

APRIL 21, 1925.

The Enemies to Perseverance (continued).

Yesterday's Bulletin enumerated six enemies: comfort, haste, procrastination, diversion, disorder, and atrophy of the will. To these should be added:

7. Tolerance of venial sin. "Catch me the little foxes that destroy the vines" said the wise man in the Old Testament. Nothing so surely breaks down our resolution and deadens the sensitiveness of our conscience to sin, as the habit of tolerating venial sin.
8. Stagnation of mind. "With desolation is the world made desolate," said the Prophet Jeremias, "because there is no man that thinketh in his heart." No action is solid or stable, or worthy of human dignity, unless it is reasonable in its motive as well as conformable to objective truth, but since thinking requires effort we avoid it whenever possible.
9. Prosperity. Health, wealth and friends are given by Dr. Walsh in this month's Columbia as the three reasons why people are atheists. Dr. Walsh never said a truer word. If poor Bobbie preston hadn't had five dollars a day and a car, he would have fallen back upon God for friendship, and would not have dropped into the lake with a bullet through his brain.
10. The power of habit. Every act we perform makes a groove in the brain, and every repetition of the act makes the groove deeper. The physical power of habit is terrific, and only the young and inexperienced will fail to recognize this power.
11. Sensuality. Appetites become masters when they are pampered; when they are kept in check by reason they remain the servants God intended them to be. Lack of restraint in eating, drinking, and dancing, leads inevitably to impurity. The sensual man is persevering only in sensuality.
12. Cowardice. "Man's life upon earth is a warfare," and no coward will ever win its prizes. "The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and only the violent bear it away. The spiritual life is not for cowards and quitters.
13. Overtraining. Lack of variety in spiritual exercises, and unwise intensity in prayer or mortification have the same effect in the spiritual as they have in the physical order. They produce staleness.
14. Overconfidence. This vice comes sometimes from an inborn feeling of superiority that rejects counsel, and sometimes from the absence of temptation or from a successful battle with temptation. It is a most dangerous form of the pride that goeth before a fall.

Old Enemies in a New Dress.

If you look over these fourteen enemies to perseverance you will find that they are only the old stalers, the world, the flesh and the devil, together with the seven deadly sins. They have been shown in their Easter clothes to enable you to recognize them more readily. In successive issues of the Bulletin you will be given the weapons with

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which to fight them, with illustrations of the fight taken from the word about you.

Spiritual Reading for the Week.

To supplement the Bulletin this week read one of the following: the life of some Saint; one of Fr. Hull's books on Character; Great Penitents Father Barrett's, The Will to Win or Strength of Will; The Following of Christ.