













FIVE-MINUTE'S SERMON.

THE ACCEPTABLE TIME. The time to serve God is now, and the place to serve God is right here. Such, brethren, is the lesson of New Year's Day.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

Only three days after Christmas the Church calls us to keep the Feast of the Holy Innocents. In old times this day was called "Childermas."

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN.

"The devil has planted his own special sin deep in the heart of every man; and the hardest struggle of all, in the saints' lives, has been the struggle against pride."

BEST FOR WASHING THE FACE SURPRISE SOAP BEST FOR EVERY DAY.

THE CATHOLIC HOME ANNUAL

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Now, many a one says: "I cannot be as good a Christian as I should wish because I am too busy just now."

But somebody might insist: "Father, that is all true, and yet what I say is true. I am too busy to attend to my religious duties, and I cannot help it."

It is in this spirit, brethren, that I hope all the good wishes of a Happy New Year may be received by you today and that you may be truly happy in body and soul, in your families, and among your friends. Amen.

How the Christ Flowers Came.

It was Christmas Eve in the Black Forest. The whirling snow touched the tree tops; the starry flakes clung to the branches or fluttered down, pure as rose petals wafted about on the breath of angels.

When the midnight hour was nigh a sound broke the stillness, the wail of a child in distress. The charcoal burners crossed themselves, and huddled closer to their fires.

"No child of the Black Forest would be abroad at night?" asked Hans, uneasily.

"Not so," asserted Michael, a sturdy giant. "No haasmutter in the Black Forest could be so careless. Content thee, Hans, the little ones sing in their cot-dream of the angels, while thy good frau guards their sleep."

Hans was silent, but presently stole away into the snow-wreathed depths of the forest.

"May the star of Bethlehem guide me aright," he prayed. "If a child be abroad this holy night, lead me, dear God, to Thy little one."

The slumbering children stirred and wakened, and seeing the stranger, rose from their cot, and presently the hut rang with their rejoicing.

Affable Manners.

There are thousands of engaging ways which every person may put on without running the risk of being deemed either affective or foppish.

The sweet smile, the quite cordial bow, the earnest movement in addressing a friend, or more especially a stranger who may be recommended to us, the graceful attention which is so captivating when united with self-possession.

The Value of Opportunites.

A few paragraphs from Michael J. Dwyer's article on Opportunites in Donahue's Magazine are worth repeating for the benefit of those who think that the opportunity to be good, or great, or useful, never comes their way, because they arrive on the scene just as it has taken its departure.

"It is a mistake to suppose that opportunites come alone to the person who is blessed with a superior nature."

"I have brought thee one more, Gretchen," he said as he placed the babe on her bosom.

"Who was born to-night," answered the mother, gently, and her love flowed out to the waif, warming it back to life.

The slumbering children stirred and wakened, and seeing the stranger, rose from their cot, and presently the hut rang with their rejoicing.

"Hush, hush, my darlings," whispered the mother. "Know you 'twas the dear Christ Child, who came to us, and hath returned to heaven. To morrow thy father shall show thee the spot where he found the Holy Babe."

"The Christ flowers!" cried little Greta, and kneeling before them, as at a shrine, the peasants solemnly recorded a vow to succor each Christmas Day some poor child in honor of the Holy One, who had been their guest.

"Not to know our own characteristics can only be possible because of a lack of self-analysis."

So thorough is the excellence of Ayer's Hair Vigor that it can be used with benefit by any person, no matter what may be the condition of the hair, and, in every case, it occasions satisfaction and pleasure, in addition to the benefit which invariably comes from its use.

Catholics and Divorce.

A Government Inspector writing to the Protestant Church Review of the growing evil of divorce has this to say on the teachings of the Catholic Church on the Sacrament of marriage:

"Large and increasing as the number of divorces in the United States is, it is an undeniable fact that were it not for the widespread influence of the Roman Catholic Church the number would be much greater."

Blood is Life.

It is the medium which carries to every nerve, muscle, organ and fibre its nourishment and strength. If the blood is pure, rich and healthy you will be well; if impure, it will soon overtake you.

Those who have had experiences can testify to the fact that pain with your back, pain with your neck, pain with your head, relief is sure to those who use Hood's Corn Cure.

A GOOD WORK.

Every Christian must commend the work that Mr. Moody, the Protestant evangelist has been engaged in in this city.

"We hear it sometimes said that it will not do for a Catholic to openly avow his convictions; that his religion will close against him the avenues of honorable ambition."

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We hear a great deal about purifying the blood.

The way to purify it is to enrich it. Blood is not a simple fluid like water. It is made up of minute bodies and when these are deficient, the blood lacks the life-giving principle.

If you want to learn more of it we have a book, which tells the story in simple words.

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HOOD'S PILLS. It cures all the ills which arise from the liver and bowels.

Vertical text on the far left edge of the page, including "1897", "1896", "LIT", "LITERS", "THER CO.", "LES.", "Tent Finish", "Century sent", "Mer Co.", "Toronto, Ltd.", "Hopwood", "BELL'S", "CHIMES", "PEALS", "FIRORE, MD.", "Class", "Arch", "adows", "Mfg. Co.", "Ont.", "DESIGNS", "Agency", "of goods", "of the whole", "ing manufac-", "to purchase", "the im-", "re charged its", "em, and giving", "experience and", "arged.", "separate traded", "only one letter", "omit and cor-", "there will", "of buying and", "a situation of", "will be strictly", "your giving", "orders to", "EGAN, New York.", "ARE", "North Side.", "GREEN'S AYE.", "ired hearing,", "throat. Even", "12 to 4."

