THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICIAS:

Professional

Montre

ZAMBESI MISSIONS,

There is an organ called the "Zam-besi Mission Record," published in that far off region. In a recent number it declares that the Zambesi Mission has attained its silver jubilee. It also gives a very interesting de-tailed account of the work done in the twenty-five years just elapsed. While it would not be possible for us to reproduce the entire article, nor even the principal portions thereof, one cannot allow such a splendid testimony to the efficacy of the Church's missionary and civilizing work to go unnoticed. We will, therefore, summarize the entire article, in as brief a space as possible, and support the same with extracts calculated to give a general glimpse of that immen field.

It was on the 7th, or, as some accounts say, the 8th February, 1879, that the Zambesi mission received its official recognition and delimitation from the Holy See. The Mission was situated to the North of Cape Colony both south and north of the Zambesi river. While St. Adrian's College in Grahamstown had been in existence some five years, still it was only in 1879 that the mission was really founded and organized.

. . .

BEGINNINGS :- "Those who have followed the course of the history of the Zambesi Mission, as it has unfold ed itself in successive numbers of this journal, may remember that the first start was made from Grahamstown into the interior of the country-what is now Rhodesia—on April 16, 1879, when a party of Jesuit missioners, Fathers and lay brothers under the leadership of Father H. Depelchin, S.J., the first Superior of the mission amid the enthusiasm of the Catholics of that town and with the solemn blessing of its Apostolic Bishop, bravely set their faces towards the then almost unknown region of the Zambesi with the intention of converting its despised black inhabitants -Matabele, Mashonr Barotse and other tribes

"The sacrifice of precious lives was indeed great, including that of the saintly Father Augustus Henry Law and many others, and the Zambesi mission thus earned the noble distinction of having laid its foundations on heroic self-sacrifice and on the lives of the many generous sours, martyrs of charity at least, if they did not actually shed their blood for the faith This is a precious inheritance for those who come after them and have to walk in the first footsteps of the early missioners, who did more than achieve success, for they had deserved it. Again, the savage potentate who with a rule of terror south of the Zambesi-Lobengula-was a complete hinderance to the conversion of the Matabele. To receive baptism in the days of this redoubtable king was to render oneself suspect and to run certain risk of destruction. Other religious denominations, too had got the start, and their influence, to put it mildly, was not in our favor even if the opposition was not ways apparent. The result was the shattering of many bright expectations, and the sickness of hope de ferred: and there began the long years of hopeless waiting which were more trying and exhausting then even active persecution would have been.'

. . .

BETTER DAYS. - "Meanwhile th dawn of better days was breaking in Matabeleland. The power of Lobengula was being crushed by the Char tered Company. The Pioneer col ns were advancing into the hear of Matabeleland and Mashonaland, by Jesuit Fathers as chaplains, bu by two different parties of Dominican Sisters from King William's Town in Cape Colony, who, like the heroine they were, had volunteered for a service of hardships and dangers, and who cheerfully and successfully braved a lot which demanded courage and endurance on the part of strong men. These good Sisters served in the improvised hospitals on the march, and in the earlier days of the permanent hospitals established in the different centres of Salisbury, Bulawayo, Victoria and Gwelo. nding, like ministering angels, the beds of the sick and the sore stricken, and earning the undying gratitude of the tender-hearted, rough pioneers Thus was established the beginning of our work for the Europeans in the esrtwhile territory of Lobengula aad the Mashonasi and churches, schools and convents have sprung up at the different centres just mentioned."



OUR

lows :

school !"

of good,"

with a laugh.

chance came to reap a harvest converts. Missions were native founded in Chishawasha, Empandeni, Mashonaland and Matabeleland. Last Christmas, in the first-named station four hundred natives approached Holy Communion. The Trappists from Natal founded a mission station in the east of Mashonaland, but it had to be abandoned on the breaking out of the rebellion of 1896. In Rhodesia there are now eight Churches for Europeans and natives, six convents and seven schools. In the two areas of the Zambesi Mission there are over sixty Jesuits-Fathers and lay brothers-engaged in different kinds , of work; while in Rhodesia there are about fifty Dominican Sisters and seven of the Order of Notre Dame, as well as the Community of Trappists

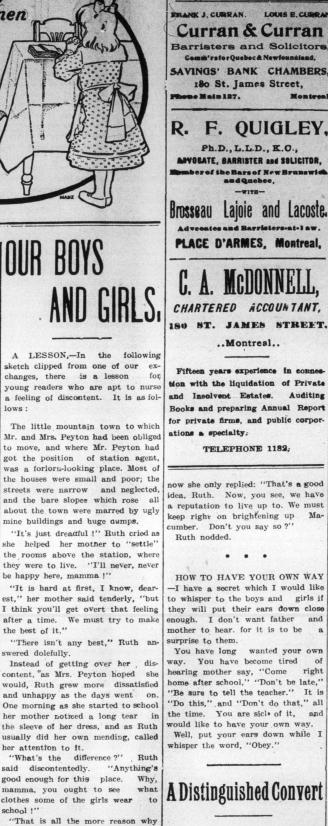
The baptisms throughout the mission number several thousands. We will now close with an extract regarding the future of that great mission.

. . .

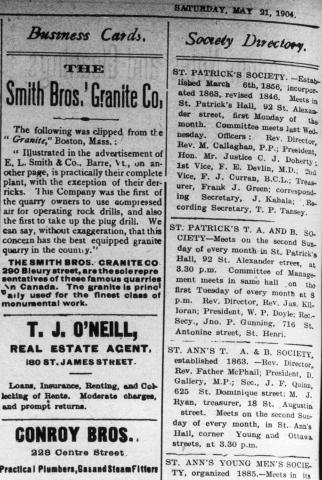
LOOKING FORWARD, -After re marking that much of the missionary progress will depend on the material progress in the future, the writer says :

"With these preluninary cautions we think we may humbly expect that a fair rate of progress during the next twenty-five years will wait upon our efforts. Some good seed has been sown, and the acceptance of our teaching amongst the natives, espe-cially in Mashonaland, is becoming more willing every day. But if we are to extend our field of operations we shall want more helpers and more help. Now that the railway is being continued north of the Zambesi, we intend, if requisite conditions are fulfilled, to open in a few months a mission station beyond that river. If it is to be the centre of really , effective effort, smaller off-shoots will have to spring up all around. The prospects there are fairly favorable, though many and serious difficulties will have to be overcome. We shall hope also to at least extend our work in the neighborhood of our existing stations, and to make them the nucleus of an important series of sub-stations. Already, at Empandeni, an out-station some eight miles away on the River Embakwe has been built which three or four years ago would have been considered a substantial establishment for the main station. In the Cape Colony, too especially at Keilands, where prospects of extension in the Transke seem fair, we shall hope for considerable progress. Altogether, in spite of

many discouragements and difficulties, the prospects are fairly good, and even at the present rate of advance immense strides will have been made, under God's blessing, at the end of another twenty-five years.



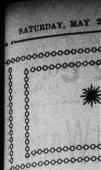
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TY, organized 1885 .- Meets in its hall, 157 Ottawa street, on the first Sunday of each month, at 2.30 p.m. Spiritual Adviser, Rev. Father Flynn, C.SS.R.; President, P. Kenehan; Treasurer, Thomas O'Connell; Rec.-Sec., Robt. J. Hart.

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CHAPTER X.-Cont

2nd

Six months had elapsed girls had graduated with om the convent. Agne be expected, had gone fo orld as joyfully as she from it to enter school, tired of the rules and t duties imposed upon her are religiously inclined upon her as being utto but such was not true; d heart she was a truly. C who was destined to ma woman of the world. H ing was a too ardent d joys and pleasures of life naturally innocent heart vent bred girl there was of the dangers which mig

outside.

With Cecelia it had b She was happy in the p soon being at home with and grandmother, but s realized until toward th dear the convent life was superior intellect had gi clearer insight of the w world, and she secretly ing in contact with it. she could enjoy the quie own home and be free with strangers or purely ple, she was comparat Each morning she arose tend Mass, and once a proached the holy table lowed her example for a soon grew lax, complain put too much restraint u soon contented herself day services, an occasi Mass, and the Sacrame month and on feast da attended to with the st arity, thus keeping herse

Now the evening long

ward too, not only b

but by the entire fami True to her promise to niece on a level with he Mrs. Daton was not co having given Agnes a g but was resolved to undone by which to see a partner for her as sh own, and she would no until she saw her settle she could always live u training. In the moth own child was withou she would have been had Cecelia possessed r pride which she found deeply deplored the fac would make friends of often did she feel it he sure her for frequent where she thought a ye her standing ought no Colud she have heard showered upon their by the inhabitants of nements and known how were made lighter by t Cecelia's kind words an her heart might have Agnes often joined C rounds among the po have spent much of h ance on them, but Cece the fact that the g

though earning a com port, would welcome from her child, often d ly hint to that effect. never knew that to he due the many kindnesse Agnes, and it was as self that she did not. ther's tenderest love s daughter for her good ed God for having sen which she could be bro wished. It had been umph for her poor sa when she had gone with the Datons to se duate and had been knowledged as the mo Cullen, who by many ed upon as an orpha had tried to prevail u attend the grand re evening, offering to p able outfit, but she fir the plea that she wo out of place. Neither suasions nor Agnes' p to change her. At le sented to spend the a evening with the girls but she wor among company. It was with her mot Agnes had just comple when she entered ner o to find that Cecelia he get ready. Advancing dresser she said :

. . . MARKED PROGRESS. -- The pow-pends on the degree of capable of inspiring. er of Lobengula having gone,



The American agricultural machin-

chine through the White City.

gion where the people still live as

with his Chaldean flocks.

when Abraham crossed the same fields

pends on the degree of loyaity he is

into

she'd be more comfortable here than waiting-room down stairs. The lady looked with interest at

you should keep your clothes neat and well-mended, Ruth," her mother

answered. Perhaps your example

may do some good. Remember dear

"I don't believe it will do a bit

"For all that, we must have that

tear mended," her mother answered,

On Saturday after school had clos

ed, Ruth and her mother were busy

tidying up the cosy sitting-room, when Mr. Peyton came up stairs with

up from the east, and was to change

"Her train's been delayed, so that

it.s about an hour late," Mr. Peyton

explained to his wife, "and I thought

a stranger, a lady, who had

here to a branch road.

Ruth insisted. "Nobody

come

every place is worth our best."

here cares what we do."

the plain but attractive room, at the row of thrifty plants in the dow, at Ruth and her mother. and her face lighted up with a pleasant smile

ery that has been introduced , "'It is kind of you to let me spend Palestine seems to have revolutionizmy hour here," she said, "It is quit ed the methods of working and living there. Not long since, Abul Rahman in keeping with what I have heard of you Pasha, a wealthy man of Damascus,

"Heard of us ?" Mrs. Peyton and ordered a steam threshing machine Ruth exclaimed together in astonishfrom Indiana. Consul Ramdal, at ment Beirut, says that the most spectacu-

'Yes." the other answered with he lar scene ever witnessed in Damascus pleasant smile. "A friend of mine was the triumphal march of this macame on from California several It weeks ago, and her train was delay was as when a circus comes to town ed here for some minutes. She told in this country. On its way to the Pasha's estate in the country it me that it was like an oasis in the it desert, after the dingy. dreary stabroke down several bridges, but it tions and houses she had met . at was pulled up and finally reached its other places.' destination, to do the work of thousands of old-fashioned flails, in a re

When the stranger's train had com and gone, Ruth began to bustle about energetically. "I believe I'll take down my bedroom curtains and wash them this afternoon, mamma They need it."

Her mother smiled, for Ruth had Much of a man's success in life deobjected to washing the curtains the week before, declaring that they look ed well enough for Macumber, bu

-190

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