

## MISSIONS OF NORWAY AND LAPLAND.

(We judge that the simple narrative, given below, will be more eloquent and effective, than any words we could add).

The most northern inhabitants of Europe (Laplanders), whose country is as a region of icy mountains, are the most generous and *the poorest in the world*. Many dwell in tents or huts, made of planks or of turf and poles; their clothes are made of skins and their food is chiefly fish; some subsist on reindeer. Everything freezes there in the Winter, which lasts nine months, with three months of darkness.

In Norway the chief subsistence is the exportation of wood, which was stopped some two years ago, and this has caused so many thousands of Norwegians to emigrate to America, and if they were able to pay the fare, perhaps 100,000 Scandinavians would emigrate this year to Chicago.

Norway was converted by King St. Olaf and Irish-English priests in the Tenth and Eleventh Centuries, and since then Norwegians have continued to be among the best Catholics in the world. In the Sixteenth Century they became Lutherans, almost without knowing it. They continue to be very religious and still retain many Catholic ceremonies in their "Mass" and believe to have priests and sacraments, etc., as well as the Catholics.

Morality is very good in Scandinavia, except in some large cities. The laws and customs are still those of the Middle Ages, that is, very Christian. They never deceive or steal; never have law-suits. They have had no real war for a thousand years. Shops and hotels are not open on Sundays, and the people frequent their own or the Catholic Churches instead. Dances and theatres are also almost stopped those late years.

More than twenty years ago the Redemptorists Fathers opened the Missions of Norway, which they have since left to other priests, and which have been extended over all the country; and there are now 15 priests, 8 small churches, 10 students, 8 teachers, 1 convent with 50 to 60 poor orphans and 100 pupils and a small hospital.

The Storting has recently, unexpectedly, given full religious liberty; thus, Catholics, can now obtain any office in the Government. Catholic priests are very much respected