













FIVE-MINUTE SERMONS. Fifth Sunday After Easter.

THE THREE STEPS TO HEAVEN. Blessed is the man whose help is from thee; in his heart he has trusted to ascend by steps. (Psalm LXXXVIII, 5.)

Next Thursday the Church will celebrate the feast of the Ascension of our Lord; the day on which His sojourn in this vale of tears came to an end, when He entered upon the possession of that glory which He had won by His obedience in this world.

We hear a great deal of talk nowadays about the dignity of man, and there are some few people who maintain that we ought to make humanity the supreme object of our care and worship.

But so far from depressing and lowering man and his dignity, I venture to say that the doctrine and teaching of the Church raise him to a higher level, and place before him a higher motive and a loftier end than it has ever entered into the mind of any other time to conceive.

The first step in the Christian life is Faith. And what is faith? What does faith do for us? Faith is that virtue by which we accept as true those things which God has revealed.

With reference to the third great Christian virtue—Charity—I have time only to mention that it makes the ruling motive of our lives the love of God for Himself because He is what He is. For before concluding, I wish to point out the greatest elevation to which we are raised.

As the strength of a building depends upon the solidity of its foundation, so health depends upon the condition of the blood. To expel impurities and cause the vital fluid to become vigorous and life giving, Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the most powerful and effective medicine in use.

The Proprietors of Parmelee's Pills are constantly receiving letters similar to the following, which explains itself. Mr. John Beach, Waton, Ont., writes: "I never used any medicine that can equal Parmelee's Pills for Dyspepsia or Liver and Kidney Complaints. The relief experienced after using them was wonderful."

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

Twas whispered one morning in heaven How the little child-angel May, In the shade of the great white portal Sat sorrowing night and day; How she said to the stately warden— He of the key and bar—

Not all the old heads are on old shoulders. A patent was recently granted to the sixteen-year-old son of J. F. Forward, of San Diego, Cal., for a propeller for boats, which is worked by foot power.

There is a pretty story told about the naming of the Marechal Niel rose. When the famous General Niel of the Franco-Austrian war, returning from the scene of his many victories, passed through a certain small town, one of the peasant women of the place presented to him a basket of beautiful yellow roses.

Every boy and girl should endeavor to have an aim in life. Poverty is no drawback to the ambitious. Shabby clothes only add dignity and worth to the poor boy or girl determined to receive a good education.

There is a significant passage in an article which Mr. Bernard Holland writes in the March issue of the National Review, of London. Alluding to Cardinal Manning's conversion, Mr. Holland says:

Our Pictures on the Walls. The frames are not expensive and the pictures are not plain. A brooding there where sunlight or the fire-light softly falls.

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day to say "we" in earnest. The boy will reap what he sows if he has grit and sticks to his job. You may take off your hat to him as one of the future solid men of the town. Let his employer do the fair thing by him; check him kindly if he shows signs of being too big for his place; counsel him as to his habits and associates, and occasionally show him a pleasant prospect of advancement.

Major Skinner tells in his autobiography, "Fifty Years in Ceylon," how his prompt obedience to an order suddenly communicated made the governor of the island his friend.

It was near 2 o'clock before Skinner could find that officer. When he caught him he was ordered to proceed to Negombo—an old fort twenty-three miles north of the Government House—to make a plan of the tracks there, and to prepare an estimate of the cost of repairing them so as to fit them for immediate occupation.

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Best for Wash Day USE SURPRISE SOAP Its remarkable and cleansing properties make SURPRISE most economical and Best for Every Day

POETS' TRIBUTE TO MARY.

Perfection of Womanhood the Theme of Noble Singers.

Mary, the most perfect of created beings, is the idea which has entered into Catholic literature, Catholic thought and Catholic sentiment down through the glorious ages of faith to our own day.

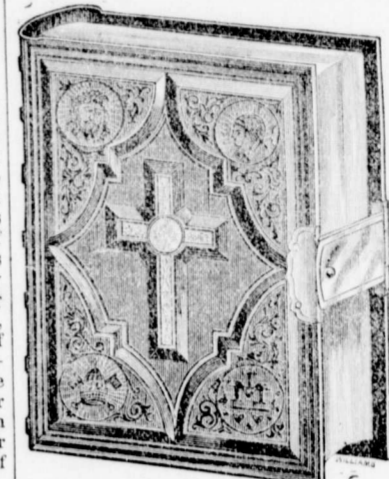
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In Ireland this idea of Mary became a dominant force. Over "the fair hills of holy Ireland" it fell like a benediction. Irish heroes, the O'Neills, the O'Donnells and the Geraldines, unfurled their banners for "God and Our Lady." Irish women honor Mary most by their imitation of her.

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