

THE VATICAN AND THE CONGO.

The following is the full text of the convention recently signed between the Vatican and the Congo State:—

"The Holy Apostolic See desirous of favoring the methodical propagation of Catholicism in the Congo and the government of the Independent State appreciating the considerable part that Catholic missionaries have taken in its civilizing mission in Central Africa, have come to a mutual agreement between themselves and also with the representatives of Catholic missions on the Congo, with the view of further assuring the realization of their respective intentions.

"To this effect the undersigned—his Excellency Monsignor Vico, Archbishop of the Philippines, Apostolic Nuncio decorated with several orders, duly authorized thereto by His Holiness Pope Pius X., and the Chevalier de Cuvelier, officer of the Order of Leopold, etc., etc., duly authorized by H. M. Leopold II. King-Sovereign of the Independent State, have agreed to the following provisions:—

(1) The Congo State will concede to the settlement of Catholic missions on the Congo the land necessary for their religious work on the following conditions:—

(2) Each missionary settlement engages to the extent of its resources to found a school where the natives shall receive instruction. The course shall include in particular, instruction in agriculture and forestry, as well as practical professional training in manual industry.

(3) The program of the studies and course of instructions shall be submitted to the Governor General, and the several branches of instruction shall be by joint agreement. The teaching of the national Belgian languages shall constitute an essential part of the program.

(4) Every head of a mission shall periodically report to the Governor General on the organization and development of the schools, the number of students, the progress of the instruction, etc. The Governor General may either personally or by delegate specially appointed assure himself that the school meets all the necessary hygienic and sanitary conditions.

(5) The nomination of each head of a mission shall be notified to the Governor General.

(6) The missionaries engage to perform for the State on condition of indemnity any special work of a scientific nature for which they may be personally competent, such as geographical, ethnographical, and linguistic investigations or studies.

(7) The extent of land to be allotted to each mission, the establishment of which is decided upon by common agreement shall be 250 cultivable acres, it may be increased to 500 acres if the needs and importance of the mission justify it. These lands cannot be alienated and shall remain assigned for the purposes of the work of the mission. These lands are given free and in perpetuity; their site shall be fixed by agreement between the Governor General and the Superior of the mission.

(8) The Catholic missionaries bind themselves, so far as their canonical duties in those centres where the number of converts would render their presence necessary. In the event of fixed residence, the missionaries shall receive from the government a suitable allowance for each particular case.

(9) It is agreed that the two contracting parties shall always impress upon their subordinates the necessity of preserving perfect harmony between

the missionaries and the State agents. If difficulties should arise they are to be settled in a friendly spirit by the local authorities, and if an agreement cannot be arrived at, the local authorities are to refer the matter to their superiors."

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POOR ITALIAN BAKER BUILDS VOTIVE CHAPEL.

Frank Lisanti, a poor Italian baker, was in great peril of death from pneumonia sixteen years ago. There had been placed at the head of his bed an image of the Madonna. He prayed to the Virgin and pledged that should his life be spared he would erect a chapel and dedicate it to the Immaculate Conception.

The life of Lisanti was spared. He worked hard and bought a bakery of his own. By frugal living he has saved some money and this morning there will be dedicated a little chapel, over the door of which is the following inscription:—

"Frank Lisanti and family, as an offering to the Virgin of the Immaculate Conception."

The chapel has been erected and paid for by Lisanti. It stands next door to his little home at 3 Maple Avenue, Williamsbridge. The dedication this morning will be informal and more in the nature of a first opening. The formal dedication will not take place until the return to this country of Archbishop Farley, who is at present in Europe.

Father Casanetti, pastor of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, the largest church in Williamsbridge, will celebrate Mass in the little church this morning, and there will be present only the members of the Lisanti family and a few relatives.

When he recovered from his illness sixteen years ago, Lisanti had no money and was in debt. He had a wife and several children to support, and he started out with two objects in view, the making of a living for himself and family and the building of the chapel. For some years it looked as if his pledge would never be realized, but Lisanti worked hard and in time began to prosper. He eventually started a bakery of his own in Williamsbridge and, although it was a small affair at first, he gradually added to it and now has a good business.

A year ago he started to build the church. The finishing touch was applied on Saturday. It is a very small edifice, but it represents an outlay of over \$3,000 on the part of Lisanti, not to mention the labor and planning he did himself. The baker was architect, builder and almost everything else in the building of the little house of worship. He was assisted in the work by his son and a cousin, Leone Friere. His son-in-law Louis Buonagurio, a decorator, did the frescoing for the interior.

The chapel is 25 by 16 feet on the exterior and 22 by 13 feet inside. The height in front from the ground to the tip of a golden cross is 25 feet. There is room enough for the seating of thirty persons. The front of the structure is of Italian marble. A small organ loft in the front of the interior has been erected and this will be reached by a narrow flight of steps. The main body of the structure is of pressed brick.

Father Casanetti has agreed to celebrate Mass in the chapel at least once every month. The chapel will be subordinate to the church of the Immaculate Conception, in Williamsbridge, of which Father Casanetti is rector.

When Lisanti started to build the church a year ago he called on Archbishop Farley and told the latter what he intended to do. The Archbishop took a great interest in the project and

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promised Lisanti that when the edifice was completed he would personally dedicate it.

Lisanti's wife died several years ago, and the baker was much grieved because she did not live to see his chapel erected. He has six children.—"New York Sun," July 2nd.

A petition, it is reported in the daily Press, has been circulated through-

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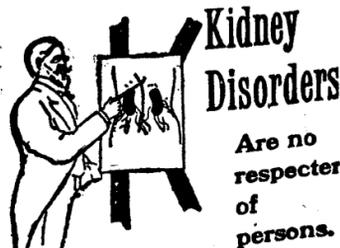
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