

## 'The Foreign Missions'

Sermon by Rev. W. C. McGrath  
at St. Patrick's Church, Sunday, August 10th.

"And He said to them: Go ye into the whole world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." (Mark XVI. 15.)

This evening, my brethren, with the kind approbation of His Grace the Archbishop, it is my privilege to address to you on behalf of the Foreign Missions a word of explanation and of appeal. The question of the Foreign Missions is so manifold that it is difficult in one discourse to do it justice. This evening, however, lest I should not again have the opportunity, I will confine myself principally to the story of our work in Canada, of what has already been accomplished and what yet remains to be done.

### STORY OF THE WORK.

You are all no doubt familiar with the name of Rev. J. M. Fraser. It was through the columns of the Catholic Record that I first learned of the great work he was doing in China and you have probably learned of it through the same source. During the last two years it has been my privilege to work with Father Fraser in the establishing of a seminary for the Foreign Missions, a place of training for young men who have decided to vote their lives to the work of the conversion of China. This work he began singlehanded five years ago, and it is in great measure due to his perseverance and untiring efforts that it is now such a wonderful success. When Father Fraser left Canada for China in 1919, shortly after his ordination, he was as far as that country was concerned, a pioneer in missionary endeavor. At the time of his departure and for many years afterwards, he was the only English-speaking Catholic missionary from the whole of North America, and little was known of the Chinese Missions among the people of either Canada or the United States. The story of what he accomplished in China during his fifteen years of strenuous work would occupy far more time than I have at my disposal this evening.

### GREAT SCARCITY OF WORKERS.

One great fact that impressed him, as it impressed every missionary, was the appalling scarcity of workers for the vastness of the field. His own parish, for example, where he worked with one Chinese Curate, contained twelve times as many souls as the whole of Newfoundland. In the course of his travels he passed time and again through cities of hundreds of thousands of inhabitants without a single Christian among them. The brief time he could afford to give to passing instruction he found the people well disposed and anxious to know something of Christianity, but a few days was the most in many cases that he could devote to many of these great cities. He passed on and never returned and possibly was to this day the first and last missionary to enter them. All through his work he had reason to deplore this great scarcity of workers, and finally, after fifteen years of strenuous labour, after rigorously practicing before he dared to preach, he decided that it was of vital importance to return to Canada and endeavour to secure, if possible, a greater number of missionaries for the field. In August, 1918, with one Chinese student (one of the many whom he had converted and baptized) he sailed for Vancouver. His avowed intention was the establishment in Canada of a seminary for the missions of China, and humbly speaking there was something almost pathetically hopeless about the work he set out to accomplish.

### MANY OBSTACLES.

On all sides when his project became known he found people dubious as to the possibility of success. Canada was herself almost a missionary country. The war had not yet come to an end. The very best of her young men had been drafted into the army with the result that colleges were depleted and prospective subjects few. (This was the prospect of success that awaited his undertaking at the outset. But alas for human prudence and human calculation when it is a question of the work of God. Was it a task less hopeless than the poor fishermen of Galilee attempted when they set out to accomplish the conquest for Christ of the great Roman Empire? It was not till 1919 that the seminary for the China Mission was at last established under the late Archbishop Gauthier in the Archdiocese of Ottawa. The beginnings were of the humblest. With but two students Father Fraser began the work and many hardships and privations marked the early days of this pioneer band.

### FIVE YEARS AGO AND TO-DAY.

That was five years ago. To-day, my dear friends, a magnificent seminary has been completed. Six priests are now engaged with Father Fraser in the work, and on our opening in September we will have students to occupy every room of our new build-

ing. From end to end of Canada the cause of the Missions has been made known by means of our little monthly "China," which now finds its way into nearly thirteen thousand homes. This in itself is a great deal, but greater still is the fact of which this initial activity is but an indication. Greater still is the fact that a permanent China Mission Seminary is now established in Canada with the highest possible approbation and under auspices that few institutions can enjoy. It means that the work will continue, that from now on in increasing numbers year by year zealous young missionaries will set forth from the shores of Canada and Newfoundland for those now preparing and those that have already gone are but the vanguard of a great missionary army that is preparing to conquer China for Christ. This success undreamed of five years ago is largely the result of the foresight and the perseverance of one man whose trust in Providence impelled him to ignore the misgivings of human prudence. When the facts of to-day become history and the story of the missions is told to succeeding generations the name of Rev. J. M. Fraser will be written in letters of gold.

### GOOD TO BE DONE.

The object then of the whole work, the purpose for which our seminary has been erected, is the training of young men who are prepared to devote their lives to the work of the Missions of China. It is a work that has found its way into the hearts of our Catholic people and all that has been so far accomplished has been made possible by the charity of our many friends in Canada and in Newfoundland. The students of China Mission Seminary are preparing to make the greatest of all sacrifices, the sacrifice of leaving home and friends forever and of spending their lives among a strange people in a strange land. They have given all they have to give, given their very selves to the work of the conquest of China for Christ, and the friends who have so far supported the work and the new friends we are making from day to day will enable us to prepare them for their life's work in China. Even if for the next twenty years the seminary were to send but one missionary a year to China it would mean the salvation of thousands of souls. The work of one good priest will never die. It is perpetuated in the converts he makes, in his children and their children's children for generations. Full of great possibilities for good it will blossom forth anew in the vocations that he will foster among his flock, and will lead many generous young souls to work for the salvation of their fellow countrymen. Even one priest a year would be instrumental in the salvation of many souls, but my dear friends much more than this will be done. The time is not far distant when a band of five young missionaries will be ready to set out for China. At any time to any of the priests engaged in the work the call may come and this band will be followed by many others, in ever increasing numbers as the years go by.

### WORK BUT BEGINNING.

This then is what has been done but as yet the whole work is done in its infancy. There are yet to be built churches, schools and seminaries in China, where native vocations may be fostered. There remains also to be established in Canada a juniorate where younger boys may be trained and directed before they are ready for the seminary. A community of sisters to work in conjunction with our missionaries in China is yet to be established. We have received many applications from young girls in Canada and Newfoundland who wish to devote their lives to the work of the Missions of China. So far we have not been able to make any provision for them, and the best we can do is to refer them to Maryknoll, New York where a community of sisters in connection with the Maryknoll Mission to China has already been established. It would seem, my dear friends, that a wave of zeal and interest in the Chinese Missions is sweeping over Ireland and America and Canada to-day. Where as when Father Fraser went to China in 1902 he was the only English speaking missionary from the whole of the North America, there are now in the field nearly two hundred missionaries from America alone as well as many from Ireland. All this has been accomplished during the last ten years. It would seem that Providence is taking this means to fill the depleted ranks of the European Missionaries which suffered so severely in the late war. It would seem that the time has come when we are to be called upon to give to others the faith that has been given to us, and when it will be our privilege to bear our share of the burdens that have been so long and so heroically borne by the valiant missionaries of Europe. And now my

dear friends, that you have heard something of the story of our work and of what yet remains to be done, you will perhaps ask yourselves if there is any part that you are enabled to play in this work of the conquest of China for the Church.

### VOCATIONS.

First of all there may be listening to me this evening young men who may feel themselves called by God to devote their lives to the work of the Foreign Missions. This is the greatest thing we can do, give ourselves, for all the rest is but a means to the great end of providing workers for the missionary field. If such there be then I would say to you to heed that call both for your own sake and for the sake of the thousands of souls you may be destined to win for Christ. Oh could we not dwell, if this were the time, upon that great tragedy of the centuries, the loss of vocations and with it the loss for eternity of countless souls who were to be saved by those who refused to bring them the message of salvation. I can but ask you, my dear boys and young men, if there is any work so glorious, any privilege so great as that of co-operating intimately and directly with the God who died for our salvation in the very work for which He laid down His life. But on this subject we cannot now delay.

### PRAYERS.

There is another way in which we all can help, a way open to all, and that is by our prayers. The missionary, my dear friends, who arrives in China and comes face to face with the realities of paganism's dread hold over the souls of men will soon realize the helplessness of mere human effort, will soon realize that in this struggle to wrest from the tyranny of Satan souls for whom Christ had died it is spiritual power alone that will avail. That power they receive from the great sacrifice of the Mass, from the presence of Christ even in their humble little mission chapel and from the prayers of friends at home that daily ascend in their behalf to the foot of the throne of God. How often does it not happen in the work of the conversion of some poor pagan soul that the issue between the grace of God and the power of the evil one is decided by the prayers of some devout soul thousands of miles away from the scene of the spiritual conflict! Let me tell you a story of one of Father Fraser's many experiences, one that tells of the power of prayer. Shortly after his arrival in China Father Fraser decided to traverse his parish from North to South and from East to West in the form of an immense cross. One day as he was travelling with his chair bearers and catechist through the mountainous part of the district a violent storm burst upon them without warning. They barely had time to descend into a valley and take refuge in the nearest hut when the storm broke in all its fury like a very deluge from the Heavens. When he entered the hut Father Fraser noticed that on a raged mat in the corner there lay an old man who seemed to be very near death. Quick to take advantage of every such opportunity he spoke to him in the Chinese language of Christ and Redemption, and asked him if he had any desire to be a Christian. The old man replied that he would like to die in the true Church, and begged him to baptize him before he took his departure. After a brief instruction upon the principal mysteries of the faith he acceded to the old pagan's request and administered baptism. While the sacrament was being conferred the storm ceased, the sun shone out again and they resumed their journey almost immediately. Returning the same way a few days later Father Fraser inquired of some of the villagers about the old man, and was told that he had died about an hour after his departure. To those who do not believe in the Providence of God this story will suggest a mere coincidence. To those of us who know better it speaks of an unseen power that guided a missionary to the deathbed of that poor pagan. Perhaps it was the prayer of some fervent Christian at home that brought about the salvation of that soul. This evening, my dear friends, you will find in the Church small leaflets, copies of a prayer for the conversion of China to which His Grace has given his imprimatur. Put this little leaflet in your prayer book. Say it every day for the conversion of China, and you will be adding the weight of your prayers to the power of the Church that is ever striving to weaken the deadly hold of Satan upon the souls of unfortunate millions in China.

### MATERIAL ASSISTANCE.

Again, my dear friends, if you can afford to give the cause material assistance it will be most welcome and will be very gratefully received. It is the offering of the faithful that have so far enabled this work to continue and we know that to number you among our helpers it is only necessary to make known to you the urgency of the need. And now, my dear friends, in conclusion, let me thank you very sincerely for your attendance here this evening. I thank you personally, I thank you on behalf of Father Fraser, and above all I thank you on behalf of those best qualified to speak of missionary needs, those heroic soldiers of Christ

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### Sachem in Port

S.S. Sachem, Capt. Furneaux, arrived in port from Liverpool at 11 o'clock yesterday morning, after a good run across. Good weather was experienced throughout the entire trip, which was very enjoyable for the passengers. The ship brought a large cargo, mail and the following passengers:—Miss S. P. Ayre, H. St. J. Ayre, Miss E. M. Davies, Miss Mary Fleming, H. Foster, D. M. Fraser, Edgar Hickman, Miss A. M. Horwood, G. Knowlton, Philip T. M. Knowlton, H. W. LeMessurier, Rev. B. Lenz, Mrs. Lenz, Master H. Lenz, Campbell L. Macpherson, James Murray, Lt.-Col. J. H. G. Riley, S. Schwarz, E. L. Sharpe, Mrs. Sharpe, A. J. D'A. Shea, Rev. Arthur Shorter, Mrs. L. A. Smith, Miss D. J. Smith, J. H. Taylor, Mrs. M. D. Taylor, Miss F. S. Wells, Mrs. I. H. Whitling, A. W. Wylie, Mrs. H. W. LeMessurier. The following are on board, en route to Halifax, N.S.—Rev. Harry Burgess, Mrs. Burgess, Mrs. J. Cleworth, L. B. Ewen, Mrs. Ewen, Miss D. M. Ewen, Master J. G. Ewen, J. Findlay, Miss M. Fischel, Dr. H. M. Hare, J. M. Ingleby, Miss E. J. McCunn, Mrs. J. M. MacDonald, Miss C. L. Sharp, R. B. Taylor, M. N. Varvill, J. Wilson, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. W. D. Withrow. To Boston—Mrs. L. Marrow, G. M. Marrow, R. Marrow, G. J. Cales.

### Hollywood Garden Party

The annual garden party at Hollywood, held yesterday in Mahar's field, was attended by a large number of visitors from the city, who went out by train. All spent a most enjoyable day amidst beautiful surroundings. Much of the success of the Garden Party is attributed to the efforts of the ladies who worked unceasingly to help make it the success it was. The talented Mount Cashel Band was present, and rendered some very delightful music, and this itself was a feature of the affair.

### Excursion Trains Well Patronized

The excursion train for ports as far as Holyrood, yesterday took over 400 passengers, the largest for the season. The train was made up of ten cars and two engines. The train to Tor's Cove took out about 70 passengers. Both trains returned to the city by 10.15 p.m.

MEIGLE FOR LABRADOR.—The following passengers went North by the Meigle on Saturday:—Major Moncreiff, Richard White, Mrs. O'Connor, Mr. Ude, Mr. B. Hartland, Mr. W. Cabot, H. W. Davis, B. M. Shipman, R. Oakley, Miss Cummings. The ship will go as far as Turnavick.

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### "The Road to Arcady," at the Majestic

VIRGINIA LEE'S GREATEST PRODUCTION.

To-day's the day that the Majestic Management promised Movie patrons. The high class super production "The Road to Arcady," with the celebrated Virginia Lee in the lead. This big feature won bigger favor than "The Green Goddess," and compares favorably with the greatest million dollar pictures of recent years. The Road to Arcady story abounds in interest with most of the ordinary pictures do not possess. See it to-day and you'll be satisfied that it is all that the publishers claim it to be. A News Reel will precede the main feature and a programme of merit is assured.

### Nfld. Poultry Association

This association meets to-night in the Board of Trade Rooms to receive a report from the committee appointed to interview the Department of Agriculture, regarding the holding of the annual Poultry Show. Secretary McCarter will also report to the members the result of his enquiries regarding shipping prize-winners of 1924 to Canadian Poultry Exhibitions at Halifax and Amherst, N.S. in order to test their merits as first class breeders, so that an important conference is on the agenda for to-night.

Don't forget the Big Dance in St. Joseph's Hall on Wednesday night—August 14.

### Jackstone Tournament

The playground Jackstone Tournament begins to-morrow morning at 10.30 o'clock. Everybody be on hand at Bannerman Park with your Jackstones and ready to play. Places on the field will be assigned to all contestants at the time of the tournament. If a number of young men and women, who know the game and would be so kind to act as judges, would report to Mr. Bartop at Bannerman Park, it would be very much appreciated.

### Workman Meets With Nasty Accident

Whilst Michael Murphy was engaged at a bread mixer in the Central Bakery, last evening, he got both arms caught in the machinery and received such injuries that he was hurriedly removed to the General Hospital for treatment. His cries for help attracted the attention of his fellow workmen, who immediately turned off the machinery and extricated the victim from his perilous position. Sgt. Long, hearing of the accident, was one of the first to arrive on the scene, and he immediately summoned Dr. McDonald, who did all possible for the sufferer. Meanwhile the ambulance had arrived and conveyed the injured man to hospital. Murphy, although having lost much blood, never lost consciousness, and bore his sufferings well. He is reported to be doing as well as can be expected.

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If Summer Sun plays havoc with your complexion our **Lemon & Vanishing Creams**

will quickly restore it. These are two dainty creams that will improve the skin and keep it in perfect condition. You use the **LEMON CREAM** at night, and the **VANISHING CREAM** in the daytime.

TRY A CROCK.  
Price 25c. each.  
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To make marshmallow cream sauce, cut up the marshmallows and allow to stand in the cream for about two hours before serving.