

CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT MIS- SIONS.

From St. Joseph's Advocate. The following contrast is credited to the noted George Francis Train in a lecture at Cincinnati, where we ourselves, as well as "M. R." (whose version is here given), heard him more than once. It has all the interest of a romance, with all the internal evidence of fact. The Catholic George Francis is not a Catholic, as every body knows. Brought up to sympathize with the "poor" Protestant missionaries in China, whose wonderful "sacrifices" and "hard lot" among the "heathen Chinese" he had heard so much about at his Massachusetts Sunday-school, he not only converted his pocket-money, but when a few pennies were left, he turned a house penny by selling them to keep square on the twenty-five cents contribution list for the "poor," starting missionaries so far away! Grown to be a man, he actually visits the Celestial Empire, and HERE IS WHAT HE SAW ON LANDING: "A short walk brought me to the inclosure of the missionary's house; a well kept walk of shell led to the massive front door, which was ornamented by a large silver door-knob.

"Well, I looked closely at that door knob, and what do you think I saw. I imagined, at least, that I saw in this lump of silver a great many of the twenty-five cent pieces that I contributed while a boy. It was some minutes after ringing the bell that I was admitted by a full-fledged English lackey, puffed, powdered and shaved, who, in a half surly manner, demanded my business. He told him I wished to speak to his reverend master, if convenient. "He informed me his master was not finished dressing, but would be shortly, and I was invited to a seat in the hall. The servant took my card, and in his absence I had a chance to note the elegant appointments of the house. Everything that modern art had introduced in the way of making a home COMFORTABLE, MASSIVE AND PLEASANT, was there. The beautiful oak furniture, the rich carpets and mirrors, the general appearance of all you saw, would lead you to suppose that you were under the roof of one of the lordly mansions in Grosvenor Square, instead of a missionary's house on the wild coast of China: In about fifteen minutes I heard a heavy step on the stairs, and saw descending a very handsome, portly gentleman, in a rich morning gown, and slippers. He carried a fine, beautiful baby in his arms. After a cordial greeting, he opened the parlor door and invited me in. The room was grandly furnished. In the middle was a centre table, and on it a large, richly bound Bible. He placed the baby sitting on the Bible, and quite enjoyed his baby's fear and wonder, and said that moment I came to my hand, and I found him to be a very pleasant, agreeable gentleman, a good conversationalist, and well informed on current topics. He informed me that he seldom went far into the interior. He had charge of a mission station and church about seven miles distant.

HIS PRINCIPAL LABOR was, however, in distributing a large amount of Bibles and tracts in all directions. He showed me a room in which several tons of sacred literature were stored. I expressed a desire to go a few miles back into the country, and my reverend host kindly tendered me his riding horse, and despatched a guide with me to bring me safely back, not to forget an invitation to lunch with him on my return, all of which I gratefully accepted. "The appearance of things does not improve much as you leave the coast. The earth is hard, dry and parched, and clouds of fine white sand and dust sweep over and almost blind you. We had gone about three miles on horseback, and I was on the point of turning back, when a quarter of a mile in the distance I saw a moving figure, the only living thing I beheld since leaving the minister's house. On a nearer approach I discovered it was a man leading a most diminutive and wretched looking donkey, hitched to a cart with a heavy load of some sort, and it appeared as if the man had to drag both the donkey and cart through the sand. Curiosity impelled me to wait the approach of this toiler in the desert, and when he came near enough I became satisfied that he was not a native, but an unfortunate European, who was dragging out a miserable existence in some traffic or other with the natives of this inhospitable land. Tall and gaunt in person, with long matted hair and beard, his principal dress was a loose garment of the very coarsest material, with a cord encircling his waist. I accosted him in French, and with a very low obeisance, he answered me in that tongue. I inquired the direction in which he was going, and he pointed out a course opposite to my way back. In the cart were some old clothes and bottles, and a basket filled with ripe and delicious fruits.

"My good fellow, you follow peddling as an avocation? How does it prosper in this desolate region?" I asked. "You mistake, bon com!" he replied, "I am a medical man, and I have a sort of *Maison de Santé* (private hospital) some miles distant, to which I am now journeying." "Excuse me, friend, but what in the name of reason could induce a professional man like you to leave Europe and come to such a country as this to practice medicine?" "I here checked myself as I noticed a visible emotion in the old man's face, and the thought struck me that perhaps I had touched upon a tender cord—some great sorrow, perhaps, flashed across his mind, that he wished to forget. But in a moment his face brightened, and with a smiling countenance he answered: "I AM A PHYSICIAN, and have some skill in applying roots and herbs, and cooling poisons to the cure of human infirmities, but my principal, my only care, is the souls of men. I am here in obedience to my Divine Master, to teach and instruct these poor benighted creatures in the faith of Christ. I am a Catholic missionary priest, endeavoring to do my duty as best I may." He tossed the girl around his waist, and produced a crucifix from his breast, which he devoutly kissed. "He informed me that he had acquired a complete mastery of the Chinese language, and had been fifteen years on this

A PROMINENT IRISHMAN.

We published a few days ago a list of Irish Catholic gentlemen who, by dint of ability and perseverance, had achieved wealth in California. In their struggle to come to the front they had recourse to no means but of the most honorable character, and stand to-day a credit to their race and religion. In the development of the great North-West Irishmen have had and still have a foremost place. Bishop Ireland, of St. Paul, while yet a priest, years and years ago, drew the outside world's attention to the wonderful wealth of Minnesota. Not content with appeals from pulpit and platform and productions in the press framed to bring under notice the untold resources of that great state in boundless prairie, valued minerals, and richest forests, Dr. Ireland took active measures to bring to Minnesota that tide of immigration which has swollen its population to its present respectable figure and made known in far off lands and amid strange peoples the good things offered by this land of promise to the sober and industrious. In the professional, industrial and mercantile classes of St. Paul, the Irish element is ably and numerously represented. About three years ago there arrived in St. Paul, as a permanent resident, Mr. Dennis Ryan, a well-known capitalist from the far West. Leaving Canada at an early age, he had gone to the mining regions of the great silver bearing districts of Utah and Colorado. Here, by activity, intelligence and pluck he soon forced himself to the front. Becoming possessed of valuable mining property, he laid the foundation of that immense wealth which is his to-day, and which he has put into all manner of enterprises calculated to benefit his fellow-men and enhance the business facilities of the community of which he forms part. One of Mr. Ryan's latest enterprises is the construction of a magnificent hotel, the glory of St. Paul and the pride of the North-West. In the St. Paul Globe we find a description of the magnificent structure, which will be read with interest by Mr. Ryan's friends in Canada and elsewhere:

THE HOTEL RYAN.

Among the magnificent improvements that have risen in strength and beauty during the past year in St. Paul none have excited the degree of admiration caused by the erection and near completion of the Ryan hotel. The work on this splendid structure was begun a year ago last fall, since then the building has risen seven stories in height and the interior is now ready for the work of plastering. When completed the building will have cost Dennis Ryan, Esq., its owner, a sum far short of \$1,000,000, and it is expected that it will be formally opened on the fourth of next July.

The hotel is located at the northeast corner of Sixth and Robert streets, having a frontage of 150 feet on Robert street and 225 feet on Sixth street. It is seven stories in height, and is 107 feet high from the curb to the coping or top of the mansard, exclusive of the towers. There are three towers, the one known as the Robert street tower being thirty-six feet high, the Sixth street tower being thirty-four feet above the roof, and the spirelet, an imposing tower with oriel windows, shafts of polished granite surmounted or capped with fantastic brackets. The spirelet is sixteen feet high, and adorns the roof overlooking the corner of Sixth and Robert streets. In style the building is a pleasing mixture of the composite and Gothic, the latter predominating, the construction being of St. Louis pressed brick with trimmings of blue Amherst sand stone, the appearance being at once substantial, pleasing to the eye and elegant.

The hotel contains a grand total of 325 sleeping apartments, single and en suite, exclusive of the stores, offices, parlors, billiard room, dining, reception and culinary rooms. The grand entrance will be from Robert street, having a width of nineteen feet, while the ladies' entrance will be from Sixth street. A unique feature of the latter will be porte-cochere or carriage porch which will extend over the sidewalk as in several of the European cities; this will be of iron, elegantly constructed and highly ornamented. In alluding to this feature mention may here be made of another extension; allusion is made to the grand balcony which will open on Jackson street from the third floor; the balcony will be so arranged as to overlook the dining hall, and it will present an elegant and ornate appearance, being of carved oak and highly finished. With reference to the finish of the woodwork, it may be here said also that all the wood will be richly carved, the first and second floors being done in hard wood with the exception of the kitchen, the balance being done in pine.

THE OFFICE.

Opening from the grand entrance on the ground floor about in the center of the building is located the office, and in point of convenience, elegance and comfort this will no doubt equal any hotel office in the United States. In dimensions it will be fifty by seventy-five feet, with a height of twenty-eight feet to the frieze of the cornice; it will be illuminated during the day by means of the skylight which encompasses the center area of the hotel, and stained glass windows; the heavy cornice will be supported by iron pilasters, each column being ornamented with heavy carved capitals; the office will be finished in red oak, with wainscoting of the same material, while the floors will be of marble, the same, by the way, as the vestibule of the grand entrance, while the walls will be finished with a wainscoting of marble. The office counter will be of solid oak. The spacious apartment will be appointed with a telegraph

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