

FIVE-MINUTE SERMON FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

SUPERSTITION "Thou shalt not have strange gods before me." (Exod. 34: 17.)

There are some sinful practices forbidden in these words which it is well to consider to-day, beside fortune-telling and the observing of dreams and omens. These are the use of charms, and the consulting of spirits, or seeking of the truth from the dead.

First, then, with regard to charms, amulets, and the like. Christians are unfortunately to be found, even at the present day, who use, in a superstitious way, and it may be for sinful purposes, things which can have no natural power to accomplish the end desired, but must derive any efficacy which they can be supposed to have from the devil, whose aid is therefore implicitly invoked by those who possess such things.

Well now, to pass to the other subject, that of consulting spirits, or seeking, as the Jewish law has it, the truth from the dead. You see it is no new thing, this spiritual rapping and table-tipping business is rather a new form of it in these days.

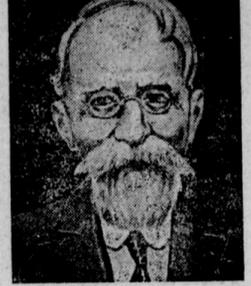
BISHOP GEDDES OF EDINBURGH

By Don A. Kentigern Milne, O. S. B. Among the lingering memories of the Hay Centenary many will no doubt recall with pleasure, and even perhaps with veneration, the name of Bishop Geddes of Edinburgh, the courtly prelate whose character sketch I propose to place before the reader in the following paper.

John Geddes, Coadjutor to Bishop Hay, was born in the Earle of Banffshire on September 9, 1735. His death took place on February 11, 1799. He had been Hay's lifelong friend. Their friendship began in their student days in Rome, and seems to have been cemented by some spiritual bond, to which allusion is vaguely made in their later correspondence.

DOCTORS COULD NOT HELP MY KIDNEYS

"Fruit-a-lives" Cured Me



CHESTERVILLE, ONT., JAN. 25th, 1911 "For over twenty years, I have been troubled with Kidney Disease and the doctors told me they could do me no good. They said my case was incurable and I would suffer all my life.

his spiritual life, bring him into close resemblance with the great Spanish reformer, Geddes was a student of St. Teresa's works, and left a tradition of solid virtue to San Ambrosio, the Scots College in Valladolid, of which he was the founder and first Rector.

Geddes came across the poet Burns, and had a hand in starting the Scottish Society of Antiquaries, for which he wrote a few articles on theological subjects. He also published a Life of St. Margaret, and was the author of a tract or two, but he was not called to a throne in the literary world.

LIQUOR AND TOBACCO HABITS

A. McTAGGART, M.D., C.M., 75 Yonge St., Toronto, Canada References as to Dr. McTaggart's professional standing and personal integrity permitted: Sir W. R. Mead, Chief Justice. Sir Geo. W. Ross, ex-Premier of Ontario. Rev. N. Burwash, D.D., Pres. Victoria College. Rev. J. G. Shearer, B.A., D.D., Secretary Board Moral Reform, Toronto.

the Nuns of the Visitation, and was performed by the Archbishop of Toledo, who presented him with a topaz ring he had himself long worn, and the Duke of Hijar, with whom he afterwards had the honor of dining, made him the present of a valuable cross and ring.

When Geddes returned to Scotland and had settled down to work in Edinburgh he began pouring oil on the troubled waters, and making himself all things to all men. By and by Hay found it necessary to admonish him that his accounts must be better kept and that he should devote less of his time to social duties.

together, promulgated it for their acceptance. This was a signal for revolt. The same evening the ministers, returning in a body to test the spirit of their new superior, demanded to know whether he intended to enforce the new regulations, and on receiving a decided answer in the affirmative, six of them refused either to submit or accept the penalty of expulsion.

At this juncture Hay's iron hand was called in to grapple with the situation. The youths were now entirely beyond the control of Geddes, whose health was visibly beginning to suffer, harassed as he was by almost daily, almost hourly, demands. At Hay's appearance on the scene the dark cloud lifted from Chessel's Court, and order began to be evolved out of the confusion.

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I have related this singular story in detail because it brings the difference in the character of the two Bishops into clear and exact focus. Unlike Hay, Geddes had all the suavity and little or none of the fortiter in re necessary to tackle a rough situation. He ought to have met the Chessel Court proposal with a decided negative in the beginning.

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