

The CATHOLIC CHRONICLE...

DEVOTED TO FOREIGN NEWS

ROME

DEATH OF A CATHOLIC LEADER.

Mgr. Schaeffman, D.D., the leader of the Dutch Catholics, who was stricken down by illness during a visit to Rome, died on Wednesday, the 21st inst., at a Franciscan Convent in the Eternal City.

for the beatification were first taken in 1886, and in 1898, on the application of the Postulator, the case of Archbishop Plunkett was separated from that of sixty others also executed in 1681.

ENGLAND

BACK TO THE CHURCH.

A remarkable state of affairs at present exists in connection with St. Michael's Protestant Church, Shore-ditch, London. The services at the church have been conducted for some time past on advanced High Church lines, with the usual result that the pastor, the Rev. Mr. Evans, has been roundly denounced for his "Romanist" tendencies.

UNITED STATES

CATHOLIC CHIEF JUSTICE.

The Hon. John T. McDonough, of Albany, N. Y., whom the President has tendered the appointment of chief justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, at a salary of \$7,500, is a Catholic and a personal friend of Mr. Roosevelt's.

FRANCE

AN INTERDICTED BOOK.

His Eminence Cardinal Perraud, Bishop of Autun, following the Archbishop of Paris, Cardinal Richard, has forbidden the reading of Professor Loisy's book, "L'Evangile et l'Eglise," in his diocese.

THE VENERABLE OLIVER PLUNKETT.

Reuter's agent at Rome, writing on the 3rd inst., says: The Canonization of the Venerable Oliver Plunkett, Archbishop of Armagh, who was executed at Tyburn on July 1st, 1681, and whose remains are interred in the Benedictine College of Downside at Bath, has recently been discussed as though it were imminent.

vitiation of the Government, which made him Professor of Hebrew and of Exegesis there. It was at Sorbonne that Professor Loisy began his lectures against Harnack's "Wesen des Christenthums," wherein the Berlin Professor makes the "full essence" of Christianity consist in the faith in God the Father.

THE WORLD'S DEBT TO CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES

The latest number of the Annals of the Propagation of the Faith contains a very instructive article on the part played by Catholic missionaries in the scientific progress of the world.

Because of their very vocation, the pioneers of the apostolate are condemned to pass, not only months, but their entire life, among people whose intellectual and moral regeneration they undertake; for the fulfillment of their duty they are obliged to assimilate the idioms, study the beliefs, sound the traditions and adopt the customs of those among whom they work.

It cannot be denied that, of all sciences, geography is most indebted to evangelical laborers. The very force of circumstances transforms missionaries into explorers whenever they reach an unknown country.

Who has not heard of Father Hue, the brave missionary traveler who immortalized his name fifty years ago, by tracing a furrow of light across the dark ground of Central Asia? The Annals of the Propagation of the Faith contained the first publication of this famous journey in Tartary and Tibet, so improbable did some of its details seem, that geographers for a long time regarded the account merely as a fictitious tale of adventure.

A Belgian missionary, Father Constant de Deken, who had the honor of being one of those who made this memorable journey across Central Asia, published an important account of it in 1894.

AUSTRALIA

DEATH OF AN HEROIC PRIEST.

The last Australian mail brings news of the sad death of an heroic Irish priest—the Rev. Father McEnroe. Father McEnroe was walking in North Sydney when a runaway horse rushed down the street, and was about to dash into a group of children who were playing in the roadway, when the aged clergyman—Father McEnroe recently celebrated his 71st birthday—jumped forward and endeavored to stop the horse by suddenly opening an umbrella in its face.

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BERNARD CAIRNS

Leader in RUBBER STAMPS, SEALS, ETC. 10 King St. W., Toronto Awarded Diploma Toronto Exp. 1901

the world of learning on his travels in Damaraland and Ovampo, is Father Charles Duparquet, corresponding member of the Natural History Museum of Paris and the Geographical Society of Lisbon. In the month of December, 1886, his excursion into the Kingdom of Huilla inaugurated the series of his investigations in the valley of the Kuenene and the Zaire; he was superior of the mission of the Congo when in August, 1877, Stanley arrived there at the close of the most famous geographical expedition of this century.

In America several Oblate priests of Canada have contributed a worthy quota to the knowledge of the valleys of the Mackenzie and other rivers which bear their waters to the Arctic Ocean. Of these, Father Petiot is conspicuous for his success. The Geographical Society of Paris presented a gold medal to him and published at its own expense, his chart of North America.

How many details on the Indians of the Rocky Mountains, New Mexico, Arizona, Ecuador, Guiana, Brazil and Patagonia would have passed into oblivion if Archbishop Salpointe, Fathers de Smet, Pedro Enonet, Brunetti, etc., and the Salesians of Turin had not written several volumes of correspondence from these different regions of North and South America.

Next to geography, linguistics may boast most of the co-operation of missionaries. Scarcely arrived at the distant post assigned to them as their second country, since there they are to die, the deep study of language is their chief occupation. If there have gone before, the arduous task is greatly facilitated. The first to arrive in a new country, however, must painfully analyze the chaos of mysterious syllables that strike the ear, discover their meaning, transcribe the sounds, investigate the origin of phrases, the genius of dialects formulate laws of grammar and compile glossaries. All this work enriches philological science. The finest works of this kind are the Chinese Dictionary, by Father Perney, the Madagascan Dictionary, by Father Abinal; the Siamese Dictionary, by Bishop Pallegoix; the Tibetan Dictionary, by Father Desgodins; the Korean Dictionary, the Somali Dictionary, etc. Besides these great monuments of erudition, there are modest works, but useful, practical and meritorious—hundreds of lexicons, grammars and translations. All languages are represented in this philological encyclopedia, from the language of the Maoris to that of the Esquimaux, from the Kishouhali to the Tamoul.

During the rare leisure which the exercise of his holy ministry allows a missionary, he often finds profitable distraction in the study of botany, mineralogy and zoology. He makes a note of useful plants, studies rocks, collects insects and stuffs birds. A few missionaries of exceptional talent have become famous for their discoveries in the natural sciences.

We have already spoken of Father Amand David as an explorer; he is even more celebrated as a naturalist. From China, Mongolia, Tartary and Thibet, he has sent to Europe immense collections of mammalia, birds, reptiles, fish, mollusks, insects, plants and minerals, including thousands of new species. Father Camboue, of Madagascar, is another naturalist of great merit. Father Cognet has published a valuable monograph on the flora of New Zealand; Father Hervey, a distinguished conchologist, has written learned articles on the shells of the island of Lifou and gathered the richest collection of New Caledonian shells. When you taste a cup of aromatic Mocha, do you give a thought of gratitude to the missionary who made the precious tonic known? And does not cinchona, the febrifuge par excellence, bear the name of "Jesuit bark," from the Jesuits who discovered it?

Instead of pursuing the study of natural history, learning about plants and animals, some missionaries, especially those who live in countries celebrated in the annals of the past, devote themselves to archaeology. Delattre, superior of Saint Louis in Carthage, is a master in this field and has studied the sacred and profane ruins of the Punic city for a long time. By persevering and intelligent research he has succeeded in collecting a large number of bas reliefs, vases, lamps, inscriptions, mosaics, bronze and iron weapons, seals, engraved stones, statues, medals, coins, etc.—authentic specimens of Carthaginian art of the eighth century before our era.

Fathers Sebastian and Vincent Scheil, two Dominicans from Lorraine, are collecting evidences from a still more remote past, extending even to the time of the deluge; both are applying themselves to Assyriology and are pursuing their work on the shores of the Euphrates and the Tigris. A member of the Society of White

Fathers has published authoritative works on the ancient history of Barbary countries.

We must not omit to mention the work of Bishop Laouenan on Bramanism, which the French Academy has crowned with praise.

It is well known that the Jesuit Fathers gained the favor of the Chinese emperors in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries by their knowledge of astronomy. Finally, even when not engaged in scientific work missionaries deserve some acknowledgment from science when they extend to Americans and Europeans on exploring expeditions in distant countries the shelter of their hospitable roof, the support of their tried experience, comforting words in cases of discouragement and brotherly care in sickness. The accounts of all great travelers contain some touching page relating in terms full of gratitude some service of this kind. Open the books of explorers Stanley, Bonvalot, Trivier, Mouchot and everywhere you will find the same tone of appreciation.

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ANSWERING A QUESTION.

Some of the troubles of editorship are the letters which come to the editor from subscribers in search of information. The Bookman acknowledges the receipt of this letter from a correspondent who lives not a thousand miles from Boston:

"Do you ever realize that the emanations of human thought are never isolated and abstracted so that they stand without the universal consciousness, but that instead they form endless continuity whereby through all the phases of literature, whether primitive or typical of high aesthetic cultivation, they are united by what is perhaps a subconscious but nevertheless an inherent and persistent striving after the complete and perfect expression of what is best in the human heart and intellect? Do you ever think of this?" Happily the editor was equal to the occasion, and he replied in all the buoyancy of an optimistic nature: "Yes, sometimes. By the way, in a couple of weeks it will be about time for buckwheat cakes."

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