

FIVE-MINUTE SERMONS FOR EARLY MANSERS By the Paullist Fathers.

Preached in their Church of St. Paul the Apostle, Fifty-Ninth Street and Ninth Avenue, New York City.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT. "And take heed to yourselves, lest perhaps your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness, and the cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly."

These are the words which the Evangelist makes the lesson of the Gospel just read applicable to each of us, dear brethren.

The day of general judgment may be close at hand or it may be very distant. "Of that day and hour no one knoweth, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Father alone."

But the eternal destiny of most men will have been settled long before that last day—the particular judgment will reveal to each of us his place. The time of the particular judgment, like that of the general one, is unknown to us, but we may be very sure that even for the youngest it is not far away.

The hours go gliding by, and every hour brings us closer and yet closer to that dread moment when the earth shall slip from us and we shall find ourselves in eternity.

"What will avail us here? Will money? We are rich. We will buy our way; we will pay down gold and silver. Will fame? We will write it need be."

"What will avail us? Will cleverness? We are plausible; we can talk well; we reason acutely, so acutely that we can persuade ourselves that we are right when we wish it."

"Will birth avail us, think you, sentinel? We are respectable; we are well born; indeed we have a long line of ancestors."

"Will anything avail us? Will anything give us a right to inherit this beautiful land?"

"A well-spent life and happy death," says the sentinel, "will win from the sweet and merciful Judge a favorable sentence and a blissful eternity."

PREPARATION FOR DEATH. The practice of preparation for death is excellent. It is unhappily too common to find people engaged in every work, save this one of most importance.

Why He Died Poor. "Yes, dear children," said the school-teacher, "General Washington died a comparatively poor man, although he might have amassed great wealth if he had been a different sort of person."

There are cheap Panaceas for various human ailments continually cropping up. Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery and Dyspeptic Cure has no affinity with any of these.

TO REMOVE DANDRUFF.—Cleanse the scalp with Prof. Low's Magic Sulphur Soap. A delightful medicated soap for the toilet.

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NOT IDOLATRY.

It is unfortunate that the Catholic belief with regard to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, should be so misunderstood and misstated by our non-Catholic friends.

But the Church holds that we may, and should, honor Mary in an especial manner, with an homage different from, and inferior to that which is due to the Lord Almighty.

How different are the teachings of Christ of His Church! Instead of the pride of the world, we are taught the value of the practice of a true humility.

Who wrote Shakespeare? The world is agitated again over the question of who was the author of Shakespeare's plays.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. With regard to the Immaculate Conception of the Ever Blessed Virgin, Mother of God, the Catholic Church teaches:

1. That Adam was created originally innocent, and free from stain of sin.

2. That Adam, having yielded to the temptation of Satan, and eaten of the hidden fruit, fell from the state of grace, and with him, his progeny; that by his deliberate act against God, he corrupted his nature, and made himself the slave of Satan; that his descendants inherited from him a guilty and corrupt nature, and the state of slavery; that with the ordinary human being, baptism emancipates from this inherited guilt and inherited slavery.

3. That, with regard to Mary, by special and exceptional grace, she was conceived and born free from this inherited corruption and guilt, that is, from original sin and its consequences; in other words, that she was conceived and born in original innocence, as was Adam at his creation.

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THE SPIRIT OF THE WORLD.

Catholic Columbian. It is at the present time pretty much as it was at the time of Christ's appearance upon this earth. The world and the kingdom which He came down to found are antagonistic.

This is the age, still, of materialism; the one that prefers the temporal to the eternal, turning a deaf ear to anything like a preparation for the hereafter.

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