

A Historic Island.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Malta, February 15.—Malta is the spot which is to be followed by the Boharistic Congress of 1913. It is just eighteen and a half centuries since this isolated rock in the center of the great midland sea was followed by another great event which brought to its inhabitants the first glad tidings of great joy that were to all the people of the world.

In the winter of 62 a ship was seen approaching the shores of this island, in distress, with a man standing on a sail unfurled. She had been battered about for weeks in a stormy sea, without sight of land, which, in those days, before invention of the compass, was the only means by which the seafarer could determine his whereabouts. She carried 271 souls, all of whom were saved, although the vessel herself went to pieces a short time after she struck the rock.

THE GREAT APOSTLE OF THE GENTILES.

The wreck of the ship and the salvation of all on board had been told prophesically to the rest by one of their own number some days before the event. He had advised them to winter at Cyprus, and warned them of the perils that awaited them if they should put to sea. But they heeded not his warning, and were finally saved only through his prayers. He was proceeding to Rome under guard and in chains to appear before Caesar for trial. The individual in question was no other than St. Paul, the great apostle of the Gentiles. He remained here on this island until early Spring, where he was put aboard a ship which had come earlier from Alexandria and was wintering at Malta, to continue their journey to Rome.

In the winter of 62 it is needless to say that he was not idle, nor could he be, for the charity of Christ pressed him. He announced the Gospel of Christ to the inhabitants and the Maltese can make the proud boast that they have preserved it pure and undefiled through all the vicissitudes of eighteen and a half centuries. They are a small nation, but they are today, perhaps—and shall I add perhaps?—the only entirely Catholic nation in the whole world. There are no Protestants, there are no schismatics, and there are no unbelievers in Malta. Of course, there is an English garrison, but that is no part of the little Maltese nation.

SCENE OF BUCHARISTIC CONGRESS.

Before coming to Malta I had heard and read many explanations why Malta had been selected as the place for the congress of 1913. But the Maltese find sufficient reasons in the facts I have just referred to—that their forefathers received the Gospel from the lips of the great Apostle Paul, that they have clung to it through all the vicissitudes of eighteen and a half centuries, including three hundred years of Mohammedan domination, and that however small they are today the most entirely Catholic nation on the face of the earth. Of this people and their little country I shall have much to say later, when I return from Egypt; and, indeed, there are many interesting things to be said of each.

But I have just returned from an excursion to another country which is also interesting, or at least strange to us, and which has looked large in the news columns for the last eighteen months. I met an Englishman or, rather, an Irishman born in England—at Malta, and with the characteristic generosity of the race, he said: 'I am going down on a short business visit to Tripoli. Come along; it will do you good. You need not come ashore at all if you don't want to, and think it too fatiguing.'

A TRIP TO TRIPOLI.

We boarded an Italian steamer at Malta, and in forty-eight hours we were in sight of the Tripoli coast. Before the declaration of the late war to either the traveler for pleasure or to him whose interests centered in foreign commerce, there was probably less known about the easternmost of the Barbary States than of any other country in Europe or North Africa. How many of us have ever heard Tripoli spoken of until the occurrence of the rupture between Italy and Turkey? My friend had been to Tunis and I had been to Italy from the Alps to Etna; but Tripoli we expected to provide something unique. There was however, an element of uncertainty about our call, as we had been warned that navigation was a difficult operation when approaching the dangerously reefy shore, and that passenger-craft could only be landed under the most favorable weather conditions.

We, therefore, were in a most joyous mood on rising early to find a glorious morning with the waters scintillating in the sunshine, and the multi-colored buildings of the city presenting an extremely picturesque appearance viewed from the sea. Our anticipations of an uncommon experience were fully realized, for no sooner had we landed on the primitive pier than we were surrounded by a motley crowd with every shade of countenance, from pale yellow to

Get the Most Out of Your Food.

You don't get the most out of your food unless you get the most out of your stomach. A weak stomach does not digest all that is ordinarily taken into it, it gets tired easily, and what it fails to digest is wasted.

Among the signs of a weak stomach are: indigestion after eating, the use of your head, and disagreeable belching.

I have been troubled with dyspepsia for years, and tried every remedy I heard of, but I never got anything that gave me relief until I took Hood's Sarsaparilla. I cannot praise this medicine too highly for the good it has done me. I always take it in the spring and fall and would not be without it. W. A. Nuzzar, Belleville, Ont.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Strengthens and tones the stomach and the whole digestive system.

THE CITY DESCRIBED.

Having extracted ourselves by degrees from this lively throng, we promenade the principal streets of the city, which, unlike those of other Moorish towns, are mostly long and straight. The city is surrounded by a high polygonal wall, which, however, is in a dilapidated condition, and into this wall are built the gates which lead to the surrounding country.

The houses are mostly flat-roofed and brightly colored but are otherwise uninteresting, the only architectural relief coming from the domed and minareted mosques, which suddenly come into view in unexpected places. The harbor is a beautiful bay, but they are obviously of an obsolete type, and are now after the war probably less interesting and more dilapidated than before.

AT THE EDGE OF THE DESERT.

The street life was intensely interesting and quite a kaleidoscopic effect was produced by the bright uniforms of the soldiery, the white burnouses of the Moors, and the ever-varying gowns of the other elements of the population. The shops are of the queerest kind, many of them being built under ground, and most of the tradesmen carry out their occupations in full view of the passerby. The business is those of an Oriental city. There is no attempt at a fountain, and the pedestrian has to make his way as best he can through merchandise, sheep, goats, dromedaries, mules, and the heterogeneous mass of humanity I have endeavored to describe. Most of the passengers drove in the carriages to the desert, which on one side reaches almost to the very gates of the city.

Our party was made up of one of the ship's officers, a London journalist, my friend and myself. We arrived at the edge of the desert, however, without mishap, and what a wonderful sight it was to behold I say as far as the eye could reach an apparently limitless sea of sand, broken here and there by a tall date palm, in the midst of all the surrounding nakedness. Tall, erect Bedouins, many of them shouldering long rifles, leading their caravans of ungaily camels, came trooping across the desert to the little oasis at which we halted. The Arabs, especially those engaged in trade, were told by the Italians, are glad the war is over, and many of them were glad, too, that they are rid of the Turk. Whatever opposition still exists to the Italian occupation is confined to the nomadic hordes of the interior who are suspicious of all foreigners and tolerated the Turks only because they were Mohammedans.

TRIPOLI MART OF THE CARAVAN TRADE.

On the return journey we made a detour, and inspected a negro settlement, the scene of native life in this locality being most curious. The 'houses,' which are dumped down anyhow, are mere huts or wigwams made of straw or esparto grass. Mention of esparto reminds one that the fibre of this plant, which grows to a height of several feet, is perhaps the principal export of the country. It is made into mats, baskets, and ropes, and when bleached it is also extensively used by paper manufacturers.

Tripoli was an important mart of the caravan trade with the interior of Africa, and through this port are also sent out large quantities of ostrich feathers, ivory, dates, etc. Trade was principally carried to Malta, the Maltese being the main body of the European population.

\$4,000,000 TARIFF REVENUE.

Though the majority of the inhabitants are Moslems, nearly all the commerce is in the hands of Jews and Christians. The majority of the Christians, at least in the city, were

THIN MILK. How can the baby grow strong if the nursing mother is pale and delicate? Scott's Emulsion makes the mother strong and well; increases and enriches the baby's food.

Italians, and even the Maltese consider themselves as belonging to the Italian race. The language of educated Maltese is always Italian. An Italian merchant whom I met on the journey informed that the tariff revenue for last year amounted to eleven million francs, and that in time of war! This year, he said, it should reach close to twenty million francs—four million dollars.

I lions (and evidently proud of the or quest and are no sorry for what it cost; but it remains to be seen whether they can learn or have learned to conduct a colony as well as the English in Egypt. The return for their investment will certainly not come immediately. They have acquired nearly a thousand miles of coast line, and beyond this, Turkish rule and Mahomedan civilization for four hundred years have left practically nothing but desert.

BLIGHT OF MAHOMMEDANISM.

The native pill to the Turkish government by way of tribute one-tenth of all the produce of the soil, and there were special taxes on dates, trees, etc. The business of the Turkish garrison was to keep down insurrections, but formerly they were chiefly expert in creating them. Several anti Turkish rebellions had taken place before the war with Italy but they have always been suppressed.

The who's history of the unfortunate country affords a sad evidence of the blight which Mahomedanism has been to civilization. This is clear, especially if we compare the state of Tripoli with that of Tunis or Algiers, for some time under the influence of France. Mahomedanism was bad and blighting, but joined to Turkish domination it reached its worst.

FIELD FOR MISSIONARY WORK.

With the exception of a few fertile tracts, especially along the coast, this vast country is little more than an extensive waste of sand and rock. There are no rivers and the climate is uncertain. Italy will have many years of trouble in trying to bring Tripoli into the march of modern civilization. She has probably been encouraged by the wonderful success of France in the colonization of Algeria and Tunisia.

But it remains, as I have said, whether Italian politicians can learn the lesson, and a Catholic cannot help mentally ask the further question whether Italian missionaries can learn to do the wonders accomplished by their French colleagues in Algeria and Tunis. To the natural man of Northern blood the country is not inviting an missionary work here will demand especially the spirit of sacrifice which carried the French across the world.

Philippines.

Dr. Victor G. Heiser, Director of the Bureau of Health in the Philippine Islands, says that health conditions in the Islands are today better than they have been at any time in the last fifty years. This is due largely to the successful work accomplished by the American officials of the Health Bureau. Conditions are by no means ideal now, but the improvement is remarkable, and the change in the attitude of the people is no less so. At the beginning the health officer and his assistants were viewed as intruders and disturbers of the public peace. Quarantine was an invasion of private rights. An order to clean up was an attack on property.

A hospital was a dangerous place for a sick man. Vaccination was a frivolous expenditure. But small pox has almost disappeared, cholera is no longer a visitor, bubonic plague is a memory, and a fair start has been made on tuberculosis and the hook worm. Everywhere the people are lending a helping hand. They flock to the hospitals and clinics; they consent and obey the doctor. The artesian well project which is spreading all over the Islands is contributing enormously to the improvement of the general health of the people. Nearly one thousand artesian wells are supplying hundreds of the thousands of persons with drinking water, and if the present rate of progress is maintained most of the people before long will be using artesian well water.—American.

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NEXT TO CONSUMPTION

THERE ARE MORE DEATHS From PNEUMONIA Than Any Other Lung Trouble.

Pneumonia is nothing more or less than what used to be called "Inflammation of the Lungs."

Consumption may be contracted from others, but as a rule pneumonia is caused by exposure to cold and wet, and if the cold is not attended to immediately serious results are liable to follow.

There is only one way to prevent pneumonia and that is to cure the cold on its first appearance.

Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup will do this for you if you will only take it in time.

Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup contains all the essence and lung healing powers of the famous Norway Pine tree.

Mr. Hugh McLeod, Secretary, Seattle, writes: "My little boy took a very severe cold, and it developed into pneumonia. The doctor said he could not live. I got some of your Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup, and he began to improve. Now he is a strong healthy child, and shows no sign of it ever coming back."

The price of this remedy is 25 and 50 cents per bottle. It is put up in a yellow wrapper; 3 pine trees the trade mark, and is manufactured only by The T. Millburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

The Millionaire—'Doctor, is it absolutely necessary to remove my appendix?'

'Not absolutely, but it is safer to begin with some simple operation like that.'

MINARD'S LINIMENT CO. LIMITED. Have used MINARD'S LINIMENT for Croup; found nothing equal to it; sure cure.

CHASE E. SHARP. Hawkehaw, N. B., Sept. 1st, 1905.

His Daughter—'Papa, did you know mamma long before you married her?'

Her Father—'Just between you and me, my dear, I don't know her yet.'

Minard's Liniment cures Neuralgia.

'When does your husband find time to do his reading?'

'Usually when I want to tell him something important.'

W. H. Wilkinson, Stratford, Ont. says: "It affords me much pleasure to say that I experienced great relief from Muscular Rheumatism by using two boxes of Milburn's Rheumatic Pills. Price a box 50c."

'D. meen like blonde hair or brown hair?'

'A young friend Emmy. She was once blonde then brunette, and now her hair is coal black. She ought to know.'

Mary Ovington, Jasper, Ont. writes: "My mother had a badly sprained arm. Nothing we used did her any good. Then father got Hagyard's Yellow Oil and it cured mother's arm in a few days. Price 25 cents."

Grandmother—'Whatever are you doing with the boy?'

Grandfather—'He's gone and took his medicine without shakin' the bottle, so I'm shakin' it for him.'

Minard's Liniment cures Neuralgia.

'So betty didn't marry a lord after all?'

'No, but she married a man who gets as drunk as a lord.'

Minard's Liniment cures Dandruff.

Tired—'I told you I wanted two fresh laid eggs on toast. Do you call these fresh laid?'

Water—'Yes, sir, fresh laid on the toast, sir.'

Minard's Liniment cures Neuralgia.

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There are many people who become weak and miserable because their nerves become so unstrung they cannot sleep, and wherever there are cases troubled in this way they will find that Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills will restore the deranged nerves to full life and activity.

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Mr. George McBeath, Round Hill, N.B., writes: "I take the pleasure of writing to tell you the great benefit Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills did for me. I was so nervous I could not eat or sleep, and could not even do my work, and I failed to a shadow. Finally I consented to try Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, and have only taken two boxes, and am able to work as well as ever, and can eat and sleep as well as ever I did. I can't praise your medicine too highly. My wife is taking them now for palpitation of the heart and is improving greatly."

The price of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills is 50 cents per box, 3 boxes for \$1.25. For sale at all druggists or mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Millburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

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