ist of Discounts
I be Continued February 7.

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18 Cl

The Grottoes of Marmoutier

ing, than the twenty miles which stretch from the "Cahetau of Langeais" to Vouvray, a village situated on a hill, five miles furtner up the river than Tours. Leaving the castle of the Valois kings behind us, wheeled steadily up the valley until the quaint old pagan tower called the "Pile de Cinq Mars" rose called the "File de Cinq Mars" rose up on our left, with a cluster of neat little houses gathered around its base. It was here at Cinq Mars that we first made a closer inspection of those dwellings in the rock for which Touraine is famous, and which recall, in the beginning of the not yet changed its name into

Formed of a yielding, calcareous substance, these rocks are made use of by the Tourangeaux as cellars, store-rooms, green-houses, and habitations. Most of these latter have only one story, but in some cases they have two, and the interior is remarkably comfortable and roomy. The staircase is cut out of the rock, and the traveller strolling among the vineyards on the cliff above is astonished to find smoke emerging from chimneys at his feet.

To the passer-by these cliffs, seen from the banks of the Loire, seen from the balls of scinating. In some terry, or "Marmoutier." larger the ivy, allowed to grow Alas! a few towers and a splendid overhangs the brow of dull back-ground with bright patches of color. In other parts, where man has interfered, terraces, rich with trees and flowers, succeed each other, half way up the cliff. Especially is this the case when we have passed the town of Tours, with its fine bridge and old cathedral, and are on the road to Vouvray. we have not gone far when we stop once more, before the most ancient of the cave dwellings, the famous grottoes of Marmoutier.

It was in the days of Caesar that

the Romans first came across a tribe of Celts, the Turons, established on the banks of the Loire. These they civilized; making a road, building an aqueduct, and founding a town. which they called first Caesarodu-num, then "Urbs Turones," or city of the Turons, whence the modern name of Tours. With the coming of the Romans dates also the entrance of Christianity into that part of Gaul; and St. Gatian, one of the pioneers of the faith, became the first Bishop of Tours, in the third century. His life was anything but peaceful, however; persecutions were equent and severe, and the shepherd and his flock were often obliged to seek places of concealment, in the line of rocks which we have mentioned above, and which extends for many miles along the right bank of

the Loire. At that time the cliffs were exposed to the public gaze as they are to-day. The road from Orleans to Angers followed the heights a bove the river; while down in the valley thick woods and impenetrable brushwood masked the entrance to the caves in which these early Christians hid. These cells, hollowed out in the rock, partly by nature but mostly by the hand of man, were the first places of worship used in has attracted pilgrims for sixteen hundred years to the grottoes of Marmoutier is the glorious Martin, the Apostle of Gaul. St. Martin a native of Hungary. His fa-having moved with his family ther having moved with his family to the north of Italy, the son was obliged to serve in the Roman army, and was sent with the troops into Gail. The parents were pagans, but Martin himself had early been instructed in the faith of Chrise, although, according to the custom in those days, he remained a catechuses those days, he remained a catechumen for several years.

During his stay at Amiens he markable for the purity of his life, id the following anecdote is a riking illustration of his great arity to the poor. It was in the day of a

The traveller who follows the right in his sleep, Jesus Christ wrapped in that portion of the cloak, which had been given away, and he heard our Lord say to the angels who accompanied him: "Martin what is the companied him: "Martin when it is the companied him companied him: "Martin, who is yet a catechumen, clad me with this garment." This vision encouraged our saint to leave the army of Caesar and to dedicate himself entirely to the service of God, He was han tized by St. Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, and throughout the remainder of his long life St. Martin labored incessantly for the conversion of souls. But it would take us too far career during the seventeen years which clapsed before the inhabitants of Tours elected him as their bishop which recall, in the manner of twentieth century, the manner of on the death of St. Litorius. Lured from the monastery at Liguge by a on the death of St. Litorius. Lured strategem, and carried in triumph to Tours, St. Martin dreaded the effects of a close contact with the world, and bethought himself of the almost impenetrable woods in which St. Gatian and his companions had lived, and in which the broad, sandy Loire in front and the steep rock behind would effectually guard him

from intruders. He took up his abode in a hole in the rock, not far from the cell of St. Gatian, and there the report of his sanctity attracted so many disciples that cells were built in the woods outside the rocks. This was the origin of St. Martin's monas-

old doorway alone remain to bear rock with its luxuriant foliage, witness to the size and beauty of while tufts of wild flowere, wallflowers and valerian, spring out from Perpeta, one of the successors of every crack or ledge, relieving the St. Martin. The pilotic is St. Martin. The pilgrim, however, may yet visit St. Gatian's cell and kneel on the rock where St. Martin was wont to pray, and even to entertain heavenly visitors. Now was St. Peter and St. Paul who visited him in his cell; and several times Our Lady herself, accompanied by St. Agnes and St. Thecla, favored him with visions. The father of lies, however, enraged at the holy bishop's zeal and piety, laid a snare for his humility, and appeared to the saint, pasing himself off as our Lord Jesus Christ, and wearing a royal mantle and a golden crown. But St. Martin was not deceived. words, full of faith: "I will believe it to be my Lord," he said to the apparition, "when I shall see him, not clad in purple and wearing a diadem but bearing on his body the marks of his Passion."

Meanwhile the fame of St. Martin spread abroad, so that even from rope visitors came to Marmoutier among these was St. Patrick, who spent four years in this monastery before undertaking the great work of his life, the conversion of Ire-land. Nor has this saint been forgotten in Touraine, for in a village on the Loire (St. Patrice) is still shown a hawthron bush, which has blossomed miraculously every win-ter since the day on which St. Patrick rested under its shelter, on his way to Marmoutier. Another visitor Severus, who wrote St. Martin's This young man gave up rank and a good position at the bar in order to retire to a monastery in Aquitaine, His veneration for St. Martin, whose eloquence and zeal had turned him from his worldly ways, was unbounded, and he never failed, at least once a year, to spend Touraine. In one of them St. Gatian was accustomed to say his tin, on his part, cherished a great Mass. But the saint whose fame affection for the historian, and con-Auvergne, and had been at one time that holds good for nations as for fided to him his difficulties, the visions he had been favored with, and of Austrasia. Out of devotion to St the many trials he had to endure Martin, he came to Marmoutier and After the death of the holy bishop his loss, left his monastery in Aqui-taine, and spent the last years of his life in St. Martin's cell at Mar-

moutier. The successor of St. Martin the See of Tours was St. Brice. Brice had been taken care of by our saint from his earliest childhood, qualities. Even after he had received Holy Orders this unruly disciple continued to lead the same manner of life, and he more than once tended St. Martin's unfailing kindness

to Brice, "Now do I look like a madman?" And as the young man-endeavored to deny his words, St. Martin added: "I have prayed for thee, Brice, that thou shouldst be converted from thy ways know that after my death thou shalt be elected Bishop of Tours, but thou shalt have much to suffer in thy episcopate."

Brice laughed at this prophecy and went from bad to worse, but our saint's admirable patience won at length the victory, and the disciple improved so much in his conduct that he was chosen by the inhabitants of Tours for their bishop, after the death of St. Martin. Then it was, however, that the second part of the prophecy came true, for the errors of his past life rose up at gainst Brice, and the slanders gainst Brice, and the slanders spread by his enemies obliged him to leave Tours and go into exite for several years. This trial, however, only purified his heart and added to his merits, and after his return his diocese he kept for himself place of retirement in a hollow, dug out of the rock which is known as the "Grotto of Brice." It was when St. Brice was still a-

live that the wonderful death occur-

red of the seven cousins of St. Mar-

tin-three brothers of one family and four of another. These seven cou-sins had left Hungary in their youth and had sought out their illustrious relative in his solitude of Marmoutier. They were received by St. Martin with open arms, and lodged in a grotto adjoining the cell in which St. Gatian had lived a century before. Here they remained for forty years, their love for each other be so great that the knowledge that death would one day separate them, alone troubled their happiness. St. Martin, however, who had watched over the cousins during his life, never ceased to intercede for them after his death, and twenty-five years later, on the eve of his feast, he appeared to them in their cell and bade them confers their sins, for at break of day they would all appear before God. The cousins rejoiced exceedingly at these tidings, and having sent for a priest, they spent the night in preparing for death. When morning came the priest said Mass, and when the seven had devoutly received Holy Communion, they had themselves down at the foot of the altar and their souls passed away while they were at their prayers. Thus peacefully did they die, and so fresh and lifewas their appearance after death that the people who came in thousands, artracted by his miracle, exclaimed on seeing them: "Truly these men are not dead, but are asleep!" And thus it is that the oratory in which the seven cousins had lived and died, and where their holy bodies were laid, has been

called by the voice of posterity "The Chapel of the Seven Sleepers. ' St. Martin did not die in his cell in the rock, but at Candes, a little village some miles further down the river. After his death several towns wished to possess his remains; but the superior claims of Tours being admitted, the whole population went out to meet the body of their beloved bishop and a splendid basilica was erected over his tomb in the heart of the city. The pilgrims, who pray at his shrine however, never fail to cross the river, in order to visit the cell in which the saint had lived, and to drink from the fountain dug out of the rock by St. Martin himself. The spring of fresh water exists to the present day. But one more grotto is mentioned by historians. This was the cell of St. Leobard, dug out of the rock, just above that of the Seven Sleepers, and reached by a staircase

the chancellor to Theodebert, King Martin, he came to Marmoutier and took up his abode in a cell, outside the monastery. There he lived fo twenty-two years, giving himself up ploying the remainder of his time in copying the manuscripts of the Tathers of the church, and in excavating the rock, in order to increase the size of his grotto. St. Leohard is the last mentioned of the hermits in the rock. But the cliff was us once again as a hiding place by the

once again as a hiding place by the last of the monks of St. Martin's when, in the time of the Normans, Rollo swept down on the banks of the Loire, destroying the monastry and putting its infinibitants to the sword. Rebuilt by Eudes de Bleis in the tenth century, Marmoutier was restored by the Benedictines to its ancient splendor. But in 1791, the great Revolution spread throughout the land, and the monks were dispersed, never to return. The beautiful abbey was sacked and pillaged: and the grottoes, desecrated and profaned, were left to crumble to pieces.

shining through a stained glass window, lit up a little altar before which I knelt and prayed. The nuns of the Sacred Heart have bought up the ruins, and by their care the cells of these early saints have been rescued from oblivion. May St. Mar-tin bless them for the good deed and save them in these days of persecution from the fate of so many other religious orders! Monastery bells are silent, convents are empty, the Jesuits and Carmelites have led the way into exile. O St. Martin! not abandon the land you evengelized, but obtain from God that once more Touraine may be and delight" of what may it no and delight" of what may it no longer be irony to call "Catholic France!"—Miss de La Fontaine, in the Catholic World.

More Chinese Trouble.

Of late China is having its share of revolts. The ways of the West have long been finding their course in the heart of China. One dispatch says that:-

"Rumors come from China of a rebellion which may be worse than that of the Boxers. Kansu is the breeding ground and Tung Fu Hsiang is the leader. Missionaries who have reached Shanghai from Singan, having come from the interior because of the threatening revolt, in an interview at Shanghai state that Tung Fu Hsiang is gaining ground, and intends to lead his armies Singan, which he will endeavor to make his capital and place Pu-Chun, who has been proclaimed Emperor on the throne. Hu Lien Sun, governor of Hunan, one of the officials blacklisted by the powers after the Boxer trouples on account of his complicity in the massaire missionaries, has been appointed governor of Shan-st."

We plead guilty to considerable lack of knowledge concerning China and its internal affairs. The name of the rebel chief might just as well be the name of a province, a city, or a river in China, as far as ical knowledge of China very extensive. All we can glean from these reports is the fact that there is : burning volcano of rebellion some place in the bosom of that flowery kingdom. At any moment it is hi able to be in a state of eruption What the results would be were it people is more than we can predict, But from what we have learned, the missionary work of our Catholic communities, is the greatest civilizing influence that China has ever known. The country is too extensive, the population is too. vast, and the present conditions are too unnatural for the Western mind to form any fair estimate of the conse land. All we know is that China is gradually wakening up from its oniate dream of long ages, and is begining to come forth from the immense seclusion of its Orientalism Or, in other words, Western, and Christian civilizing influences are by degrees penetrating every section of that land. It may take some years; but, we are under the impression that this century will not be very old when the barbaric splendor of the Chinese Empire will have vanished. The moment that the effects of Western ideas and institutions are being realized inside the great wall, we may conclude that it will

AERIAL NAVIGATION.

individuals.

entire people will be free to scatter over the Dominion of their Emperor

and tok organize into petty states that will destroy each other, on ac-

"It begins to look as though the brothers Lebaudy, of Paris, had already solved the problem that has baffled every air-ship inventor hi-therto—cailing against the wind," says a writer in "The Scientific American." "Following up their first rather sensational sa made an ascension at Nantes recent-ly that gave striking testimony to the truth of the claim that they have made the most nearly perfect air-ship yet built. Several ascents were made, the balloon returning to a given spot each time. It moved in all directions above the fields and woods which border the Seine. In every instance the air-ship was brought back to its starting point at a speed of twenty-five miles an hour, the turn being made against the wind."

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