

Jesus said to his disciples. Whom do you say that I am?

Simon Peter answered and said: Thou art Christ the Son of the living God.

And Jesus answering, said to him: Blessed art thou Simon Bar-Jona because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but my father who is in heaven AND I SAY TO THEE THAT THOU ART PETER; AND UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH, AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT.

AND I SHALL GIVE TO THEE THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. And whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed also in heaven. S. Matthew xvi. 15-19.



Was anything concealed from Peter, who was styled the Rock on which the Church was built, who received the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and the power of loosing and binding in Heaven and on earth?" —TERTULLIAN Præscrip. xxii.

"There is one God, and one Church, and one Chair founded by the voice of the Lord upon Peter. That any other Altar be erected, or a new Priesthood established, besides that one Altar, and one Priesthood, is impossible. Whosoever gathers elsewhere, scatters. Whatever is devised by human frenzy, in violation of the Divine Ordinance, is adulterous, impious, sacrilegious." —St. Cyprian Ep. 43 ad plebem.

"All of them remaining silent, for the doctrine was beyond the reach of man, Peter the Prince of the Apostles and the supreme herald of the Church, not following his own inventions, nor persuaded by human reasoning, but enlightened by the Father, says to him: Thou art Christ, and not this alone, but the Son of the living God. —St. Cyril of Jerus. Cat. xi. 1.

Calendar.

MAY 27—Sunday—Whitsunday doub 1 class.
28—Monday—Whitmonday doub 1 class.
29—Tuesday—Whit Tuesday, doub 1 class.
30—Wednesday—Ember Day semid (Fast Day) of the Octave.
31—Thursday—Whit Thursday sem of the Octave. Com of St Petronilla.
JUNE 1—Friday—Ember Day of the Octavo sem (Fast Day)
2—Saturday—Ember Day of the Oct sem (Fast Day). Comm of SS Marcellinus & MM.

DESCRIPTION OF CALIFORNIA.

FROM A MEMOIR.

Concerning the Missions newly established in California, by the fathers of the Society of Jesus; presented to the Royal Council of Guadalajara at Mexico, on the 10th of February in the year 1702, by Father Francis Marie Picolo, a member of the same Society, and one of the first founders of this mission.

My Lords—It is in obedience to the orders with which you honored me, some days ago, that I am about to render you an exact and faithful account of the discoveries and establishments which we (Father John Marie de Salvatierra and myself) have made during our residence of about five years in this vast region.

We embarked during the month of October, in the year 1697, and crossed the sea which separates California from New Mexico, under the auspices and protection of our Lady of Loretto, whose statue was carried with us. This star of the ocean guided us, together with all our companions, safely into port. As soon as we had landed, we placed the image of the Blessed Virgin in the most suitable place we could discover; and, after the decorating it as much our poverty would permit, we besought this powerful advocate that she would be as propitious to us by land, as she had been by sea.

The Devil, whom we were about to disturb in the peaceable possession of the place over which he had ruled for so many ages, did every thing in his power to overthrow our undertaking, and to prevent us from succeeding. The inhabitants of the country where we landed, not being able to discover our object of withdrawing them from the shades of ignorance and idolatry with which they were surrounded, and of aiding them in the affairs of their internal salvation, for there was no one amongst us who had any knowledge of their language, and they were equally ignorant of ours,—imagined that we had come to their country for the sole purpose of seizing on their pearl-fisheries, as it appears some persons had attempted before to do. Under this impression they took up arms, and rushed in hordes to our habitation, where there was then a small number of Spaniards. The violence with which they attacked us, and the number of arrows and stones which they cast at us, were so great, that our fate was infallibly decided, if the Holy Virgin, who was to us as an army set in order of battle, had not protected us. Those who were with us, succoured from on high, sustained the attack vigorously, and repulsed the enemy so successfully that they soon took to flight.

The savages being rendered more tractable by their defeat, and seeing moreover that they could get nothing from us by force, sent some of their people as deputies to us, we received them amicably, and we soon learned enough of their language to make them comprehend what had induced us to come into their country. These deputies assured their companions of the error into which they had fallen, so that, persuaded of

our good intentions, they flocked in great numbers to see us, and they all testified their joy to learn that we only desired to instruct them in our holy religion, and teach them the way to heaven. Such happy dispositions encouraged us to make ourselves thoroughly acquainted with the Manqui language, which is spoken in these regions.

Two entire years were passed partly in studying it and partly in catechizing these people. Father de Salvatierra took upon himself the charge of the adults, and I, that of the children. The assiduousness with which these youths came to hear the word of God, and their application to learn the Christian doctrine, were so great, that in a very short time they became perfectly instructed in every thing. Many asked of me the holy sacrament of Baptism, but with so many tears and earnest entreaties, that I did not think it becoming me to refuse them. Some sick persons and some old men who appeared sufficiently instructed, also received it, we fearing lest they should die without baptism. And we have reason to think that God had prolonged the days of some of them, only to prepare them this occasion of salvation. There was also about fifty infants at the breast, who took their flight to heaven from the arms of their mothers, after having been regenerated in Christ. Here the missionary enters into an account of their Apostolical labors, the division of the country into missions, &c.) After having laid before your my Lords, this account of the state of religion in this new colony, I will reply now, as far as I am able, to the other articles of the interrogation with which you have honored me. I will tell you in the first place all that we have been able to remark concerning the manners and inclinations of these people; their manner of living, and what grows in their country.

The situation of California, as marked on our ordinary charts, is sufficiently correct. During the summer the heat is very oppressive along the sea coast, and it very seldom rains; but in the interior climate is more temperate, and the heat is never excessive: it is the same with proportion in the winter. During the rainy season there is a deluge of water; when it is passed, in place of rain, the dew is so abundant every morning, that one would think it had rained—this renders the earth very fertile. During the months of April, May and June, there falls with the dew a kind of manna, which becomes congealed and adheres to the leaves of reeds, from which it may be gathered. I have tasted it myself. It is of a little darker hue than sugar, but it is full as sweet. The climate must be healthy, if we judge by ourselves and those who came to the country with us. For during the five years which we have spent in this region, we have always been in good health, notwithstanding the many fatigues which we have endured; and amongst the other Spaniards, only two died, one of whom, a woman, brought her death upon herself by her own imprudence.

In the advantages of extensive plains, delightful valleys, excellent pastures fit for all kinds of cattle, beautiful streams of running water, brooks and rivets whose banks are overgrown with willows, wild roses and grape vines, California is not surpassed by the most favored parts of the world. The rivers are plentifully stocked with fish, but above all they abound in a species of lobsters, which are taken and conveyed into reservoirs where they can be procured when they are needed. I have seen two or three of these reservoirs, which were very elegant and spacious. There is also an abundance of Ac-

mes, which are of a better taste than those eaten throughout Mexico. So that California may be called a very fertile country. Mescales* are found upon the mountains the whole year round also large pistachio nuts of different species, and figs of various colors. The trees are beautiful, and among others that which the Chinos, the natives of the country call Palo Santo. It bears fruit in abundance, and excellent incense can be procured from it.

This country is not less fertile for the production of grain than abounding in fruit. There are no less than fourteen sorts, which these people use for food. They also make a kind of bread with the roots of trees and plants, and among others that called Yyuca. They have also excellent Cheris † a kind of red bean, which are much used, pumpkins and water melons of an extraordinary size. The soil is so fertile that many plants commonly bear fruit three times during the year. Thus the ordinary labor of cultivation, and a little skill in making the most of the rains, would render this country extremely fertile, and there would be neither fruit nor grain which could not be gathered in abundance. We ourselves have already had experience of this, for having brought from New Spain, wheat, buckwheat peas, and different kinds of pulse, we sowed them, and they brought us plentiful crops, although we had no instruments fit for tilling the earth, and were assisted only by an old mule, and a good for nothing plough.

Besides many sorts of animals known to us, that are plentiful here and fit for the table such as stags, rabbits, and others, we found two kinds of fallow animals, which we had never seen before. We called them sheep, because they resemble ours in some measure. The first kind is about the size of a calf one or two years old; its head bears much resemblance to that of a stag, and its horns, which are extremely thick, resemble those of a ram. Its skin is spotted, its tail and hair shorter than the stag's, but the hoof is very large, round and cloven like that of an ox. I have eaten some of these animals; their flesh appeared to me excellent and very tender. The other kind of sheep, some of which are white, others black, differ less from ours.—They are larger and have more wool, this is spun easily and is suitable for manufacture.—Besides these animals, which can be eaten, there are lions, wild cats, and many other similar to those found in New Spain. We brought into California some cows, and a quantity of small cattle, such as sheep and goats, which would have multiplied greatly, if we had not been obliged of necessity at one time to kill many of them. We brought hither some horses and young mares in order to stock the country. We had commenced also to raise some hogs; but as they made too much havoc in the villages, and the women of the country were afraid of them, we determined to exterminate them.

As to the birds all those of Mexico, and nearly all those of Spain, are to be found in California; there are pigeons, turtle doves, larks, partridges of excellent flavor, in abundance, geese, wild ducks, and many other sorts of river and sea fowl.—The sea is plentifully supplied with fish, which have a good taste. Sardines, anchovies and the tawny fish are to be caught; this last suffers itself to be taken on shore with the hand. Whales and all sorts of turtles are also often seen. The shores are covered with heaps of

* Mescales, a fruit peculiar to the country.
† The Cheris is a legume; its root partakes of the nature of the wild turnip, is very mild, sweet and pleasant to the taste, and fit to eat.

shells, much larger than mother of pearl. The salt is not procured from the sea, but there are salt pits in which the salt is white and as clear as crystal, and at the same time so hard, that it is often necessary to break it with a mallet. It would bring a good price in New Spain where salt is so scarce.

It is nearly two centuries since California was discovered; its coasts are famous for their pearl fisheries; it is this which has rendered it the object of the most ardent desires of Europeans, who several times formed enterprises for establishing settlements in it. It would certainly be a great source of wealth to the king, if he would establish a fishery here at his own expense, I do not doubt, besides, that mines could be found in many places, if they were sought for, since this country is in the same climate as the provinces of Chinaloa and Sonora where there are very rich ones.

Although Heaven has been so liberal in regard to the Californians, and although their soil produces of itself, what would not grow elsewhere without much labor and trouble, still they make no use of the abundance or the fertility of their country. Content with the necessaries of life, they trouble themselves little about anything else. The interior of the country is well peopled, especially the northern part; and although the villages are generally composed of twenty, thirty, forty or fifty families, they have no houses. The shade of the trees protects them from the heat of the sun during the day, and they make a kind of roof of the branches and leaves, to protect them from the bad weather during the night. In the winter, they shut themselves up in caves which they make in the ground, where they remain huddled together, like so many beasts. The men are entirely naked, at least all those we have seen. They bind their heads with a band made of very fine linen, or a kind of net work; they wear around their necks, and sometimes on their hands, different figures of mother of pearl well enough wrought and skillfully interlaced, with a little round fruit, nearly the same as the beads which we use for rosaries.—Their arms are bows, arrows, javelins; they always carry them in their hands, either for the chase or to defend themselves against their enemies; for the tribes often make war against each other.

The women there are covered a little more modestly than the men, wearing, from their waist to their knees, a kind of apron which is woven with reeds like the finest mats. They cover their shoulders with the skins of wild beasts, and they wear on their heads like the men, bands of very fine net work. These bands are so neatly made, that our soldiers make use of them to tie their hair; they have also, like the men, necklaces of mother of pearl, mixed with fruit stones, and of shells which hang down to their waists, and bracelets of the same material as the necklaces. The most ordinary occupation of the men and women is spinning. The thread is made of long grass which takes the place of flax and hemp, or of some other cotton like materials which are to be found in the husk of certain fruits. Of the finest thread they make the different ornaments of which I have spoken, and of the coarsest, bags for different uses and nets for fishing. Besides this, the men make a kind of plate and kitchen furniture of quite a new style and of all sizes, with different herbs of which the fibres are extremely close and stringy, and which they work with much skill. The smallest pieces of this manufacture serve as cups, the middle sized ones as plates and dishes and sometimes as