

**APOSTLE ISLAND.**

Where the Jesuits Built in 1665.

ASHLAND, Wis., Aug. 26th, 1885.

Steamboats run every day from Ashland to Washburn, Bayfield, La Pointe and the Apostle Island. The latter lie just off the coast, and, though some of them are peopled by Indians and half-breeds, they are for the most part in a state of nature. Viewed from the mainland the islands are wonderfully beautiful. All are heavily timbered, and as their green shores rise many feet above the surface of the lake they stand out as bold and clear-cut as gems in costly settings. Besides their natural attractions the islands have a historical interest which endears them to many travelers. The largest of the group, now called Madeline Island, was in early days a headquarters for the Algonquin tribes, and on its wide plateaus thousands of the aborigines have gathered in council on many occasions. It was here that they assembled to receive Lewis Cass and other American Commissioners two generations ago, and on this island also was performed the ceremony of digging up the hatchet preparatory to the great war with the Sioux, which resulted in driving that powerful tribe away from the great sea and beyond the Mississippi.

Besides the Indian traditions with which this neighborhood abounds, there are interesting evidences here of the early labors of the Jesuit missionaries. Just west of Bayfield, on the mainland and near La Pointe, on Madeline Island, are pointed out the places where those intrepid forerunners of religion and civilization planted the cross in the wilderness and taught the children of Gitchie Guma the salvation and the life. So firmly did these pious Fathers build that, though the centuries that have passed have destroyed the last trace of their rude chapels and habitations, their Faith still endures in the descendants of the races with whom they labored, and on every hand may be seen at this day little white mission churches bearing aloft the cross. Most of the Indians and half-breeds in this neighborhood are devout churchmen, and their attendance at services of every kind is large and regular.

Last Sunday was celebrated, at the little church on Madeline Island, the two hundred and twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Mission of the Holy Ghost at La Pointe. Hundreds of the faithful from the mainland, as well as from the islands, were present, and several high dignitaries of the Church from points south were also in attendance. Two churches now stand at La Pointe, but one of them is not used. The church erected by the first missionary, Father Allouez, in 1665, is in dust. The one which is now abandoned was built by Father Baraga in 1835, when he came here and found that time, war and famine had scattered the earlier missionaries and their successors so that at that time there was no priest here and not even a church. The Indians and half-breed descendants of the French voyagers of early days received him with great joy, and in one week's time they had erected the church which now stands deserted, and he had baptized more than 150 converts. This church stands on the site of the first mission, and it was on this spot that Father Marquette preached to the Indians when he made his tour of the South Superior shore. Around the old church are several very ancient cabins, now occupied by fishermen, and near by is a grass and weed-grown graveyard, in which repose the bones of men and women who have been dead for 200 years and more. Only a few of the graves are marked, and on such stones as still remain the inscriptions are almost worn away. In most cases the stones appear to have been carved and put up by the unlettered relatives of the dead, and those that are decipherable reveal some quaint expressions. One of them announces that it was erected to the memory of a French voyageur who was killed by his brother, as a token of esteem, and on another it is asserted that the one whose memory it is intended to perpetuate was killed by thunder. In the new church, which stands on higher ground, are preserved many relics of the first mission, and they are willingly shown to travellers by the priests in charge.

Over in Bayfield a new church and monastery stand on the site where Father Marquette planted his mission two centuries ago, and from these headquarters missionaries of both sexes are still sent out into the woods and the islands, bearing balm for hungry souls. A few miles northwest of Bayfield stands Hermit Island, a lonely spot, so called because many years ago it was found that a white man was living there all by himself.

Where he came from or who he was has never been known. He had few wants, and in his long life on the island he appeared to shun his fellows as he might savage beasts. What the disappointment was that drove him to such a place and such a life was never discovered. People avoided him as an evil spirit, and thus he lived and died. One spring, after a winter of unusual severity, a party was made up on the mainland to go over and see if the old man had weathered the biting cold. They approached his den cautiously, and, on opening the door, found the tenant a corpse. He was buried close by, and his cabin, crumbling under the action of the elements, now molds upon his grave. He left no name and no story but this, but the island is on the maps, and will always be known as the Hermit.—Chicago Herald.

**Some Statistics.**

There are now over one hundred millions of people in North and South America. It is a Christian continent. Catholicity preponderates. But in North America, says the "Catholic Citizen" of Milwaukee, Protestantism is in the majority. The Catholic population may be accurately estimated as follows:

ENGLISH SPEAKING:  
British possessions . . . 2,100,000  
United States . . . 9,500,000 11,600,000

**SPANISH:**

Mexico . . . . . 9,500,000  
Central America . . . 2,500,000  
The West Indies . . . 4,500,000 16,500,000

Total Catholic population of  
North America . . . . . 28,100,000  
Total Catholic population of  
South America . . . . . 28,400,000

Total Catholic population of  
the Western Continent . . . 56,500,000  
Total non-Catholic population  
is about . . . . . 44,000,000

Regarding these figures it is interesting to observe that nearly forty-five millions of the Catholic population is Spanish speaking. And this shows us how the western world is divided among the two great tongues—the English speaking population which is confined to the United States and British America numbering fifty-five millions. The division of the land, however, is more even; 8,300,000 square miles being allotted to the Anglo-Americans, and 8,000,000 square miles being dominated by the Spanish races.

In the future growth of the continent the Catholic population ought to approximate three-fifths of the entire population. So that when there are two hundred millions, one hundred and twenty millions will be Catholics.

**Popular Science Notes.**

Photographs of a lightning stroke have been made, but none of the rainbow.

German geologists estimate that the Dead Sea will be a mass of solid salt a thousand years hence.

Lightning is reflected for one hundred and fifty to two hundred miles, and thunder can be heard for twenty or twenty-five miles.

The seed-vessels of the bird-catching tree of New Zealand secrete a very sticky gum, in which not merely insects but birds are entangled and perish.

Mr. John Maguire says that in the period from A.D. 878 to 1824, the sun has been totally eclipsed in every spot in the British Isles except a small piece on the coast of Ireland. Twice, in 878 and 1715, London came within the narrow path of totality. Twice also did the moon's shadow fall on Dublin and five times on Edinburgh.

Mr. Patrick B. Delaney, inventor of the synchronous telegraph system, has recently patented a lightning-rod for the human body. It consists of a large copper wire that passes down the back, with branches extending along the arms to the hands, and along the legs to the exterior of the shoes, and to the metal soles thereon. The wearer, if provided with this rod, may, if standing on the ground handle electric wires with impunity, and if out in a thunderstorm would stand a good chance of not being hurt if his rod were struck by lightning.

Few people know that by setting a glass fruit jar on a folded towel thoroughly soaked in cold water, the fruit can be poured in boiling hot with no more danger of breaking than with a tin pan.

An Irishman tried to shoot a sparrow with a very old musket. He fired. The bird with a chirp or two flew away unconcerned in the foreground, and Pat was swiftly laid on his back. Picking himself up, and shaking his fist at the bird, he exclaimed, "Be jabbers, ye wouldn't 'a' chirrupin if ye'd been at this ind of the gun!"

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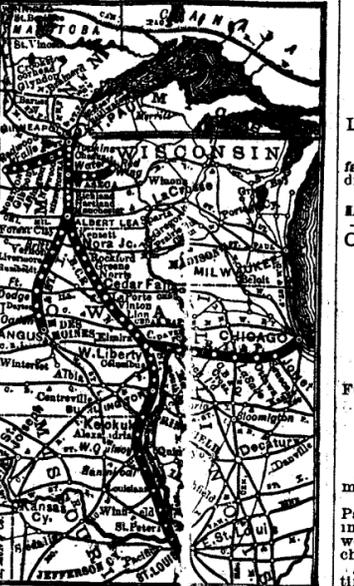
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**Canadian Line.**

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