

CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN AFRICA.

Rev. D. J. O'Sullivan writes in the "Tablet":—There is perhaps no recent field of missionary labor in pagan lands which furnishes such extraordinary records as that of the Guinea Coast in Western Tropical Africa. Fifty years ago there was not a single Catholic mission along that coast. The estimated population was forty millions—all fetish-worshippers or Mohammedans. The Lower Guinea natives were only known to the civilized world for their human sacrifices, for their insupportable and grotesque forms of idolatry, and for their slave-trade. Their country was chiefly notorious for a climate which was perfectly harmless to themselves, but most deadly to the white man. It was deservedly named the "White Man's Grave." No earthly consideration could induce any sane man of the white race even to think of settling permanently in Western Africa. The climate forbade him under pain of certain death.

The Catholic missionaries alone paid no heed to that prohibition. Thanks to their ministrations among the native tribes for the past forty-five years, those regions of Lower Guinea which bear the well-known names of Dahomy, the Gold Coast, Lagos, the Basin of the Niger River, the Ivory Coast, and Benin, contain three vicariates-apostolic, governed by three bishops, and two prefectures-apostolic. These ecclesiastical divisions count 30,000 Catholics, 110 priests, 80 religious, 47 churches and chapels, 53 schools, 51 orphanages and dispensaries, 2 leper houses, and other minor institutions. The establishment of these missions along the Guinea Coast has been the work of the Society of African Missions of Lyons, France—a congregation of priests who devote themselves entirely and exclusively to the Dark Continent, and who have prominently identified themselves with the western regions for nearly half a century. The results which they have so far obtained have been deeply purchased. The death-roll of the Society counts over 200 priests and sisters—victims to the deadly climate of Africa. First on the list is the name of the venerated Founder, Bishop de Marion Bresillac, who died at Sierra Leone in June, 1859, only four weeks after his arrival on the coast. The next names are those of a brother who died within the same month. The brother only lived three weeks from the date of his arrival, and the priests six weeks, five months, and four months respectively. The Bishop and founder of the Society received Extreme Unction at the hands of the last of his dying companions, who survived him only one day. Both were interred without the rites of the Church. Their graves were blessed the following year by the Rev. Father Borgheroi, another member of the Society, who had come to continue what they had scarcely been permitted to begin. From the date of this first terrible check to its efforts the history of the work of the African Mission Society has been one long, continued record of privations suffering, and death. The average length of life of the priests who died on the Mission or who returned in shattered health to die at home has been only two years and ten months; that of the sisters has reached four years. The average age of the priests who succumbed to the climate has been thirty years; that of the sisters twenty-eight. Of a death list of over two hundred fifty died within a year from the date of their arrival on the Mission, and only nine survived ten years.

These facts and figures may seem perhaps almost incredibly out of date in the present era of Church history, but they are nevertheless strictly and sternly true. Their accuracy can be tested by applying to the Seminary of the African Missions, 150 Cours Gambetta, Lyons, France. This address represents the central house of the Missionary Society already named. It was established in that city nearly fifty years ago by the venerated bishop whose heroic death on the coast of Guinea has just been narrated. This saintly prelate, in the difficulties which beset the first humble beginnings of his great work for the evangelization of Africa, was favored with the advice and encouragement of the venerated cure d'Arce, who lived about thirty miles from Lyons. Bishop de Marion Bresillac was succeeded by the Very Rev. Augustin Joseph Plaque, the present Superior-General. This venerable and illustrious ecclesiastic, for many years the most prominent figure in the foreign missionary movement in France, has governed the society with remarkable ability and success for the past forty-two years, and there is every indication that he will continue to do so for several years to come. During the long term of his administration he has seen branches of his seminary extend themselves, under his directing hand, into Ireland, Holland, Spain, and several parts of France. As the society confines its missionary efforts entirely to Africa these branches in Europe have been established only for the purpose of supplying its missions in Egypt and in Guinea with priests. The seminary in Lyons is under the direct supervision of the Superior-General. Here ecclesiastical students of various nationalities undergo their novitiate and prosecute their studies. After ordination they are immediately assigned to their respective destinations in Africa, and they set out for their destinations with the least possible delay. It goes without saying that these missionaries receive no salaries. They are simply satisfied with what is strictly necessary to enable them to live and labor in the Master's vineyard; and this is provided for them by the system of com-

munity life which is rigidly adhered to in all the mission fields of the Society.

Only two weeks ago, when standing within the seminary enclosure at Lyons, under the shade of a row of lofty cypresses which he had planted away back in the fifties, the Very Rev. Father Plaque related to the writer of this article a remarkable incident which providentially prevented the dismemberment of the Society immediately after the death of the founder. When the news reached Lyons that he and his first band of missionaries had been ruthlessly swept away the evangelization of Western Africa seemed absolutely and utterly hopeless. "Cardinal de Bonald, Archbishop of Lyons, at once advised me," said the venerable priest, "to abandon the project, and to disband my seminary. Our founder had, however, before his departure counselled me in the event of his death, to persevere with his work so long as a shadow of hope remained. I respectfully intimated this to His Eminence, and said that I would consult the Holy Father. Cardinal Barnabo, Prefect of Propaganda, at my request, explained to His Holiness how the little congregation seemed crushed in its infancy. His IX listened with emotion, and then to our surprise, exclaimed: "The women Domini benedictum!" This Holy Father decided that we should persevere, and I accepted his decision as coming from above."

There is a similar seminary in Cairo, Egypt. It is presided over by the Prefect Apostolic of the Egyptian Delta. This portion of Egypt has also been confided by Propaganda to the African Mission Congregation, and has formed another of its fields of labor for the past 24 years. The results obtained in that time are represented by ten churches and chapels, one ecclesiastical seminary, one college, ten schools, and six free dispensaries for the sick poor. At one of the missions—that of Tanah—at which the writer passed several years, the school attendance has now reached 700. The Catholic population of the Prefecture is about 9,000; the Mohammedan population is 3,000,000. A daily average of 4,000 sick poor receive treatment from the Sisters in the dispensaries, at which there is also a yearly average of 4,500 dying infants baptized. The personnel of the Prefecture consists of 1 Prefect Apostolic, 45 priests, and 75 sisters—all members of the African Mission Society.

It will scarcely be necessary to inform the readers of the "Tablet" that the Valley of the Nile, which was once so profoundly Christian and Catholic, is now entirely Mohammedan. Until recent years it was one of the great strongholds of Islamism in the East. Under the action of certain European influences, notably that of the British Protectorate, its Moslem fanaticism and anti-Christian prejudices are, however, now fast passing away. The country is rapidly undergoing an evolution, and is becoming every day more and more European. This evolution offers golden opportunities of giving, to a certain extent, a Christian tendency to the current civilization. The religion of the prophet is losing its hold upon the more enlightened sections of the people in proportion as European civilization finds its way among them, and there is every reason to believe that this movement will continue until the fables of the Koran and the religion which they compose have become past history. In the meantime the Arabic and Coptic youth of the Nile Valley seek European education. The "raison d'être" of the colleges and schools of the Latin missionaries is, therefore, to reach as much as possible of this section of the population, while the free dispensaries which work in connection with them reach another section, and show their beneficiaries among the masses of the people that Christianity comes to them as a friend.

A member of the African Mission Society who has been stationed for several years in Egypt, the Rev. D. J. O'Sullivan, is now in London in the interests of the work in which his congregation is engaged. The missions which he represents are, for the most part, thousands of miles from the ordinary sources of Christian aid, in the most deadly climate in the world—that of Western Africa, and among semi-savages who cannot materially assist them. He has been sent to this country for the purpose of endeavoring to make the work of his society known, and of enlisting the sympathy of the benevolent in its behalf. His Eminence the Cardinal Prefect of Propaganda, in a letter dated May 22, strongly commends the object of his mission and vouches for its necessity.

CLOSING EXERCISES DOWN BY THE SEA.

The Charlottetown "Patriot," June 14, says:—The Valedictory read at the commencement exercises of St. Dunstan's College by Mr. J. McGowan, one of the graduates, and published in full in the "Patriot," ranks with the best productions of this kind that we saw this or any other season. Besides its literary excellence the valedictory throughout breathes a gratifying spirit of trust in the present and hope for the future, in harmony with the institution and the times we live in. Life is viewed from a philosophical and earnest standpoint, and while due importance is given to college studies, yet, as Mr. McGowan truly says: "There comes a time when many a student is an instructor unto himself; the class room begins to lose its former, ready books to his own choice, and the library in the Mecca, whether like a Moslem he

turns for consolation." After a long and weary work only the foundation is left to be built and sure, then there is every chance for an optimistic realization of success.

"In the world's broad field of battle."

Companions, campus and the hallowed associations inseparable from a college career are touched upon with reverent poetical fervor, while the reference to the Reverend Rector, Rev. Fathers and gentlemen of the faculty is both grateful and eulogistic. Mr. McGowan's farewell is spoken thus: "Imagination loves to picture you toiling in a dim future, each at his own vocation in different corners of the earth. We shall no doubt signal one another occasionally on life's sea and remind ourselves of the days we sojourned together in the land of books. To you, farewell. We are not unmindful of the friends of the college—those who have looked with a favorable eye on all our legitimate undertakings; those who have in any way aided or befriended us, and in parting we extend to them a cordial farewell. To all, farewell, 'a word that makes us linger' yet farewell. We congratulate St. Dunstan's College and its Valedictorian—and wish them continued success."

Mr. J. J. McGowan, the son of Mr. William McGowan, of the I. C. R., Moncton, and formerly of the Transcript's mechanical department.

ST. GABRIEL'S PARISH.

Rev. Father O'Meara, P.P., of St. Gabriel's parish, tendered the boys of Sarsfield School an entertainment which was very much appreciated by hundreds of the pupils and their friends, a few evenings ago. The programme, which was under the direction of Prof. J. J. Shea, was of a high order.

The various choruses, solos, fancy drills, recitations, dialogues, etc., by the pupils of St. Gabriel School, were all rendered in a pleasing manner and elicited much applause. He did also the cello solos by Mr. V. Pelletier; the string quartette (two violins, viola and cello) by Messrs. Shea, St. John, Drouin and Pelletier. The violin solo, "Mabella's Lullaby," by Mr. Belanger (a pupil of Mr. J. Shea), and a solo by Mr. McKeehan, also gave much pleasure and elicited much applause. The dialogue, "The Thief of Time," was another interesting feature of the programme, and was rendered in dramatic style. The various characters were represented as follows:—"Ralph Ready," by A. Shea; Charles Cheerful, by J. R. Walsh; J. Ray, by J. Flood, all school boys; while Mr. McKeehan, an old gentleman, was represented by Mr. E. Graney, John Clod, a farmer, by Mr. J. Brady, and Patsy Flynn, and Irishman, by Mr. M. Flood. The conclusion of the first part of the programme was followed by the presentation of an address to the enthusiastic and genial pastor, in reply to which he counselled the boys to always be upright and aim to be models of society.

LETTER OF CONDOLENCE.

We have received the following letter from Mr. F. C. Lawlor, secretary of Branch No. 1, C.M.B.A., for publication:—

To Mr. Edward Hart.—Dear Friend—Please rest assured that the membership of Branch No. 1, C.M.B.A., regret the death of your late brother, Owen Hart, and now desire to convey to you, through their sympathy, the sincere and brotherly sympathy we all feel in your sad affliction. In your own words, we beg to say, some of us who have known him for years are particularly affected at the parting of two good brothers, who had labored together so happily for a lifetime, as industrious business young men and respected citizens, and gaining for themselves the esteem of all, by their honest dealings in trade and their generous dispositions, being ever ready when called upon by some friends to aid in any charitable and worthy object. But, now, that God in His infinite wisdom, has been pleased to call your brother home to his reward, we earnestly pray that his soul may be happy and enjoying the sweet bliss of that heavenly kingdom, away beyond the cold grave, forever more. We also pray that God in His mercy may be pleased to bless you with the grace of Christian resignation to His holy will, and spare you in good health for many years to come. It is hereby ordered that the chapter of our Branch be draped in mourning for the space of thirty days in memory of our departed brother member. Permit us to join with you and relatives in the prayer: "Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord! And let perpetual light shine on him."

CATHOLIC PROGRESS IN BRITAIN.

It is well that we should occasionally have put before us such facts as Mr. Austin Oates, K.S.G., states in an article which he has contributed to the current issue of "La Revue Generale." The subject is the progress of Catholicism in the British Empire in the reign of Queen Victoria. If we are at all inclined to conclude that our advance has not been sufficiently rapid, we have but to glance at the past, as here presented to be reassured. Mr. Oates writes French in an excellent style, ably reviews the position of Catholics in England since 1837 and brings out effectively the wonderful contrast between their condition at that time and their status at present. Probably is no part of the world has so great a change occurred

as that which has taken place during the century with regard to Catholics in Great Britain. Nowadays it is unthinkable that the King at a reception should say of a prominent Catholic, simply in consequence of his religion, "Who dared to bring this man into my presence?" Yet such was the language of George IV. towards O'Connell. We feel in reading the pages containing Mr. Oates' article that we are living in an entirely different atmosphere from that of George IV's day. He justly assigns not a little of the credit for the Catholic progress in the Cardinal-Archbishop of Westminster, noting in particular some of the leading features of the episcopate of the present Cardinal which has been so distinguished for fruitful activity.—Liverpool Catholic Times.

THE DANGERS OF EXPLOSIVES.

In this season of fire-crackers and toy explosives, when these objects are manufactured by the ton for the celebration of the Fourth of July, Dominion Day, St. Jean Baptiste, and such-like great public festivals, the following sad story from Paterson, N.J., should convey a lesson that needs no comment:—Firemen and police are searching to-day in the ruins of the burned building on Main street, Paterson, N.J., for bodies of victims believed still to be under the masses of brick and charred wood. Fourteen persons are known to be dead, their bodies having been recovered. Three are still missing. After a long list of the killed, the missing and the wounded amounting to over one hundred in all, we learn these details:—

The explosion wrecked the building No. 440 Main street completely. It was a three-story brick structure, with seventy-five feet frontage, and in the centre of it was the fireworks store. The cause of the explosion may never be known. Some of the injured were hurt by jumping out of windows.

The pathetic attempts of some mothers to save their children became known through the finding of the bodies. Mrs. Isaiah Bamber was picked up with her baby in her arms, both dead. There was a noticeable case of heroism on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Jessup, who will both recover. He and his wife were saved by jumping from a third-story window into a fire-net. When they appeared at their window the flames were bursting from behind them, and the woman's hair was burning like a torch. Her husband pulled his wife close to his side, crushed the flames out of her hair, and while the flesh was sizzling on his right arm that held on to the window, he dropped his wife in the net with his left hand. In falling, she struck an iron awning rail, which bent with her weight, and then, when the husband jumped, he struck his wife on the shoulder, dislocating it. His leg was broken.

It is said that Rittenburg had stored in the cellar of his fireworks store a number of dynamite torpedoes, such as are used by the foreign population of Paterson and Passaic at celebrations. There is an ordinance prohibiting the storing of dynamite torpedoes within the city limits. Last night Rittenburg returned from Passaic, where he had taken orders in the Hungarian settlement for a wagon-load of the explosives. He talked in a rambling way when asked for an explanation, and his friends believe his mind is affected.

TEMPORAL POWER OF THE POPE.

The question of the temporal independence of the Holy Father was brought forward some days ago in the Belgian Chamber of Representatives when the diplomatic Budget came up for discussion. In supporting his vote for the maintenance of the Belgian Embassy at the Vatican, M. Dohet, one of the Catholic deputies, made an eloquent protest against the Italian usurpation and the intolerable position in which the Sovereign Pontiff was placed by the loss of his temporal power. The independence of the Papacy was, he pointed out, necessary for the free and unfeared exercise of the spiritual authority of the Head of the Church, and the restoration of the temporal power was the only genuine guarantee for the freedom essential to the Holy See. Two other members of the Right, MM. de Gellinck d'Elsegheim and Gilles de Pelichy, and urged that the settlement of the Roman difficulty affected not Italy only but the whole Catholic world. During the discussion there were frequent noisy interruptions from the Opposition benches, and whilst M. de Pelichy was speaking the Socialist group commenced singing the "Marseillaise," which led to such disorder that the President suspended the sitting.

NEW INVENTIONS.

List of patents recently granted by the Canadian Government:—71,701—Thos. E. McCollin, Toronto, Ont., momentum car brake. 71,720—Jas. E. Forfar, Toronto, Ont., apparatus for teaching musical scale. 71,721—Fred W. Molte, Victoria, B.C., sound reproducer. 71,723—Rich. Sylvester, Lindsay, Ont., wood bending and drying apparatus. 71,724—John W. Canning, New Glasgow, N.S., coal-or rock drilling machine. 71,747—W. E. Vanstone, New Westminster, B.C., steam boiler. JACK: How does your new watch work, Bob? Bob: Fine, some days it puts in thirty-six hours.

Notre Dame Street, Montreal's Central Store, St. James Street, SATURDAY, June 29, 1901.

HOUSEHOLD LINEN.

These are certain times of the year when it is most desirable to buy linens. That time is now—now, when prices have reached the lowest limit of legitimate trading, when reduction has followed reduction, sweeping through the most magnificent collection of household linens on the continent.

LINEN TABLE CLOTHS. Pure Grass Bleached Table Cloths beautiful designs with Napkins to match. Cloth, size 2 by 2 yards, \$1.55. Napkins to match \$1.65 doz. Cloth, size 2 by 2 yards, \$1.90. Napkins to match, \$1.90 doz. Cloth, size 2 by 2 1/2 yards, \$2.00. Napkins to match, \$2.05 doz. Cloth, size 2 by 2 1/2 yards, \$2.80. Napkins to match, \$1.90 doz. Cloth, size 2 by 3 yards, \$2.85. Napkins to match, \$1.65 doz. Cloth, size 2 by 3 yards, \$2.85. Napkins to match, \$1.90 doz.

Special Sale Linen Huck Towels, worth 6c for 4c.

EXTRAORDINARY SELLING in COLORED DRESS GOODS.

All Reduced from 25c to 50 per cent off. The army of assistants in the Dress Goods Store was not sufficient for yesterday's demands. Such throngs were never seen before. To avoid overcrowding Monday, the company has divided the stock into four different lots, and placed them on separate tables so that ladies can make their own selections without assistance from salesmen.

FOUR DRESS GOODS VALUES.

NO. 1 LOT. This lot consists of Fancy Dress Material, suitable for Summer Dress Skirts etc., the prices, of which range from 27c to 40c. Your choice Monday 19c. NO. 2 LOT. This lot contains many Fancy Dress Materials in newest designs, assorted weaves. They sold from 48c to 50c. To be cleared Monday 25c. NO. 3 LOT. This elegant lot of Fancy Dress Goods all new and stylish. Many of them sold at 55c and some of them up to 75c. Monday's special price, 38c. NO. 4 LOT. Pretty novelty Dress Fabrics, fine silk and wool mixtures, including Plaids, Chevots, etc., the cheapest of them sold at 60c; most of them at 75c. All one price Monday 42c.

A HUGE SALE OF DAINTY WASH FABRICS.

150 pieces Point d'Italia Muelins, Toilettes des Indes Muelins, Belgium Dress Gingham in pretty, silk stripe effects, neck checks, newest colorings, worth 30c. Special 15c. 180 pieces New Brussels Gingham, Fancy Plaids, in a large variety of lace pattern effects, checks and floral designs, latest colorings, worth 37c. Special 18c. 130 pieces Mousseline d'Alsace Dress Muslins, Mercerised Gingham in selected colorings, dainty patterns, the latest in Summer Dress Fabrics, worth 50c. Special 30c.

SMART OUTING SKIRTS.

Ladies' White Figue Skirts, latest style, tailor made, double stitched seams, deep plaits in back, finished wide hem, worth \$2.25. Special \$1.80. Ladies' White Pique Outing Skirts, tailor stitched, perfect hanging, finished straps of same, open plaits in front, worth \$2.50. Special \$2.05. Ladies' handsome Outing Skirts in White Figue, new cut, with large flare, trimmed applique design on net, finish deep plaits in back. Special \$4.45.

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MARKET REPORT.

LIVE STOCK—At the East End Abattoir market on Thursday, the receipts of live stock were 600 cattle, 800 sheep, 300 lambs, and 200 calves. The butchers were present in large numbers, but trade was rather dull, the hot weather seeming to have a depressing effect on the market. Prime haves were rather scarce and sold at 3c to 3 1/2c per lb; good stock sold at 4c to 4 1/2c, and the rough at 3c to 3 1/2c per lb. Calves sold at from \$2 to \$3 each. Cows were paid 3 1/2c per lb. for good stock, and the butchers paid 3c to 3 1/2c per lb. for the others. Spring lambs sold at \$3.50 to \$5 each. Fat hogs sold at 6 1/2c to 7 1/2c per lb.

EGGS—A fair trade in eggs was done, and prices are somewhat advanced as to the market. White eggs, especially those from the best stock, are selling at 12c to 13c per dozen. HONEY—Business in honey is quiet, and prices are nominally unchanged. We quote White clover comb, 12 1/2c to 13 1/2c; white extracted, 8 1/2c to 10c; buckwheat, in comb, 10c to 12c; and extracted, 8c to 9c.

POTATOES—The demand for potatoes is rather limited, but as offerings are not excessive prices are steady. Choice round waxy sold at 4 1/2c to 5c and ordinary at 3 1/2c to 4c per bag, in car lots.

CHICKENS—The market has been quiet, and prices are not very high. Choice broilers are selling at 12c to 13c per lb, and old hens at 10c to 11c per lb. Turkeys are selling at 15c to 16c per lb.