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Tenth Sunday after Pentecost.

MORNING PRAYERS.

Two men went up into the temple to pray. From the Gospel of the Sunday.)

The lesson of this day's Gospel, my brethren, is prayer; its necessity and its humility. Our short sermon must be contented with a little corner of this great field—that is to say, morning

prayers. Suppose that your child is sick, what to John. is your first word in the morning? It is, how is the baby this morning? Cried John.
Then follows much more: I think it is The fruit Then follows much more: I think it is a little better to-day; it seems easier; or it passed a bad night; I hope the day will be cool, for it suffers from heat. So, anxiety for your poor little child consecrates your first thoughts afford to lose the time. I have no one heat. So, anxiety for your poor little child consecrates your first thoughts of the devil, such as cursing and fort of the devil, such as cursing and foul-talking companions, bad reading and saloons; there is a spiritual cancer within—I mean the temptation of the within—I mean the temptation of the flesh—which can only be kept from destroying the soul's life by constant and severe treatment. Now, thoughts and words do your sick child little good; but they are the very best things for the soul, especially early in the morning. The man or woman who kneels down and says the morning prayer guards against temptation, heads off the noon-day demon, and provides that happiest of evenings, that is to say, the one which follows an innocent

There's a saying against braggarts and promise-breakers that "fine words butter no parsnips." It is not true of words said in charity to our neighbor or in prayer to God. Sincere words addressed to God as the day begins sweeten every morsel of food the livelong day, lighten every burden and weaken every temptation. Why, then, are you so careless about morn-ing prayers? It can only be because you do not appreciate your spiritual weakness or you do not care what becomes of your soul before bedtime. But somebody might say: Father, can't you tell us something to can't you tell us something to make the morning prayers easy? It is very hard to remember them, and then it is so pleasant to get even five minutes' more sleep, especially in the winter time; and, again, I am always

A half-hour was used up in this way. winter time; and, again, I am always in a hurry to get off to work, etc Now you might as well ask me to tell you something to make you relish a good wash and a clean shirt. man does not hate dirt, it is preaching up the chimney to try to make him love to be clean. Prayer cleans the heart. Prayer clothes the soul with the grace of God. Prayer brings down God. Prayer drives away the devil. Or, I might rather say, that for a clean heart, and in order to get the grace of God, and in order to

vanquish temptation, prayer is simply and indispensably necessary. Once a man came to me and said : Father, for years I was addicted to habitual vice of the worst kind (and here he named a fearful sin), but I began some time ago to say the Litany of the Blessed Virgin every morning and the Litany of Jesus every night, and this practice has entirely cured me of that dreadful habit. Some such story as that, my brethren, every man must tell before he can say that he is

delivered from sin. For my own part, I look upon regular morning prayers as a plain mark of predestination to eternal life. "Ask and you shall receive ; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you," is our Lord's promise opened to you, is our Lotte promote to those that pray; and the best prayer is the morning prayer. Be ready, therefore, to correct yourself for omitting it. The day you forget it go without something you like to eat, put a nickel in the poor-box, double up your nickel in the poor-box, double up your night prayers, make a special request to your guardian angel to get you up in good time for morning prayer the following morning. For the "Our Father," "Hail Mary," "Apostles' Creed," "Confiteor," and Acts of Faith, Hope, Sorrow and Charity, that you say in the morning will in the end give you a happy death and the king-dom of heaven. dom of heaven.

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THE BOYS IN THE BLOCK.

BY MAURICE F. EGAN, LL. D.

IV. -(CONTINUED.) "One might have had a rifle over his shoulder," he said, remembering that Henry Schwatz had probably carried his father's rifle

"Ecco!" exclaimed the man. "I have seen the boys!" Beppo rapidly translated the answer

"Where? Where? Tell me where?"

The fruit-seller looked at him sus-

had happened only an hour before. The Italian told them where a belt of woods was-he knew it well-he went there for chesnuts in the fall. He told them how to get there.
"It is rather cold for camping out,

said Ned, shivering at the thought of such a thing. "I wouldn't like to

John did not answer. In his eagerness, talk seemed a waste of time.

Ted Malone, Henry Schwatz, and Larry had walked rapidly through the streets, towards the belt of woods menthree blankets strapped to his back, a small revolver, in his pocket, half a dollar, and his father's rifle on his afraid that the boys might run away, the streets towards the best very fast when he saw that Larry was about to yield. He was a dollar, and his father's rifle on his afraid that the boys might run away, the street was a street when he was a street was about to yield. shoulder; Ted Malone had a knife—a if they discovered him. He hoped table knife well sharpened—a loaf of that John and the others might come; bread tied up in a handkerchief, and \$2.00. Larry had no weapon; but he had a thermometer, while the other boys looked on with much respect, \$4, and a few odds and ends, broken buttons, a hand a hand glass, etc., to be looked sullenly at Beppo. used in trading with those Indians, "I owe one," he said "and I'll give resist these mighty hunters.

They had tramped along some distance, when Larry, who felt quite rich, proposed to have something to eat. They entered a restaurant, and Larry After this, they did not hurry. They felt in better spirits and loitered, looking into all the windows.

lighted attracted them.

"We shall need some provisions," said Henry Schwatz, looking through the large pane of plate glass. "We ought to buy some. This is a good place,"

place.

The store was empty, apparently; but behind the counter, in a corner, the proprietor of it sat dozing over a newpaper. He had sent his clerk off early and he was about to close the

store for the night.
"There's a lovely ham," said Ted Malone. "I wish we had that. It wouldn't be hard to carry and we could broil part of it for breakfast, you know.

Schwatz, who was of a prudent turn, counted his money, and remarked that when they killed a deer or two they would have meat enough. Still, the ham had attractions for Ted Malone.

"Don't you remember," he said, as he pressed his nose against the glass, "how Red-headed Bob fooled the grocer out of half a cow in 'The Belle of the Prairies.' Bob went in, you all growing prosperous, because they know, and while the grocer wasn't are all industrious and they all help looking he hooked the beef and was off one another. Often Beppo and Guilike a flash."

"But that was stealing," said Henry Schwatz.

"All's fair in war, boys: now I say why shouldn't we get that ham, just as Bob did the beef, hey!" Ted tried to speak in a jolly way, but he was forced to avert his eyes

but he was lotted from the others. "We've got to live on the world, you know, and we may as well begin you know, and we may as well begin "Don't be fools

at once," he went on. "Don't be fools
-Schwatz stole his father's rifle, and you, Larry, have a dollar in your poc-ket that belonged to John."

Larry reddened and hung his head.
"Let's toss up," continued Ted,
taking a cent from his pocket.
"Head, you hook the ham; tail, I do

"But it would be stealing," said

Schwatz. 'I'll not do it.
''Nobody asked you," said Ted
Malone, with a sneer. "You haven't
got heart enough for it. But Larry
has; and I have. Who's afraid?

has; and I have. Who's afraid? There's nobody in the store." The man behind the counter had heard the whispers of the boys. He could not make out what they said; but he seen they were plotting some mischief. He leaned back until the

two piles of starch boxes between

which he sat hid him entirely from Larry's good angel whispered to him. He hesitated between the angel's whisper and Ted's sneer. He had read many times of how the smart boy in the story papers had outwitted store keepers, and appropriated their

It would come in mighty well, while we're traveling. You bet!"

we're traveling. You bet!"

Larry turned away his head.

"It will be easy enough. Schwatz and I will stand here and give the signal if anybody comes. Now, go in;

be a man."
Ted Malone was twice as big as Larry. He was something of a bully, too, as the boys in the block well knew He imitated as far as he could his fav

orite heroes, and knocked down any other boy who defied him.
"I can't!" said Larry. "It would be wrong — it would break John's

heart "You're a coward," cried Ted, shaking his fist in Larry's face. "Do you think I'm going to let you spoil every-

thing. Go in, I say!"

Larry hesitated. He had great respect for Ted Malone's superiority.
But he remembered the words of the commandment - "Thou shalt no steal

"He's afraid!" sneered Ted Malone, ily. "You weren't afraid to John's dollar." take John's dollar."
"He said I might have to buy a hat

it," answered Larry, "and I'll buy one, or give him back the money.'I You will, will you?" exclaimed Ted, as his fist fell on Larry's head. He raised his hand again to give an other blow, when suddenly he was knocked over; and Beppo, with flashing eyes, arose out of the darkness. His sharp eyes had seen the group of boys at the window. John and others had turned down another street, but Beppo had kept on in spite of their opposition to turning into a street which seemed so quiet.

that John and the others might come

"Beppo!" Larry exclaimed. Ted Malone picked himself up and

who should be courageous enough to it to you, if you don't join our band. Beppo's eyes flashed.

"I will not join a band of thieves. Ted shook his fist; but Beppo's esson had been severe enough to prevent him from doing anything

"I am glad you come, Beppo,' Larry said. "I am sorry I got into this. I'd go back, if I thought John would forgive me. I don't want to join a band of thieves either." "John!" cried Beppo. "John! John! John!"

John! Ted Malone took to his heels.

John came, running. Larry threw himself into his big brother's arm and began to cry.
"I'll never read another story

paper,' he sobbed. And he kept his

Ted Malone wandered about the country all night. In the morning, in trying to steal a ride on a passing train, he had his foot crushed so badly that it had to be cut off. He never speaks of that awful night of terror. He did not make his First Communion with the other boys, although Larry

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John has been promoted, and though he still keeps house, Father Raymond gives him a lesson in arithmetic twice a week. He is happy, as he deserves to be in the fact that his two "boys" are trying to do their duty. THE END.

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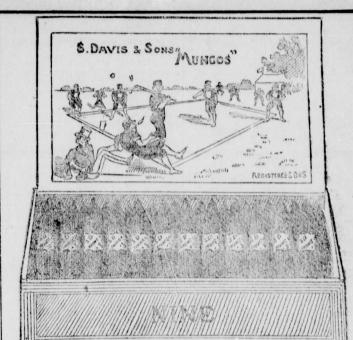
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