THE CATHOLIC RECORD.

THE CHURCH MILITANT. "The Warrior Monks of the Sahara-A New Order of Chivalry.

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BY F. CUNLIFFE OWEN.

France is indeed a land of surprises and paradoxes. Who in the world could have dreamt that the last decade of this prosaical, matter-of-fact and commonplace nineteenth century would witness the revival of one of the most romantic features of the Middle Ages and that, too, by the most sceptical, cynical and superficial people under the sun? For it is members of the jeunesse doree of France who have formed the first contingent of the holy order known as the Warrior Monks of the Sahara. The latter are the modern embodiment of the Knights of Malta and Knights Templars of crusading The steel helmet is replaced by days. one made of cork, with duly patented ventilating apparatus; the visor, in-stead of being of metal, is of cloth similar to those worn by the Tuareg Arabs, and in lieu of the pennoned lance. there is a far more deadly weapon in the shape of a repeating rifle. The object in view, however, is the same, namely: the delivery of slaves from bondage, and the propagation of Christianity by means not of the Gospel alone, but of the Gospel allied to the sword.

CARDINAL LAVIGERIE, to whom the merit of this extraordinary revival belongs, has lived long enough in Africa to learn that the one is indis-pensable to the other — at any rate, among the turbulent and warlike races who inhabit the northern half of the Dark Continent. He has witnessed the marvellous success of the Moslem pro selytism, which, although attended by violence and bloodshed, has imparted a certain amount of civilization and enlightenment to nations steeped in the very lowest depths of pagan bar-After comparing the many milbarism lions of converts to Mohammedanism to the relatively few thousands of converts to Christianity in Africa, and after a careful and profound study of the problem — a study for which his breadth of mind and liberality of view particularly fitted him—he has come to the conclusion that the system of sending out unarmed missionaries to preach the gospel and nothing but the gospel among the savages was all wrong ; that both the heroism and the martyrdom of these pioneers of Chris-tianity were entirely wasted, and that if any material good were to be achieved it could only be done by means of a radical change.

With this purpose in view he has founded the order of the Warrior Monks of the Sahara. Instead of meekly bow ing their heads to receive the martyr's crown, they will fight for their lives They will seek to attract sympathy and good-will by developing the productiveness of the oases, and by the creation of new ones, where they will form stations for the relief of the sick, for the offer of hospitality to all comers and for the refuge and

PROTECTION OF FUGITIVE SLAVES. Their aim will be to afford practical demonstration of the benefits and advantages of civilization, to preach by example the elements thereof, and to thus prepare the ground for conversion to Christianity. The latter, although the practical object, is the last in order. For Cardinal Lavigerie proposes that instead of proselytism preparing the ground for the seeds of civilization, it is the elements of civilization which are to prepare the ground for the seeds of Christianity. Civilization will act as forerunner instead of following in

tulants were twelve in number, every one of whom belonged to the French aristocracy, and had held the rank of Among them are officer in the army. two young lieutenant-colonels of the general staff who had abandoned a M. d brilliant military career to devote from their lives henceforth to the good of humanity in the most terrible of all deserts. But probably the most notable of these neophytes was the Vicomte Guy de Brissac, one of the best-known and most popular of Parisian club-men. His achievements on the turf as the owner of a small but exceedingly choice stable were only equalled by his successes in the salons and boudoirs of the gay capital; and if ever there has been one who has merited description as a spoiled child of fortune Guy de Brissac was the man. A year ago his fiancee, whom he worshipped, died of a rapid decline - that strange malady which seems to enhance and ethereal-ize the beauty of its victims, and to illumine their eyes with a strange Schamyl

light. She rests beneath a snowy marble cross in the pretty little cemetery that nestles among the pine trees at Arcachon, and to-day her lover, the pleas ure-seeking, sceptical and worldly Guy de Brissac, who had disappeared from all his accustomed haunts since her death, turns up at Biskra, on the borders of the great desert. in the guise of the newly consecrated

WARRIER MONKS OF THE SAHARA. To those who are accustomed to consider the life of a monk as devoted entirely to prayer, fasting, meditation, and flagellation, the mode of existence of the members of Cardinal Lavigerie's newly-founded order will appear a strange anomaly. Fasting is dispensed with altogether, and the only dietary restrictions imposed upon the marks are that they shall invariably content themselves with the food of the district to which they are assigned. Thus, for instance, in places where it is impos-sible to obtain bread, they will have to be satisfied with dried dates. There is no fixed time appointed for their devotions. They are left free to pray when the spirit moves them to do so, and Sunday, instead of being applied to solemn services is observed by military drill, and by rifle, sword and pistol practice. The rules, however, demand that they should never sleep otherwise than fully dressed and with their wea-pons beside them, so as to be always ready for an emergency. The rules of the order have been formulated by Car dinal Lavigerie himself, and every line of them contains evidence of the remarkable liberality, common sense, and breadth of view of their illustrious author, a prince of the Church who has not considered it amiss to inaugurate in Algeria dromedary races, with all the usual accompaniment of book-makers, professional bettors, and other analogous fungi of the turf, for the

purpose of creating an incentive toward the improvement of the animal known as the "ship of the desert." One of the principal features of the ceremony of administering the vows to the monks consisted in the solemn blessing by the Cardinal of their arms, of their equipment, and of their attire or uniform. The last consists of a long white tunic, descending below the knee, belted at the waist, and with a

large red Maltese cross on the breast. The pantaloons are loose and baggy. such as those affected by the Turks the old school; a voluminous white burnoose hangs from the shoulders, and on the head is a white pith or straw helmet, surmounted on grand occasions by a white plume, and embellished in

The First Anti-Slavery Preacher. IN THE OLD, HARD THE BRILLIANT MARQUIS DE BRECOURT. who died a couple of weeks ago, to assume the habit of a friar, and to become the humble night porter of the monastery of the Grande Chartreuse. M. de Brecourt, coming home one day First from a shooting expedition, and find-American Continent:' ing himself unable to extract the cartridge from his gun, discharged it into a thicket. His only daughter happened to be standing behind it, and was killed on the spot. Curiously enough, the day porter of the Grande Chartreuse, who died within a few days of the Marquis de Brecourt, was tesino a man who in secular life had been still more widely known, and whose

name figures prominently in modern European history ; for, prior to his conversion to Catholicism by Bishop Dupanloup, he was one of the most famous generals of the Russian army, and was commander-in-chief during the Caucasian campaign which resulted in the subjection and everthrow of

Two days after pronouncing their which, instead of being taken for life, are limited to a term of five ears, renewable at will, five of the Warrior Monks started out for Wargla. an important oasis about three hun dred miles to the south of Biskra. is there that the first of the armed stations projected by Cardinal Lavi-gerie is to be established. It is entirely surrounded by sand, a green The island in an ocean of fire. econd station will be at the oasis of Mes Jonah, near the Morocco frontier, which is traversed by all the great slave caravans coming from the south, and which has acquired a peculiarly evil name, owing to the fact of it being the place where lads are mutilated to render them fit for service as guardians of the various harems throughout the Mohammedan world More than fifty per cent. perish from loss of blood, which is stanched in the most primitive manner, i e, by burying them for the space of twenty-four hours up to their necks in the burning hot sand, leaving only their heads heads exposed to the torturing bites of the insects and the scorching rays of the sun. It is here where the military training of the Warrior Monks will be brought into full play. For the slave dealers are sure to make a hard to prevent the establishment fight within the narrow limits of the oasis of a fortified station where every slave who is able to effect his or her escap from their cruel hands is certain to find a refuge and protection.

The slave-dealers, however, extend their activity even to the very doors of Biskra, which, as stated above, is built on an oasis, and one of the most dramatic features of the ceremony of the consecration of the monks was when Cardinal Lavigerie led to the altar a little brown girl barely nine years old, who had succeeded in con cealing herself, and in effecting her escape from a slave caravan passing through the desert a few miles to the south of Biskra, A sudden movement of the child caused her to drop some thing that she was holding concealed beneath the folds of her djebba. The venerable prelate bent down and raised it from the ground. small dusky hand — the hand of the little girl who stood beside him, and which in sheer, wanton cruelty had been cut off by her captors. Holding it aloft, and pointing it southward toward the great Sahara, while with his own hand he raised the child's arm, so that all present could see the mangled stump, the Cardinal exclaimed in tones which seemed to ring forth as a clarion : "I would to God that all Europe could see this little hand !

The Catholic News says: We take the following, by Rev. A. H. Howard, Ph. D., from the Independent, where it appears under the heading of "The Anti-Slavery Preacher on the

"It would seem that the first person successfully to lift up his voice against the abomination of human slavery on the American continent was a certain Dominican friar named Antonio Mon-

"With the first arrival in America of Europeans came the curse of slavery. Even pious Columbus sanctioned it, deeming the Indians better off as slaves of Christians(?) than as free savages

"In 1503 Queen Isabella of Spain gave to Ovando, governor of His-paniolo, discretionary power to compel the Indians to work, but for wages. This permission was soon abused. This tyranny was continued until the natives were in danger of extermina Africans were finally imported tion.

to the old, hard rut through life, when the easy and pleasant road is open to to take the place of these decimated them. For instance, many toil and slave natives. "On Columbus' third voyage, in 1498. over the washing, steaming themselves to Hispaniola, he was accompanied by half to death, and rubbing their a young man of great ability and as noble as he was able, who was destined fingers sore to get the clothes clean ; to impress himself most beneficially and ineffaceably on the fortunes of the new world, Bartholomew Las Casas. In a mild way this Las Casas at once protested against the iniquity of slavery which he saw rapidly taking root and springing up in the Spanish American colonies. I was not, however, until, in 1510, cer tain Dominicans, with Antonio Mon tesino at their head, came to Hispani ola, that this crying iniquity was firs adequately dealt with-was roundly fearlessly and unqualifiedly de

nounced. This same Father Anthony de Mon tesino is, as far as we can learn, the first priest who with his companion, Father Cervantes, is known to have offered the Holy Sacrifice within the limits of the United States. This first worship of Almighty God took place at the settlement of St. Michael de Guan-dape, founded by Lucas Vasquez de Ayllon, on the spot where the English some eighty years afterward founded Jamestown, on James river in Virginia. All honor to Father Montesino, our pioneer priest !

recent examinations for entrance to High schools and for teachers' certificates has been highly creditable, thus maintaining the excellent reputation it has long borne, and reflecting great credit on the teachers, two Sisters of the Congregation de Notre Dame. Out of six pupils advised to write for the entrance five were successful, average ing considerably over the pass stand ing; the one who failed had been but three months in school. For district teachers' certificate two wrote, and both passed with credit. One obtained a regular third class certificate. The Public school in the same place sent up four for entrance, all of whom had failed at previous examinations ; three passed but with marks averaging con siderably below those of the Separat school pupils — the highest from the Puplic school having 423 marks, and from the Separate school 527.

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the wake of the gospel. The headquarters of the order are at

Biskra, on the Algerian borders of the Great Sahara Desert, and were solemnly consecrated by Cardinal Lavigerie in the early part of the month. The name of the spot is M'salla, which is the Arabec designation for a "place of prayer." The estate contains a plan-tation of palms in full bearing, and is traversed in part by a small irrigation canal, which is the share of the precious fluid it is entitled to from the neighboring town. Great stretches of ground are, however, uncultivated for want of water, and measures have already been taken for its reclamation by the creation of an artificial supply. A well was sunk to a depth of fifty three metres, the water of which, de clared to be practically inexhaustible, rises naturally to within thirty-two metres of the mouth of the well, and is thence raised by pumps to the surface. A second well has also been dug, in order to provide auxiliary resources The monks will therefore be trained in the method of Saharan culture as well as in the use of arms, while the neighborhood of the illimitable tracts of th desert will enable them to acquire the most savage accomplishments of camelriding and hunting by practice. house, occupying an area of seventy metres by ten, with the kitchens and offices in out-buildings, has the groundfloor solidly built of stone instead of sun-dried mud bricks generally used by the Arabs.

THE CHOICE OF BISKRA for the headquarters of the order is a fortunate one, for the town, which is situated in an oasis, commands one of the principal routes of the Soudan The town proper is composed of one large street, full of European houses, and intersected by a number of smaller streets. The oasis, which is five kilometres long and half a kilometre broad, forms a forest of 150,000 palm trees. The population is cosmopolitan, and includes French, Tunisians, Arabs,

M'salla the ceremony of conse- and there is more than one who has crating and of administering been led to take the vows of the order the vows to the first batch of the by circumstances as tragical as those Warrior Monks took place. The pos- which impelled

front with A RED MALTESE CROSS.

The entire costume bears some analogy to that with which Daudet invested the ecclesiastics who accompanied the famous expedition of the immortal Tartarin de Tarascon. It should be added that, except when on the move or when fighting, they will invariably wear the veil of white or black cloth covering both the nose and the mouth, which is in use among the Tuareg These yeils, which are tied tribes. loosely at the back of the head, protect he mouths and nostrils from the terrible glare, and from the sand during the desert storms.

It is among these "Tuargs, the most fierce, bloodthirsty, fanatic and untamable of all Moorish races in Africa, that their lot is to be cast. They proceed among them with a knowledge that every one of the unarmed missionary priests who have gone before during the last three decades have been cruelly put to death. They profess the mos intolerant, bigoted and fanatica and fanatical Mohammedanism, and hold all intercourse or contact with a Christian as sinful in the sight of the Prophet. It is their irreconcilable hostility which renders all projects for the construction of the great trans-Saharan railroad impossible, and it is worthy of note that the oases which it is proposed that the Warrior Monks should occupy, hold and develop are precisely those situated along the route of the contemplated railroad. The Tuaregs are all members of the Senousi fraternity, a sect

which not only hold that it is wicked to salute, speak or trade with unbelievers, but also that it is lawful and even godly to rob and kill every Christian that they meet. There seems to be no lack of volun-

teers, or, to speak more correctly, of postulants for admission to the new order of the Warrior Manks of the Over one hundred and thirty Sahara. have already arrived at Biskra, and have commenced the novitiate, which

Moores and Israelites. A few days after the inauguration of the mother house of the order at without more or less romantic history, ships of desert life. Few of them are

May it serve to direct your line of En avant for God, for France march. and for humanity !"-Harper's Weekly.

Gone to His Rest.

On August, the 17th inst., there passed away, in the person of Mr. Patrick Derham, of Tottenham, Ont., one of the pioneers of Catholicity in this section of the country. Mr. Derham was born in the country of Gal-and count of the country of the country at an Catholicity in this section of the phonetrs of Gal-way, Ireland, and came to this country at an early age, when the right hand of fellowship was not extended to Catholics as freely or spontaneously by our dissenting brethren as at the present time. But, despite these disad-vantages and difficulties, Mr. Derham, by his honorable dealings and business tact, compelled the better to recognize in him a man wortby of respect and the more rational a fellowman whom they could esteem and love. Thus it was that he, and others like him, smoothed away the prejudices with which his co-religionists were confronted on every side. Pleased with the country and its possibilities he resolved to lamch forth into business, and forthwith opened a general store. In this he was eminently successful, for in a short time he built up a trade exten-sive and lucrative. While yet young Mr. Derham married Miss Judge, at one time a resi-dent of Ottawa, and, later, of Toronto, and sister of Mrs. Koderick kyan and Dr. Judge, of ottawa. At the time of his death Mr. Der-ham was seventy-six years of age. He leaves a wife and three children to mourn his loss. Of a retiring disposition he did not covet honors or fame, but deepdown in the hearts of those who knew him there lingers sentiments of affection for him; and the prayer that instinctively rises to their lips is: "O Lord teach us to live as he has lived, that we may die as he has died." May he rest in peace! " Five years ago I had a constant

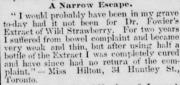
"Five years ago I had a constant cough, nigh sweats, was greatly reduced in flesh, and had been given up by my physicians. I began to take Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, and after using two bottles of this medicine, was completely cured."-Anga A. Lewis, Ricard, N. Y.

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sore. Mr. Wm. Boyd Hill, Cobourg, writes: "Having used Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil for some years, I have much pleasure in testifying to its efficacy in relieving pains in back and shoulders. I have also used it in cases of croup in children, and have found it to be all that you claim it to be."

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proves that this medicine "makes the w strong." It does not act like a stinuth imparting fictitious strength, but Ho Sarsaparilla builds up in a perfectly nate way all the weakened parts, purifies blood, and assists to healthy action the important organs, the kidneys and liver. th A Narrow Escape.



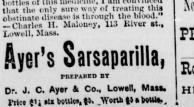
Forono. ©One or two bottles of Northrop & Lyman Vegetable Discovery will purify the bloo remove Dyspepsia, and drive away th extreme tired feeling which causes so mu extreme tired feeling which causes so must the distress to the industrious, and persons sedentary habits. Mr. W. E. Ellis, Druggi Fenelon Falls, writes : "The Veretab Discovery is selling well and giving goo satisfaction."

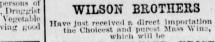


IS a blood disease. Until the poison is expelled from the system, there can be no cure for this loathcome and dangerous malady. Therefore, the only effective treatment is a thorough course effective treatment is a thorough course of Ayer's Sarsaparilla – the best of all blood purifiers. The sooner you begin the better; delay is dangerous.

the better; delay is dangerous. "I was troubled with catarth for over two years. I tried various remedies, and was treated by a number of physi-cians, but received no benefit until I began to take Ayer's Sarsaparilla. A few bottles of this medicine cured me of this troublesome complaint and com-pletely restored my health."-Jesse M. Boggs, Holman's Mills, N. C. (SWhop, Apple Sarsaparilla med per-ter and the same set of the same set of the same set.

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"When Ayer's Sarsaparilla was recommended to me for catarrh, I was inclined to doubt its efficace. Having tried so many remedies, with little benefit, I had no faith that anything would or approximate the sense of smell, and my system was badly deranged. I was about discouraged, when a friend urged me to try Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and referred me to persons whom it had cured of this medicine, I am convinced that the only sure way of treating this obstinate disease is through the block." - Charles H. Maloney, 113 River st., Lowell, Mass.





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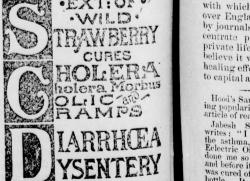
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