells of the place made Helena think that America was not such a sweet country after all. It was about noon, and everybody seemed hungry. There was a large group gathered around the refreshment stand, where busy clerks sold sausages, sandwiches, pies, beer and other things much relished by the immigrants after their long sea-voyage.

Frau Ida, tightly clasping Helena's hand, eagerly watched each passer-by. Perhaps her dear Casper should miss her! While she was waiting, she noticed a young woman with a child in her arms—a pale, thin woman, very anxious looking and weary. Helena had been looking at her, too. Her eyes seemed glued to the door through which friend or relatives were hurrying into the place. The little child in her arms seemed tired. It had pretty blue eyes, with long lashes, and short yellow hair.

Helena asked her grandmother if she might speak to the baby. Having gotten permission, she kissed the little girl. The mother smiled, and said in German— "God bless thee, child. I have waited three days for my husband, but he has not yet come. Oh, I pray that he is not dead!"

Helena poured out some milk she had bought, and offered to the little one, who drank it. "She is hungry!" cried Helena. "Dear little angel!" And she at once began to fill the child's mouth with sausage. Frau Ida interfered—"Thou wilt kill the child, Helena. Thou hadst better feed the mother, who, no doubt is hungry." The mother was hungry, and in the pleasure of filling her lunch-basket and trying to make her comfortable, Frau Ida and Helena forgot their own anxiety.

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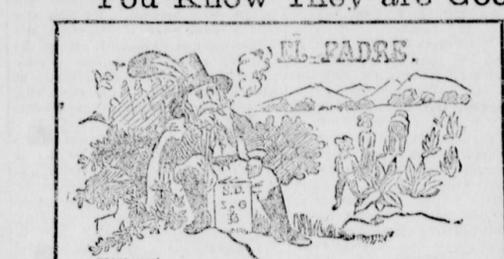
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