FUNDS NEEDED

To carry on Missionary Work in India

To the Editor of True Witness,

Montreal, Canada. From Rev. R. F. G. Mascazerhas, Vicar of St. Francis Xavier Udyawar, South Can-Church, ara, India:

Dear Editor:

I am "an Indian Catholic priest, working in this distant corner the world, among my own country-Although a perfect stranger and unworthy in every respect, yet relying on your kindness and sym-pathy, I respectfully beg to lay before you this my poor and sad story, with the humble request that yo may put it in your paper, in the form of an appeal, having first corrected my broken English, and made what changes are necessary in order that it may appear in a decent This is the and attractive form. prayer of a poor native priest from distant India, and I beg of you for the love of God to put it where it may catch the eye and appeal to the This is my story.

In my parish, which is mostly pagan, with little more than a thousand Christians, I have established a boys and 32 girls. It is the only Catholic school in a parish in which there are three Protestant and about dozen pagan schools. school was originally set up by a Catholic of the place, but it was so poorly conducted that it did not become popular even with the Catholics of the place. Finally its master who was also the manager, at last deserted it, and it had almost ceased to exist when I took it up about 2 made it my parish years ago and made school. I had hardly never again succeed in having a Catholic school in my parish, aided and recognized by government, a condition essential to our schools.

But now I find it too hard a burden, and some time ago was almost minded to give it up. For nearly two years, during which time it has been under me, it had five change of the head master, and this mainly want of funds to keep properly qualified teachers. The school costs about £3 each month to make go on fairly well, but it has not guaranteed monthly income of 20 shillings. For this reason, for some months past, it was without a single qualified teacher, whereas it should have had at least three. So the inspecting government officer threatened to withdraw the little annual government support of £6 10s. unless proper teachers were at once supplied. Even now only the head master is qualified but not the other teachers. The former is not satisfied with the promised salary of 16 shillings a month, and may leave at any moment; if his prospects do not This small salary I have promised for a few months only, after which the financial state will decide what can be done.

What adds to my distress is that near my school there are two other schools the one a Protestant. other a Hindoo pagan school-both well attended and flourishing, re ceiving more aid from government decent tiled buildings During these two short years, my school has seen a number of places For some time I held it under a pendol of palm leaves, fully open on May it touch the heart of some kind convenient, and the rains being about to me a helping hand. Whatever they to set in, I removed to the sacris Church, a room 18 by 6 feet, in which I held part of school; the other was held in the bended knees. Our dear Lord, Who church itself. I next removed to the is Divine Charity, will reward them on either side of my house. The space of each veranda named "The Immaculate Conception was about 25x7 feet, with 11-2 School," for I took it up at the foot square columns at intervals in-I have now removed to hired building with a tnatched roof. It has hardly accommodation for half the number of pupils. As yet it has no shutters for doors or wir dows, and the boys have to carry daily to and fro chairs, stools, and such articles, that they may not be for them. taken away. Now to build a de-cent school will cost about £70, and I have not a penny of my own benches, a table, broken chair and a few other article there is not the most necessary fu not belong to the school. It is borrowed and not yet paid for.

My people have hand

my school, and now they feel disappointed. The average daily attendance, which was a hundred, has now fallen to fifty.

My distress is really very great.
All my people are poor farmers,
mostly tenants of exacting landlords. The poor children when not in school have to work at home, and often they are kept away school on account of work. Few children will be found who come without torn or patched clothes. Many come without books

or slate. Amidst this distress, my church is in a crumbling and dilapidated state Its facade fell down twice, and corner of the third that has built has begun to give way. Every where on the walls there are large and ominous cracks; outer walls appear to be in an inclined position large gaps on some of the inner doors; one has been supported wooden poles, another totally blocked up for fear of collapse, and tender heart of some charitable bens- church is not 35 years old. The reason of all this is that the church site-1 1-2 acre - is damp marshy and sandy, surrounded paddy fields which are on a school-a mixed school-having 80 with it, and under water during a good part of the year. Further, owing to dampness, all the timber not only of the roof, but even the frames and shutters of doors windows, is being wormeaten. Some of the shutters have actually fallen away, and many of the windows and doors are without them. A part of the roof has been removed and substituted by a bamboo one, which was intended for a year or two, but has now remained for several years, is fast decaying and has already given away in several places. A part but if I lost that occasion, I could has been kept from falling by means of bamboo and other poles; in fact, some of the rafters had actually fallen down, and many others hanging. There are more than two

dozen such poles supporting. roof in various places, four of them being in front of, and two on the high altar itself. The government had once prohibited the use of the building, and the magistrate more than once warned me that he will issue a fresh order unless immeit diate steps are taken. A new church is to be built on a new site, which will cost in all £1000. I am trying

to collect funds but till now without

much hope of success.

To crown my miseries the whole of about twenty years ago, when the Pope transferred them from the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Goaz to that of the present Bishop, and for some time they were in that state. In another parish a miles away there are still many of their schismatic relatives who exer cise much influence with my people, whose bad spirit has not entirely died out, some of whom occasionally threaten to build a schismatic chapel. The wretched state of our affairs makes them bold. All the more need, therefore, for a good church and a good school, wherein to struct the rising generation. I wish I could have a separate school for girls and for other very evident rea sons; but, alas! what I have is bur-

den enough. This then, dear Editor, is my poor story told as well as I could tell it. will be pleased to give, however lit tle, even a penny in postage stamps, I shall receive with all gratitude a hundredfold. My school has been time of the grand Jubilee, and solemply dedicated it to Our Lady as Jubilee memorial, on Dec. 8, 1904. This good mother will reward my benefactors, and St. Francis Xavier the patron of our church, will re ward them. We shall all, especially my poor children, unceasingly pray

With profound respect, I am, dear Editor, Your most humble servant in Christ

R. F. C. MASCAZERHAS,

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CHAPTER XXXIV.

To Ruth this seemed hopeless task, but she to necessary to tell him wind was freshening fro west, and with frequent the channel in places w they arrived at Solitar little after noon. On t shore stood a farm-l ate dinner, and they landed at Grindston preparations to search through its entire length miles or more. Florian wearied, but Ruth we from fatigue. Obstacle sort began to fall in the had endeavored to secure an island resident and he was disposed to give enormous pay, and his lays wasted the precious half-past three. When were almost ready, R beating heart, pointed rian a canoe with a sin making for Solitary Isla ment, and then, seizin ran down to the boat a servant hoist the sail. did not for an instant figure in the canoe, and deep excitement and ten spread over his face as ped leisurely from his walked slowly to his ca taken the pains to pull on the beach, and after house closed the door. harm had happened to I noise which had been me accidental disappearance mature. It was a few i four when their boat to shore. Four o'clock in the of the 1st of November ment which has scarred mory years back so bad hour never struck with the tears to her eyes. A on that day Linda had wept now with a violence prised Florian as he h from the boat and led he the cabin. He pushed of with some difficulty becheavy obstacle on the When he saw and recogn object he stood quite stil ment, then he pushed R back, and, calmly as mig beside the fallen form of and put his hand over h was forever stilled. The and half-closed eyes were enough without the tand the blood-stains ments. Scott was dead hand he held a crucifix, tears which he had shed moments still lay on his ++ ++ +-

CHAPTER XXX

It was a rare day in tare for November. The golden, fine-spun clearnes blue river was bluer than though the islands, no lo showed their gray sides sparkling waters like fad stones in a spruce forest lage, busied with its us of labor, was not one who than usual. Villagers sh head over the burst of sunshine. It was like a g dream and forboded a bitt taken place in their mids lent a dark and melanche to the romantic islands, for a few hours the placed existence. The affair was business in particular. The widow, no children, no prelatives. Scott had live a lonely man, and the vi his taking-off concerned of in general and the office law. Had he been a policiable fellow, there might great excitem of nobody's funeral, not it after the shock was

had been said about it to possibly be said. Clayb public calamity to public calam without troubling its misfortunes. Fl. feated; his defea quick. It could :