

FIVE MINUTE SERMON

BY REV. M. BOSSAERT

LOW SUNDAY

HOW PEACE, THAT HAS BEEN LOST, MAY BE REGAINED

Our Divine Saviour was announced by the prophet Isaiah as the Prince of Peace, and at His Birth the angels proclaimed peace to men. Now, when He has accomplished the great work of our redemption...

THE NEW SPIRIT IN FRANCE

"Les Vous Romains—Away from Rome!" Many of us are familiar with that war-cry which for some considerable time roused up the German Protestants, and troubled certain Catholic consciences...

It is quite plain, from the testimony of the most prudent statesmen and the more clear-sighted interpreters of public opinion, that today France is marching towards the Vatican. There exists an abundance of reports and conjectures, which are more or less officially inspired...

Another indication of the same kind can be gleaned from the conversations among parliamentarians. For instance there is a story going the rounds these days of a conversation overheard in the lobbies of the Chamber between two ex-Ministers...

"Ars you still favorable," said the one ex-Minister to the other, "to the embassy to the Holy See?" "Oh," was the reply, "more than ever!" "Ah," it is evident that you aspire to become President of the Council!

It is true that this opinion is not shared by all the former political leaders of pre-war days. Many of them who forgot their animosities during the War, now that searching times have passed have returned to their former rancors and prejudices...

But to return to more important matters. Pending the re-opening of diplomatic relations with Rome, the Government has missed no opportunity of recognizing the prestige and authority of the Princes of the Church...

WHERE WOMEN COULD HELP

Under this title the Arkansas Gazette of March 5, ran the following editorial advice to our woman-kind. The editor surely had his eye out and on for some of the women presented daily and nightly by some of our Arkansas women, at home and abroad...

With no idea of shifting the blame or of minimizing the responsibility of men for many of the evils of today, we must stay in our opinion, Cardinal Mercier is right. The evils for which men are responsible are many, but there can be little doubt that women must accept the measure of responsibility that the Belgian churchwoman lays at their door...

to the Cardinal, "in the designs of God on the earth."

If I add that the Primate of Belgium, after having been applauded in the Institute, was the object of the enthusiastic veneration of the population of Paris, and was received by the Head of the State with the most cordial and respectful courtesy...

The other Cardinal, who was in Paris at the same time, is Cardinal Dubois, Archbishop of Rouen. He left very shortly after for Toulon, where he embarked for Palestine. He has gone to carry the greetings of the French Catholics to the numerous missionary enterprises which our Religious Congregations are conducting in Asia Minor...

I do not pretend to know the underlying motives of that journey; indeed, perhaps it has no underlying motives. I know nothing whatever about any part of the Government may have taken in Cardinal Dubois' determination, nor for that matter, whether it has taken any part at all. I limit myself to stating certain facts that are common knowledge...

Now, will any one say that these tributes are rendered to Cardinal Dubois simply because he has gone on a long voyage? On the day that Cardinal Dubois embarked at Toulon the President of the Republic, at a solemn reunion at the Sorbonne, paid a tribute to the work of national relief in which he called to mind the devoted labors of Cardinal Ametis...

Has that association, by any chance, bought its prominence at the price of compromise? There would be no need to ask that question if one could have heard the speech of M. de la Rochefoucauld, when he boldly and unequivocally ended his disprotect France and the Republic!

To answer that we must turn to Colonel Fabry, a Republican of the Left, and one of those elected last November, who gave the explanation when he called to mind the fraternal spirit that pervaded the army...

Liberty of conscience? God forbid! Liberty of conscience is a God to love better on the field of battle. We saw the strength it gave to men, strength that carried them to the consummation of the supreme sacrifice; strength that they were enabled to draw upon from the treasury of their unshaken faith!

SIGNS OF SOCIAL DECAY

Modern life shows many signs of a reversion to barbarism. Much that today is the vogue among so-called cultured classes is but a renewal of pagan practices. For example Spiritism is ancient necromancy brought up to date. The superstitions which have been so falsely attributed to the "dark ages" and a ready acceptance among the so-called initiates of our day...

Co-incident with the revival of Spiritism has come the growth of clairvoyancy. It is perhaps safe to say that never has fortune telling had the vogue it has today. Cards, crystal gazing, and reading and the various arts of witchcraft are called upon to satisfy the cravings of large numbers of men and women to learn the secrets of the past, present, and future. The increase in numbers and in prosperity of those who make a livelihood by fortune-telling has been one of the deplorable results of after-war hysteria...

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proverbial. It is unscientific to attribute all their messages to the instrumentality of the devil. The complex activities of the subconscious mind can be drawn upon to provide information. Psychological conditions of the inquirer may reveal to the seer perception of the clairvoyant things hidden from the observer...

As for future revelations that eventuate they may often be explained by coincidence. It may be that the suggestion of the future prophecy makes an unconscious impression upon the mind and shapes future events. No one will deny that weak minded people are affected by the predictions of the future. A strong mind may sneer at the probability of such folly, yet even the strongest minds in moments of quiet introspection may be profoundly affected by a fortune teller's word and unconsciously act so as to bring about the effect foretold.

Daubing in Spiritism and consulting fortune-tellers is against the express commands of God and the Church. Catholics who have any part in these deliberations sin against light. They are also guilty of encouraging the work of the devil and his agents by supporting agencies of superstition. When religion decays, superstition thrives. The present resurgence of paganism is a direct consequence of the banishment of religion from the hearts of a large portion of the human race. To keep the heritage of their faith unscathed Catholics should scrupulously avoid this Spiritistic contagion abroad in the world.—The Pilot.

DECOUM

A little child's mind is as receptive as a thirsty blossom, with petals spread to receive heaven-sent dew. Children love the mysterious in any form, and are ready to be impressed by facts quite beyond their comprehension. The fault lies not with them therefore, when a shocking lack of reverence for the Real Presence is displayed by an increasing number of these little ones. Four children, none of whom could have reached ten years, came into a church not long since, with skipping steps and smiling faces. They slid into a pew convenient to a Confessional, and without even one moment upon bended knees, sat back and surveyed the few waiting penitents. In loud whispers, the two larger girls decided which of the patient fathers should bring peace to their not overburdened souls. Then the four went to confession. Ten minutes later the church door swung to upon their clanking heels and they were gone, gone back to the noisy street or their no less noisy homes. Now the point is this: if these little ones were taught the need and desirability of confession and there was no doubt about that, judging from the business-like manner in which they achieved absolution, why were they not at the same time given a loving realization of the Divine Presence of Him who said, "Forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven?"—New World.



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CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

WHAT ARE WE DOING?
What are we doing for Christ?
Answer, each one, and say,
Idle are we from dawn till dusk;

nerve, so to speak, is to rest the body. The vigor of the body must be increased before one can acquire sufficient will-power to abolish worry.

If you are very lucky you may know one of those magnetic and sympathetic souls who listen to other people's woes and tactfully turn their minds into more wholesome channels.

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CONAN DOYLE AND THE CABBY

There always exists the presumption that Yankees are proverbially shrewd and our caution above may be offset by the anecdote told in a recent work by Mr. Ellsworth, so long connected with the publication business in his "Golden Age of Authors," where he tells us a Sherlock Holmes story related by Conan Doyle himself, who went to Boston to lecture.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

SIGNS OF SPRING
Signs of Spring? Well, in the country there are things to hear and see. Many sweet and stirring portents of the happy time to be.

Some people hear so much more than others. And that does not apply only to the inner experiences and confidences which others tell them. They seem to hear all sorts of interesting scraps of conversation in public places.

GLASS-BLOWER STARTS NEW SECT IN BELGIUM

London, February 20.—An unprecedented incident is just recorded from Belgium. A certain sect has recently arisen there, known as the followers of "Pere Antoine." Pere Antoine was a glass blower by trade, who went to Russia and came back with the notion that there is nothing pays so well as a new religion.



Are Your Eyebrows Lighter Than Your Hair?
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AN ADMIRABLE ATTRIBUTE

When you come to think of it, what chapters might be written about listening, the art of listening, the value of listening, the ethics of listening, the helpfulness of listening.

JOSEPH, THE JUST

Every trade and profession has its leaders, its models who are held up as the guiding principles of success in each line. Every phase of the Christian life has also its patron saint, men or women who distinguished themselves in the higher spheres.

THE CATHOLIC PRESS

When we received the draft of the Bishops' Pastoral the first thing we looked for was mention of the Catholic Press, but we found it not. But now with the full text of the Pastoral in our hands we find that the Bishops did indeed touch on that subject.

Catholic Ladies, Boys and Girls Spread the Devotion of SAINT RITA



In order to effectively spread the devotion to St. Rita (the Saint of the Impossible and the Advocate of the Hopeless) we have designed a handsome prayer book card, size 2 1/4 x 4 inches in exclusive blue-black tone, showing a portrait of St. Rita in one side with a prayer of request for favors on reverse side.

ABOLISH WORRY

It is said that worry is a great shortener of life. We have all seen sufficient evidences among our friends and relatives to know that this statement is true. One great writer has said that worry is rust on the blade.

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