

Chinese Devotion to Our Lady

"From one of our men in China we learn that preparations have already commenced for the annual pilgrimage made to the shrine of Our Lady at the Hills. These hills are about twenty miles from Shanghai. During the month of May a festival is held, and while it lasts there are splendid examples of fine Catholic faith.

The opening ceremony commences on April 30 by the firing of a cannon. The following day Masses are said in the two churches, which are situated, one midway up the hill, and the other at the top. The path leading to the latter zig-zags up the steep slope, along which are distributed the fourteen Stations of the Cross. Thousands flock to the celebration, and from morning until night there is a continuous procession of pious pilgrims making their way to the summit, while making the Way of the Cross. The natives come from all parts of the country, and it is not uncommon to see entire families who have journeyed several hundred miles. It might be called the Chinese Lourdes so loved is it by the simple people.

One of the picturesque sights is the hundreds of boats grouped at the base of the hill and along the banks of the canal for more than a mile. This solid mass remains practically unbroken for the entire month, for those who leave are replaced by new comers. The whole month of May is held by the Chinese in reverence and love and one of the surest signs of the lack of faith in an individual is a waning devotion towards the Mother of God."

The dear Christ dwells not afar,
The king of some remoter star,
Listening, at times, with flattered ear
To homage wrung from selfish fear
But here amidst the poor and blind,
The bound and suffering of our kind,
In works we do, in prayers we pray,
Life of our life, He lives today.