

January 27, 1923.

The Advantages of Temptation.

Temptation is not a sin. It merges into sin only when, the will consents.

There is no virtue without temptation.

With two exceptions, all temptations are to be met in the open. St. Paul tells us to "make issue with temptation." In temptations against faith and purity, safety is found only in flight. But even then temptations may be very useful:

1. They keep us reminded of the weakness of human nature, and dependent on~~g~~ God.
2. They make us charitable: concerns for the troubles of others makes us forget our own.
3. They keep us humble, because they show us what we might be without the help of God -- and humility is the beginning of all virtue, as pride is the beginning of all evil.
4. They earn more grace and merit for us.
5. They make us human because
 - (A) They bring us closer to God, the author of human nature
 - (b) They make us sympathetic with others who may have worse troubles than ours.

General Confession.

A general confession is necessary only when a person has at some time in the past made a bad confession that he has never rectified. It is useful when a person is taking up a new state of life. A daily communicant may find it useful if his conscience has grown more sensitive under the influence of Holy Communion, and he bothers about things that gave him no concern before. It is not necessary. A general confession is neither useful nor necessary for a scrupulous person.

Bed-Time Story.

V

Nonchalantly Achitophel blocked his hat as he picked his way across to the ferry. He wanted to be alone, because an idea was struggling to penetrate his mind. Water would help. It was calming. Once or twice he glanced back, fearful that the dusky amazon was following him.

He took the ferry for Atlantic Basin. On the way over he classified the vocabularies of his fellow-passengers. The chauffeurs were good, the driver of two magnificent percherons was better, but the mule driver was easily the best. He envied him. Envied him what?
