

has become a church, and in a revival in another 40 persons have joined the church.

How much little workers for Jesus can do when the heart is willing. And if willing God will open up ways and means by which you can work for him. He put it into the hearts of the children in Connecticut to plant corn, and see the results.

Our Dayspring funds needs help and you can all do something for it if you put forth an effort. How many of you have planted some potatoes for Jesus this spring or have your mission patch in the garden, your mission hen or tree. Let all try and see what you can do, and I am sure you will find a great deal of happiness in working for Jesus. You may not see great results here as you thus work but the day of Judgement will show how much you have done.

D.

THE PENITENTES.

This Society, until it is crushed out, will remain an effectual barrier to the progress of morality and good order in New Mexico. It was founded at Santa Cruz in 1593 by the old Franciscan missionaries. It was originally intended as a means of bringing the whole population within the pale of the Church, and its principal dogma was that no sin could be forgiven without confession and expiation. As the time wore on and the Society became independent, it added dogmas of its own. One of these, the inverse of the above, was that no sin could be so great but that a sufficient expiation could purge it away. There are 20,000 Penitentes, and as they are mutually sworn to assist and protect one another, even to the extent of perjury, it will be readily seen what a formidable hydra the New Mexican judges have to deal with. It is only the powerful influence of their priests that keeps them at all within bounds.

The public services of expiation are held once a year in Holy-week. There is never any lack of expiants. An image of the virgin is placed in the centre of the church, or in the campo santo before it, and the ground for many yards in front of it is strewn knee deep with cactus, whose poisonous vines will sometimes pierce the heaviest-soled shoe. Through this bed of living thorns the Penitentes march with naked feet or crawl along on bare knees, calling piteously the while on the Virgin for forgiveness of their sins. As if this were not sufficient, they

scourge themselves with great bunches of cactus tied together on a thong, and slash themselves with knives. The natural result of these horrible exercises is a death now and then, and many maimed and pitiable creature who drag out a miserable existence for the remainder of their days. In one of the little chapels we visited, the whitewashed walls were splashed with blood to the height of six or eight feet. Monsignor Lamy, the present enlightened Archbishop of New Mexico, has made strenuous efforts to abolish this evil, but so strongly is it entrenched in the customs of the people that he has met with but little success in his efforts. — *Birge Harrison, in Harper's Magazine for May.*

A FRENCH CHILD'S FAITH.

Mr. Greig, of the McAll Mission in Paris, stated the following fact at a meeting of the Sunday School Association :

Having heard of the Petit Montrouge as one of the suburbs most in need of the Gospel, he resolved to open a Sunday School there if he could hire a suitable place at a moderate price. He had looked in vain for some months. At last discouraged, he was about to give up all hope, when on his way homeward he was stopped by a poor little humpback girl, who said to him : "O, Mr. Greig, have a Sunday School here ! We had such a nice one in the Faubourg St. Antoine ! I was so sorry to leave it, but my parents left Paris to come here, and I had to come with them." "My little girl, there is not a place to be had in Montrouge. I have been several months looking for one without success." "O but you will find one," she replied, "for I have asked God for it." Mr. Greig smiled and said, "May it be so, my child ; continue to pray."

Returning to Paris, he thought much on the faith of the little girl. Two days after he was informed that the owner of a drinking shop had failed and a place was offered at a low rent. He returned to Montrouge, found it was so, hired the shop and opened a Sunday School. The prayerful little girl was one of the first scholars. The second Sunday she brought eight other children. Having placed them in a row she exclaimed, pointing at them and looking at Mr. Greig, "See, sir, I have brought all these." That school is now prosperous. — *N. Y. Observer.*