

The Chinese Mission Problem.

(By a Regular Contributor.)

It is not the political, or international Chinese problem to which we now refer, but rather the religious one.

"Events of the past few years in China have been of such a character as to make general the belief that it is hopeless to attempt to plant the Catholic faith in the Celestial Empire."

The closing paragraph says:—"It would be a fatal mistake to give up missionary work in China just at this time.

Between these two we are treated to several reasons why China can never be expected to become a Christianized nation.

"God does nothing, permits nothing without a reason. That such an ancient, highly cultivated people (the Chinese), that such an immense nation, forming one-fifth of the inhabitants of the globe, should have been destined by Him to live and die in complete isolation, should have been designed merely to cultivate and, if I may so speak, to keep warm, one of the most favored parts of the earth until the younger nations of the West were ready to seize upon it and make their nests there—does not easily commend itself as a credible view of the Divine government of the world.

This is plain talk from one with practical experience of missionary work in China. For a moment we turn to the other side of the picture as it is presented in the article in question.

The obstacles mentioned as being opposed to the advancement of Christianity in China, are the pride of the Chinese and their dread of missionaries. Their pride is a national one, based upon their great antiquity, their ancient literature, their ages of civilization—such as they recognize civilization to be—and their contempt for the stranger, whom they look upon as a barbarian. This pride also takes root in their faith in Confucius, of whose maxims they consider those of Christianity, to be mere imitations. Then their dread of the missionaries consists in the fact that they look upon these preachers of Christianity as the envoys, the scouts, the advance-guard of the great western Powers, whom they dread and whom they believe to be their deadly enemies, ever animated with an ambition to seize upon their country and to drive them into slavery, or at least a state of dependence. These are the obstacles that we are told will prevent China from ever being Christianized.

The persons who hold this view advise the abandonment of missionary work in China, and the writer of this article, which is receiving such an amount of prominence in Catholic papers, does not appear to be surprised at such a suggestion.

We need not occupy much space in commenting on this issue; suffice to say that the Church received her

mandate from Christ, and that He promised to be with her unto the end of time. He gave to the Apostles and their successors the mission to go forth and to teach all nations, (Chinese included), and He assured them that the Gates of Hell should not prevail against the Church. The ultimate end He has told us of His religion, on earth, is to bring all into the one fold, so that finally there will be only one flock and one shepherd. He did not exclude China. If we have faith in Christ we must believe that such is to be the ultimate result of the Church's mission on earth. If, then, we have a real faith in Christ; if we acknowledge His Divinity; if we are believers that His promise will be fulfilled that all the world will yet come into His fold; then we have no right to suppose for a moment that China and her millions will not at some time belong to that same fold.

NEGRO MUSIC.

(By An Occasional Contributor.)

Some time ago a Dominican Father, Rev. F. Coleman, gave a number of most interesting lectures in Canada, on ancient Irish music. In one of them he pointed out how we had lost a good portion of Ireland's best music, and that were it not for Moore's words and Stephenson's airs, we would have no idea at all of the music of the "Land of Song."

"The old aunts say that these songs are so 'filled with de Holy Spirit' that they forget they are working if they just keep singing all the time. No Southerner ever doubts the truth of this statement."

"To the majority of people the mention of a negro song brings up instantly visions of 'I want yer, mahoney,' or 'Alabama Coon,' or even the lovely 'Suwannee River' and 'Old Kentucky Home'—all written by white people who are not so constructed mentally as to be able to write a genuine negro song."

tion that I grow anxious to know what this lady, who is clearly familiar with the subject, considered to be the real music and songs of that peculiar race. I, therefore, read on, and came upon these surprising distinctions:—"The negro by some mysterious power does not take a breath at the end of a line or verse, but carries over his breath from line to line and from verse to verse at the imminent risk of bursting a blood-vessel. He holds on to one note till he has a firm hold of the next one, and then besides he turns every monosyllabic word into two syllables and places the accent where it does not belong, on the last half of the word . . ."

"Negroes all seem to know by the most wonderful instinct every 'spiritual' which was ever born. Let a colored stranger from Kentucky go to a Louisiana church and begin to sing a new song; none of those present may ever have heard his song and yet in a few moments they are all singing and patting it like mad, and the most singular, inexplicable thing about it is that each member of the congregation seems to know almost to a man as quickly as the singer himself exactly what words he is going to sing. No 'lining out' is ever practised in their singing; only with the 'hymn-book hymns' is this quaint custom followed. They surely must have some occult telepathy among them, for they never make mistakes—viz., some singing one verse and some another."

"It is often stated that there is a continuous note of sadness running through all the negro music, and that the songs are usually in minor keys. I should say, on the contrary, that the majority of them are in the major keys, and that there is a ring of jollity, wild abandon, and universal happiness in most of them. There are doleful passages occurring occasionally, and some sad minor songs, but even in these there is pretty apt to be a change into the major key before the hymn is finished."

In conclusion Mrs. Murphy says, that if the negro could be trained along his natural lines, and his race blood kept perfectly pure, there would come some day from this people one of the greatest orators, one of the greatest romance writers, and surely the very greatest musician who ever lived. Of this last statement we seem to have had an example in the once famous "Blind Tom." Had that man not been blind, and had he not been an idiot—in a certain degree—but an educated, well-trained man, there is no possibility of imagining the marvels of music that he would not have created. The trouble, though, is to keep their race blood pure and to train them along the natural lines thus mentioned. I am not prepared to devise a plan, but certainly it is not by enslaving, persecuting, brutalizing, them, and then lynching them for being that which we have made them.

LESSONS OF LIFE.

A strange and sad case of belated good fortune is that of Mrs. Honoretta Marshall, of Webster, Mass., who after a life of many changes from wealth to comparative poverty, falls heirless, at the age of one hundred and five, to \$10,000. She has been for some years an inmate of the Worcester Insane Asylum, and probably could not even grasp the fact of her bettered condition. Her long life began in Poland, where once she was a rich landholder. Simultaneously with the publication of this extraordinary case, we note the sudden death of George M. Guild, the well-known piano manufacturer. For the last twelve years of his life he devoted himself to the perfection of a mechanism known to the musical world as the "American action" for pianos. After many disappointments the tests were successful, the patent papers were issued a few weeks ago, and the first royalties from his invention arrived on the day of his death. There is an obvious moral in these two incidents—so obvious, indeed, that every reader will sadly draw it for himself. It is the simplest self-interest, to put it on no higher plane, to strive for the things beyond time.—Boston Pilot.

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NOTES AN ORANGEMAN'S... cently Mr. William Ga... sale merchant of this... visit to Ireland, and... he gave expression to... concerning the situation... Land. In the "Daily V... \$1st of August, he tel... thinks regarding the fu... of the country under t... lation. Mr. Galbraith... pains to have it known... not for a moment app... guise of a firebrand o... To all who are unacqu... the gentleman this assu... be unnecessary, for... while indicating strong... judices are far more ca... tional, from a politica... than might have been e... him. And to all who l... a leading spirit in C... agism, certainly the q... sage as to his spirit in... ters would not be nec... then, evident that he w... a little credit for himse... posing as an unprejudi... and by heaping on the... Justin McCarthy aught... to say against the Cath... and to appear as a mo... observer. We are exceedi... to find, by what this ge... said, that there are stron... a united Ireland—even v... Rule granted to-morrow... with the Land Bill and... ing its effects Mr. Galbr... use of some very signifi... uage; the more so when... the source whence it com... for example, (as reported... "Witness");—

"Mark, he will not adm... measure will bring in the... but he thinks that if opp... taken by the hand, if the... west are as alert as the... take advantage of what t... gives and means, then we... for a regenerated Ireland... And in closing the repor... ness" again says:—

"Could all sections unit... promotion of the industria... lity of the country it wou... happy change. At the... he looked forward to the... of the land bill with muc... good."

"To say the least, these... convey the idea of a poss... the Land Bill doing great... of Ireland's future being... year ago we doubt if Mr... would have admitted any... kind. Now comes some... more significant. He is m... in the report:—

"In Ulster while there w... tion to the measure at f... suspicion as to the ulterio... you had in Ulster shrewd... at once prepared to take... of the provisions of the... And this was like Ulster... counted for her prosperity... loyal to British connecti... would fight to the last... maintain it; at the same... was practical, and she too... tage of every opportunity... ment."

Exactly; and may we no... rally and logically conclu... this that Ulster, the Protest... very Orange section of Ire... opposed the measure for a... mental reason, and accepted... benefited by it for a practi... later on, will do exactly the... thing in regard to the ma... Home Rule? Ulster will o... tooth and nail; Ulster is "B... British connection; she wou... to the last ditch to maint... but at the same time she... deal" and she will be only

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