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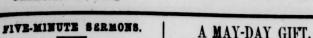


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pel of the Day.)

nations not Christian.

first.

before.

our Lord is speaking so much of here-tics, or of bad Catholics, when He says :

will see well enough what I mean.

Third Sunday in Lent. BY MARY CATHERINE CROWLEY. HALF-HEARTED CHRISTIANS. IV.

He that is not with me is against me (Gos. "Just think, Larry !" said Abby to her brother, when he came home after a game of ball, "I'm to be Queen of These words, my dear brethren, like

May ?" "You !" he cried, in a disdainful

These words, my dear oretinen, like many others spoken of our Blessed Lord, may be interpreted in varions ways. They may be understood to mean that he who is not with Christ, by being united to His true flock, who does not belong to the one Church which He has founded, is injuring the "Yes, indeed ! And why not ? I'm sure I don't see why you should look so surprised. I've been chosen because I can speak and act the best in our division " cause of Christ, is persecuting and hampering His Church in its warfare

division." "But the Blessed Virgin is Queen of against its enemies ; or, in other words, that Protestants and heretics in gen-

May," objected Larry. "Oh, of course !" Abby said. "But this will be only make believe, you that Protostants and noteties in gen-eral, zealous Christians though they may seem to be, are really hurting Christianity about as much as they help it, if not more. And it is plain enough to us that this is true. If there know. We are going to have a drama, and I'm to be Queen-that is all."

"I should think you would not even want to play at taking away what be had never been any heresies and schisms in the Church, we cannot doubt longs to the Blessed Virgin," persisted Larry, doggedly. "She is the Queen of May, and no one ought to pretend to be Queen besides." that there would have been now few

But this, true though it may be, seems to have little practical bearing for us. We are not heretics or schis

matics, and I hope that we have no in-clination to be so. Still we must remember that bad Catholics do about s much harm to the work of Christ while she stole away; for in spite of her petulance at Larry's words, they had suggested a train of thought which made her want to be by herself. She went up to the eratory and stayed there a long time, amid the twilight shadows. Finally the ringing of the and HisChurch in the world as heretics. In fact, there would never have been any heretics had there not been bad atholics to begin with. But, after all, it does not seem that

supper bell put an end to her musings. She knelt a new minutes before the "He that is not with me is against ne." For He goes on to tell us that statue, and then ran down to the "when the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through places dining-room. She was very quiet all the evening; and, to Mrs. Clayton's without water, seeking rest; and not finding, he saith, I will return to my surprise, the family heard no more of the May drama. The next day, at school, Abby way-

house whence I came out ; and when he is come, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then he goeth, and taketh laid Marion Gaines in one of the corri-

dors. "I want to speak to you," she bewith nim seven other spirits more gan. "Well, what's the matter, Abby? wicked than himself, and entering in they dwell there ; and the last state of

What makes you so serious this morn-ing?" inquired Marion. "Nothing—only I've been thinking man becomes worse than the

The meaning of this is plain enough. about the May piece, and I want to tell you that I'd rather not be Queen," It is that a man cannot give up a bad life and then remain betwixt and befaltered the little girl. "You'd rather not be Queen !" retween, neither bad nor good. His soul

cannot stay empty, swept, and gar-nished. He must keep the love of God peated Marion, in astonishment. "Why not? I thought you were dein it ; he must have good thoughts and lighted to be chosen. do good works, or the devil will come "So I was - yesterday," the little girl hastened to say; for she would not back, take possession of the empty

soul, and make it worse than it was have Marion think she did not appreciate the compliment. So this gives a new sense to the

"Then what has caused you to change your mind so suddenly?" Mar-ion went on. "What a fickle child words, "He that is not with me is against me." He that is not a real good Christian, trying to live for the glory of God, and todo the work for which

God has put him in the world, will be a bad one before long, if he is not already. We cannot lie low and shirk gin is Queen of May, and it seems as if the duties which belong to us as Chris-tians and as Catholics. We must be God's servants, and live in such a way we ought not even to play at having any other Queen."

as to be known as such, or we shall begin again to serve His enemy. Let us take an instance, and you

Marion stared at her increaulously. "And so missy has a scruple about it !" she said, smiling. "No," returned Abby; "but my brother Larry thought so. And if it looks that way even to a little boy like him, I think I would rather not pre-terd to be Queen " young man or woman has been going with bad company, who, though per-haps they call themselves Catholics, are a disgrace to the name, and has

him, I think I would rather not pre-tend to be Queen." "A May piece without a Queen! Why, it would be like the play of Hamlet with Hamlet left out!" de-clared Marion. "Did you not think that if you declined the part we might give it to some one else?" oined with them in all their vile conversations and sinful actions. Now, too many of those who have been living in this way seem to think that after their confession and Communion they

can go back to this company and still avoid remark; that nobody will have Abby colored and was silent. This had, indeed, been the hardest part of occasion to say that they are pious, or notice any change in their life; that had, indeed, been the hardest part of the struggle with herself. But there was an element of the heroic in her character. She never did anything by halves; like the little girl so often quoted, "when she was good, she was very, very good." unsteady position. The next moment it tipped over, fell to the floor, and lay shattered at the foot of the altar. Abby stood and gazed at it hopelessly, too distressed even to gather up the fragments. "Oh, what will Larry say!" she

notice any change in their life; that they can keep all right in God's sight, and also in that of their bad compan-ions; that they can avoid doing any harm, and still do no good. Let such remember these words: "He that is not with me is against me." If you want to stay in the grace of God, you must hate sin, and love of God, you must hate sin, and love virtue; and if you really do this your life and conversation will show that queening it over your companions if only for an hour ?--that you are willsuch is the case. You must be a friend of Christ and an enemy of the devil and of all his works, and not only be willing but proud to be known as such. With some embarrassment, Abby admitted that this was her motive. If you will not do this our Lord will not have you or keep you. Choose, then, which side you will take : do not fancy that you can take neither. If A sudden thought occurred to A sudden thought occurred to broken Marion. "Then, Abby, you shall!" said she. "I'll arrange it; but don't say a word about it to any one. Let the girls think you are to be Queen, if they please. Why, missy," she went on, becoming enthusiastic, "it is really a clever idea for our drama. We shall have a lovely May piece, after all." you try to steer a middle course, and live an empty and unprofitable life, neither one thing nor the other, you will soon slip back just where you were before.

THE CATHOLIC RECORD.

#### The next day it happened that Ellen ing hard for nothing-it was just a

waste of time !" Marion pleaded and reasoned, but without avail. Ellen's vanity was wounded. She chose to imagine that her classmate, and sometimes rival, did not care whether her lines were did hot care the spectra of the spec

"At least give me what you have written," urged Marion. "We are so hurried, and the children ought to have their parts as soon as possible." But Ellen remained obdurate.

Marion consulted the others of the class, and, after some discussion, they decided in favor of the later design. For the next few days she devoted every spare moment to the work. By the end of the week she not only finished the portion she had been ex-pected to write, but also much of what Ellen was to have done ; and the parts were distributed among the children. There were still wanting, however, the

"Oh, you silly boy! There is no use in trying to explain anything to you!" cried Abby, losing patience. For the next half hour she was not so talkative, however, and after a while she stole away; for in spite of her petulance at Larry's words, ther if I write one the principal ideas will be the same ; and then, likely as not, she will say I copied from hers. How

shall I manage?" Ellen remained on her dignity. She would have nothing to do either with Marion or the drama, and kept aloof from her classmates generally. The intelligence had spread through the school that the two graduates had differed over the May piece. The exact point in dispute was not known, however; for Marion wished to keep her design a secret, and Ellen would not condescend to explain. In fact, she did not clearly understand it herself ; for she had been too vexed at the

proposal to change the plan to listen to what Marion said upon the subject.

During this state of affairs poor Abby was very unhappy. She felt that she was the cause of all the trouble; and it seemed hard that what she had done with the best of intentions should have made so much ill-feeling. This disastrous occurrence was followed by another, which made her think herself a very unfortunate little girl.

As has already been explained, it was Larry's delight to keep always a few blossoms in his pretty vase before the beloved statue of the Blessed Vir-gin. This he attended to himself, and no one ever interfered with the vase. On the day referred to Abby had been you are, to be sure !" "It is not that," stammered poor Abby, a good deal confused : "but— but—well, you know the Blessed Vir-ir is Source of Max and it seems as if the sure is the bunch of arbutus.

we ought not even to play at having iny other Queen." Marion stared at her incredulously. "And so missy has a scruple about it !" he said, smiling. "No," returned Abby; "but my prother Larry thought so. And if it

day. "I'll surprise him," she said to her-self. "How pleased he will be to see this nice little bouquet!"

She took the vase, threw away the withered violets it contained, replaced them with the May flowers, and put it back. But, alas ! being taken up with admiring the delicate pink arbutus, and inhaling its fragrance, she did not notice that she had set the vase in an unsteady position. The next moment it tipped over, fell to the floor, and lay

discovered Abby in tears at the win-dow of the class-room. Ellen, although quick-tempered and impulsive, was kind hearted. "What is the trouble now, child ?" she asked, gently taking Abby's hand

in hers. "Oh," sobbed Abby, "I feel so dreadfully to think that you and Marion don't speak to each other? And it's all my fault ; because from something I said to Marion, she thought that, instead of taking one among

ourselves, it would be much nicer to choose the Blessed Virgin for our May-Queen." "And was that Marion Gaines

plan ?" asked Ellen, in surprise. "Why, yes! But surely she must have told you!" said the little girl. "I see now that she tried to," re-plied Ellen, with a sigh at her own impetuosity. "But I was too vexed to listen. I did not really understand before. Dry your tears, Abby ; I'll

do my best to make amends now. How foolish I've been !" she ejaculated, as Abby ran off in gay spirit. "And how I must have disedified the other girls! I must try to make up for it." She found the verses she had writ

ten ; and, on looking them over, con-cluded that, after all, they needed only the change of a few words here and there. Then she wrote a little note to Marion, as follows : "DEAR MARION-I did not realize

until to day what you wanted to do about the May piece. If my verses would be of any use at this late hour, you are welcome to them. I should like to do all I can to help now, to make up for lost time.

" ELLEN." Marion gladly accepted the over-tures of peace. The May drama was duly finished, the rehearsals went on smoothly, and on the last day of the Month of Mary the performance took place.

It had been rumored in the school that Abbey was not to be Queen, and there was much speculation as to which of the little girls had been selected instead. As the drama progressed, and the plan was unfolded, the audi-ence was taken completely by surprise. New Spring Suitings Everyone had been eager to see the May-Queen ; but there was a general New Spring Trouserings murmur of appreciation when, at the close, the curtain rose upon a beautiful tableau; a shrine glittering with many lights, in the midst of which was enthroned a lovely image of Our Lady, New Spring Overcoatings New Spring Scarfs & Ties at whose feet the children laid their crowns of flowers-a crown to honor

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of May. A few days later Father Dominic called at the Claytons. "Well, children," he asked, inci-dentally, "have you done anything to please the Blessed Virgin during the past mouth ?" past month ?"

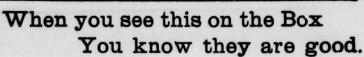
Abby and Larry were silent, but Abby and Larry were stead, out their mother kindly answered : "I think they have tried, Father Dominic. And as for your lovely May-Day gift, the presence of the statue seems to have drawn down a blessing upon the house."

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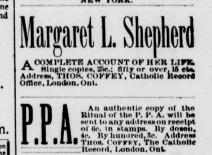
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Put Them in Jail.

It has been our opinion all along that good would result from the new after all. Marion hastened away, intent upon working out the new plan which her quick fancy had already sketched in outline. To be sure, she and Ellen had devised a different one, and agreed Knownothingism represented by organ-izations like the A. P. A. It has given occasion to a great many prominent non-Catholics to defend the Church while denouncing bigotry ; and their

that each should write certain scenes. Ellen had taken the first opportunity that morning to whisper that she had devoted to the drama all the previous audiences, for the most part, could never have been reached by Catholic apologists. There are reasons, further-more, for thinking that Knownothingevening and an hour before breakfast. Marion, indeed, had done the same. ism will never again disturb the peace "But it will not make any differ-

of our country, once the present storm of fanaticism has abated. A bill has been introduced into the Kentucky Legislature, prohibiting the organiza-tion in that State of any society whose object is so discriminate between Chris-tions of a society of their radigion ence. We can change the lines a little," she said to herself, after reading the manuscript, which Ellen passed to her at the hour of German study—a time they were allowed to take for this particular composition. tians on account of their religion.

Ellen, however, thought otherwise The penalty is a fine of \$500 to \$1,000 "What ! another plan for the May piece !" she said, when Marion menor imprisonment from six to twelve reason why the same prohibition should not, soomer or later, become a law in every State of the Union Area Maria " "Rut it can be the the the line of the line and the state of the line o not, sooner or later, become a law in every State of the Union.—Ave Maria. Rheumatism racks the system like a thumb-screw. It retreats before the power of Hood's Sarsaparilla, which purifies the blood. Excels all other medicines that I ever used. I took if or billouses and it has cured without much stad of changing everything just WM, WRIGHT, Wallaceburg, Ont. written; and in rhyme, too!" "But it can be altered without much trouble," explained her friend. "No, it can't. You will only make a hodge podge of my verses," she an-sweed, excitedly. "I do think, stad of changing everything just altogether. WM, WRIGHT, Wallaceburg, Ont.

While she was thus lamenting she heard Larry's voice. He was coming straight up to the oratory. In another minute he threw open the door ; he had ing to make the sacrifice to honor the la little cluster of buttercups in his Blessed Virgin?" hand, and was so intent upon putting them in the vase that he was half way across the room before he noticed the broken pieces on the floor. When he did so he stopped and glared at his

"O Larry," she stammered, con-tritely, "it was an accident! See Marion Gaines gave me those lovely May-flowers, and I thought you'd be pleased to have them in your vase. Just as I went to put it back, it fell

Just as 1 went to put it back, it fell ever. I'm awfully sorry !" Larry's eyes flashed angrily, and his face grew erimson. "Abby Clayton," he broke out, "you are always meddling ! Why can't you let things that don't belong to you alone ?" alone ?'

A storm of reproaches would no doubt have followed, but just them his angry glance turned toward the statue. There stood the image of Our Lady, so meek and beautiful and mild. And there, in a tiny frame at the front of the altar, hung Father Dominic's words of advice: "Try every day to do some little thing to honor our

Blessed Mother." Larry paused suddenly; for his in-dignation almost choked him. But in that moment of silence he had time to reflect. What should he do to-day to honor the Blessed Virgin, now that his little vasc was broken? He looked again at the statue. The very sight of the sweet face suggested gentler



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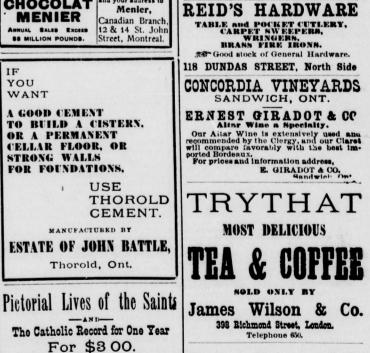
"That answers to this curious name. What is it made of? What's its use? My ignorance you'll please excuse."

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