

When we read of Pope Leo XIII, bidding three men, ignorant of the language, the islands, and the people, to go forth from the Vatican to win to its spiritual sway the sixteen millions of Polynesians, we are tempted to ask, is this madness, and are they who accept the order not more demented than even the Pope who sends them? Asking the question, there come to the lips the names of Cyril and Methodius, whom this same Pope, so to speak, re-canonicalized the other day, all who went at the bidding of another Pope to the Chersonesus, as distant and as hostile then as Polynesia to-day. Equally there rises to the lips the names of Patrick, of Brendan, of Augustine and a score of others, who to-day on the altars of the Church, were when in the flesh, simple presbyters or bishops, or it might be plain monks without orders, who at the bidding of Peter's successors. Leo's predecessors went to the islands of the sea, to preach the Gospel of peace. The human doubt of the moment is therefore answered by the history of the apostolic past. Pope Leo, in bidding Father Durin of Watertown, N. Y., and his fellow missionaries of the Sacred Heart, "set sail for New Guinea, does nothing more novel, nothing more venturesome than what Celestine did when he sent Patrick to Tara. If the fortunate missionaries who have thus been sent to the dangerous and toilsome front, have made the preparation and will do the work, night and day, of their French ancestor in the apostolate, the age may come, when the civilized and Christianized millions of the swarming Celebes may bless their names, as to-day the names of Patrick and Boniface are honored. We have no record of the interview of these earlier apostles, with the then holder of the Keys, but it