

THE CHURCH IN INDIA

CREATION OF NATIVE PRIESTHOOD SHOULD HAVE FAR-REACHING RESULTS

What is the future of the Catholic Church in India?

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The greatest is forcing 3,000,000 Catholics in India to better organization. It is causing the inevitable crumbling of the Hindu caste system.

In view of these facts and conditions the N. C. W. C. News Service has prepared a series of three articles on the missionary movement in India.

There are now 3,000,000 Catholics in this great country of more than 300,000,000 people.

There are two American missionary congregations—the Congregation of the Holy Cross—which has had its laborers in the field since 1858 and the Missouri Province of the Society of Jesus.

There are also missionary priests from many European countries in a fighting force for Catholicity that last year included priests from thirteen religious orders and foreign missionary societies.

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To the spread of the faith through this devoted army of laborers there are momentous obstacles which may be overcome only by tireless energy and inexhaustible patience.

THE BARRIER OF CASTE

The first of these is the caste system of the Hindus—and the Hindus represent three-fourths of the population of India.

The most popular of the Hindu deities is the goddess Kali, black of face, fierce of eye and with blood trickling from her gory mouth and protruding tongue.

Nowhere on earth are such appalling sacrifices made in the name of religion, as among that class of devotees known as Hindu "ascetics."

devotees known as Hindu "ascetics." Mothers will throw their babies in a bush of thorns, that the cries of the innocent child may reach the ears of their gods.

But surpassing the mortifications of the people is the patience and superstitious fear with which these people will observe the caste system, which raises its pitiless social barriers to divide the people into classes at their birth.

Among these Hindus, according to a recent contributor to the Catholic World, himself a non-Catholic, the foreign missionaries who can do the most effective work are the Irish Catholics, especially those who aspire to nationality for Ireland.

"The world does not seem to realize," writes G. B. Lal, "how profound is the sympathy for Ireland among the vast bulk of the people of India."

Christianity, the same writer declares further, "is rejected by the high-class Hindus when offered by the Scotch or English Protestant hand, may yet take root in India if brought there by Americans of Irish Catholic parentage and frame of mind."

Sharply in contrast to the Hindu is the Mohammedan of India, numbering 70,000,000, sleek, fat and physically more sturdy and vigorous than his Hindu neighbor.

Gandhi, the leader of the non-co-operative movement in India is a Hindu. Shakti and Mohammed Ali—who like Gandhi, have been jailed by the British Government, are Mohammedans.

GREAT MISSIONARY CONQUESTS

Catholicity in India dates back to Apostolic times. The East Indian Church was founded by the Apostle St. Thomas and his Christians of the St. Thomas Malabar rite sent a bishop to the Council of Nice in 325.

The present missionary movement may be said to go back to 1836 and during the past seventy-five years the missionary conquests have been great.

But the future promises to see greater strides.

Perhaps the most significant event from a Catholic point of view, held in India in recent years, was the Marian Congress of last year in Madras, a great missionary movement whose purpose was the conversion of India and the Orient.

OBITUARY

REV. H. J. GIBNEY

On Wednesday morning, March 29th, they occurred at his home in Alliston the death of one of the oldest and most esteemed citizens in the person of Rev. Father H. J. Gibney.

He was born in Toronto, Aug. 10, 1846, educated in St. Michael's College, where he completed his academic studies in 1869.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 1870, and served in various parishes in Ontario and Quebec.

He was a member of the Holy Trinity, St. Paul's and St. Joseph's churches in Toronto.

DIED

DELANEY.—At Ottawa, Ont., on March 28, 1922, Mr. Patrick Delaney, aged seventy-four years, May his soul rest in peace.

MRS. DANIEL O'CONNOR

In the death of Mrs. Daniel O'Connor, which took place at her home on the 3rd inst., Osgoode lost one of its oldest and most respected residents.

The deceased lady, whose maiden name was Mary Catherine McMahon, was born in Ottawa seventy-two years ago but resided in Osgoode since her marriage in 1871.

The late Mrs. O'Connor was a lady of charming disposition of friendship and kindness to all who came in contact with her.

Besides her husband Mrs. O'Connor leaves to mourn her loss eight children, the six daughters are: Rev. Sister M. St. Patrick of the Loretto Orders, Toronto, Rev. Sister St. Catherine of Sienna of the Grey Nuns of the Cross, Ottawa, The Misses Lizzie, Annie, Jessie at home, Mrs. J. M. Benoit of Verner, Ont., two sons James and Daniel.

The very lengthy funeral cortege gave evidence of the high esteem in which the deceased was held.

On Thursday morning the 6th inst. her sorrowing friends and relatives gathered to pay their last tribute of respect when her remains were borne to John's church where Requiem Mass was chanted by Rev. Gerald H. Gorman, P. P. of Osgoode and thence to John's cemetery where she was laid to rest in the family plot.

Many tributes of sympathy were received from friends some of whom were: Rev. Father Fay, Rev. Father A. J. Gorman, Rev. Father

THE CANADIAN PILGRIMAGE

A large party of Canadian people sailed from St. John, on April 21st, by the Canadian Pacific steamer "Corican" for the Canadian Pilgrimage to Rome under the direction of Thos. Cook & Son.

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MCCARROLL.—In Mount Forest, Ont., on March 14, 1922, Mr. John McCarroll, in his seventy-eighth year. May his soul rest in peace.

MORRIS.—In Biddeford, on March 25th, 1922, Julia L., daughter of Thomas Morris. May her soul rest in peace.

SKELLY.—On April 6th, 1922, at 12 1/2 Mt. Royal Boulevard, Outremont, Montreal, Mary A. Coffey, widow of the late Michael Skelly. May her soul rest in peace.

CREIGHTON.—At St. Joseph's Hospital, London, on Monday, April 10, 1922, James Creighton, in his seventieth year. May his soul rest in peace.

THE PURE IN HEART

Even while the clouds and light are struggling for the mastery on earth, purity turns faith into sight; for the pure in heart wait not for heaven. They see God now, and they see him everywhere; and as joy brought purity, so purity brings fresh joy.—Father Faber.

FOR ADOPTION. BABY girl aged nearly three months. Apply Box 26, North Waterloo, Ont. 25753.

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