CATHOLIC RECORD

AN UNIQUE CHAPEL

By Rev. J. Van der Heyden (Louvain Correspondent, N. C. W. C.)

The prettiest little valley of the many tourist-haunted nooks of Southern Limburg, the Geul Valley, studded with castles and ruins that may boast of histories and legends traceable back a thousand and more years, offered to the Catholics of Holland, always on the alert to Holland, always on the alert to mount to the top-rung of culture and progress, a unique opportunity for practical cultural and apologetic work. They have fairly started to make use of it and wonder why they did not do so before.

In the miniature mountains that enclose the valley there are ages-old enclose the valley there are ages-old sand-stone and marl-stone quarries, forming a very maze of underground passages, broken and subdivided into what may be called streets and lanes, winding about and crossing and recrossing one another, with here and there chambers and halls of various sizes and halls of various sizes and shapes some cathedral like in a result of the statement of the statemen shapes, some cathedral-like in area and height, others low-roofed recesses of a few feet square.

SERVED AS REFUGES OF CHRISTIANS There were times when those subterranean labyrinths did for the people of Limburg what the Roman Catacombs did for the first Christians. They afforded refuges against persecution, provided them with churches and dwellings.

At other times again, exactly as the sand-pits surrounding the city of Rome, they became the haunts of thieving murderous gangs that terrorized the whole neighborhood, baffling pursuit and braving all law and its upholders. The worst of these was an oathbound band of outlaws, who from the year 1781 to the year 1790 levied unlawful taxes the year 1790 levied unlawful taxes upon the thrifty dwellers of the country about. Popular fancy called them "Buckriders," because of the widespread belief that they had leagued themselves with the devil, who, metamorphosed into a billy-goat, bore them about on their swift nocturnal raids. The notion was not novel; for in the Middle Ages the billy goat was the symbol of his satanic majesty.

For years the authorities were For years the authorities were accumulation of myriads of organic powerless against these cut-throats beings, great and small, left in and marauders. Like the Doones of Bagworthy, they were so feared, even by the justiciaries, that for a time 'prudent people found more lead sight seers to is the "three-reasons to let them alone than to meddle with them." But when at highest galleries burrowed by the last the exasperated victims set Romans for the construction of their about rooting them out, they did so roads and mansions, the awe-inspir-

CHURCH UNDERGROUND

The country had scarcely been swept clear of these brigands, when it became overrun by the warring French and Austrian armies, the scene of battles and skirmishes. In 1794, the victorious French Republic set up its nefaricus rule. ractice of religion was inhibited, Church property was confiscated, priests were tracked like wild beasts sand prices set upon their heads. Some betook themselves to the quarries of the Geul Valley, where they were quite safe from the prowling soldiers of the Republic, loath to venture into these regions of darkness. The faithful flocked thither under cover of night and attended the sacred rites they were not permitted to attend in the open. In one of the Valkenburg quarries the room which served as a church has been preserved intact to this ay. The altar, the kneeling enches, all the ordinary church furniture, were cut out in the mountain itself and are still one with it. At the foot of the altar pious hands carved the inscription: "Twenty-one months the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was daily offered up in this chapel." To the right of the altar may be read, "Indeed the Lord was in this "Indeed the Lord was in this place;" to the left, "The place whereon thou standest is holy." In one of the corners hangs the novel baptismal register of those troubled times-a stone slab into which the names and dates are chiselled.

PICTURE TELLS OF RAID

At the entrance of the chapel a picture drawn upon the wall tells of the futile attempt of the sansculottes to ferret out the priests known to be hidden in these moun-



and for such of their flocks as were concealing with them to escape conscipling with them to escape conscipling into the armies of Marianne. For protection and guidance the military ordered the quarry-men upon the premises to accompany them on their errand. Provided with torches, and arms and the workingmen in their midst. and the workingmen in their midst, the soldiers penetrated into the gloomy city of refuge. They were far advanced into it and had wended their steps now to the right, now to the left, without encountering a living soul, when one of the compulsory guides turned to the leader of the gang saying: "Captain, if you are really minded to search the whole of this mountain, it will be advisable to put out half of our

The captain took the warning, gave up the quest, and with his men and escort returned to the light of day. The good stonecutter's ruse saved the priests and the young men and they remained un-molested thenceforth.

Near the chapel a small room bears the information: 'Office of the Rev. Max De la Croix.' All the office furniture—table, couch, seats, etc.—is still there where he left it, and for cause: it is part of the mountain out of which it was hewn. Another apartment, next to the first, showing the same peculiarity, served as dining-room for Father De la Croix and another priest who shared his confinement. PORTRAIT GALLERY

There are many more sights in these silent marl-stone caves; a portrait gallery with rows of portraits—drawn upon those walls built by nature—of men and women renowned in profane and sacred history; a veritable museum of charcoal pictures, mostly enlarged reproductions of masterpieces, or scenes connected with the history of the Valley; a concert hall, wherein, on festive occasions, entertainments are given; a forty-feet long sculptured megalosaurus, which calls the visitor's attention to the geological formation of the hill—an

One other curiosity the guides with a vengeance; for in one small ing silence is broken by a monoton-district 180 were hanged within the space of ten years.

ing silence is broken by a monoton-ous splash. At clock-timed intervals, three drops of crystal-clear water drip from the ceiling above, first into a basin held by a sculptured boy-like figure and thence into a hollow below. Whether the seasons were dry or wet, these drops were never known to fall either faster or slower, or to cease to dribble, three in rapid succession, and then a pause, and again three, and so on throughout

the days and months and years. Dutch Catholic enterprise has set apart a number of galleries for a reproduction of the most striking features of the Roman catacombs.

TRIBUTE TO CHURCH

FAILURE OF PROTESTANTISM INCLINES PEOPLE TOWARD ROME

- The noted Protestant scholar, Dr. Frederick Hoiler, pro-fessor of Comparative History of Religion at the University of Marburg, has joined the ranks of those who pay homage to the intellectual vigor and strength of the Catholic Church. His opinions, expressed in his new book, "Catholicism," are all the more remarkable in view of the fact that Dr. Heiler is himself an apostate. He once studied Catholic theology at Munich but became an adherent of the Lutheran faith in 1920, it is only by force of over-powering convictions that he, with other fallen away Catholics praises the Church. Excerpts from his new book read as follows:

tendency toward Catholicism is making the tour of the world. These words spoken a hundred years ago by the Swedish poet and scholar, said a well known Protestant ecclesiastical historian, using a modern figure of speech based on present day economics. 'We have changed the defensive to the offensive,' a Franciscan Friar proudly proclaimed to a sum of the control of the control

"And it is true that Catholicism is gaining new strength and fresh ground on all sides. It must be understood, however, that this is not merely a question of external expansion but also an internal regeneration. In spite of the great losses Catholicism has suffered in many countries as for instance in Czecho-Slovakia; in spite of the

tain depths. A detail of forty men had been sent from Maastricht to Valkenburg to search for the outlawed ministers of the God of Peace and for such of their flocks as were ties, even outsiders look for support

"It cannot be denied that the an incredible lightness of touch, failure and insufficiency of existing and who never forgot that they Protestant national churches have produced in many people—particularly the educated—an inclination prominent men and women—like the former artist now the Benedictine Willibrord Vorkade, the philosopher Max Scheler, the theologian Johannes Albani, the Deaconess of Neuendettelsau, Gertrude von Zezschwitz—are proofs that the Catholic Church today not only possesses great powers of attraction for the persons of high mental attainments but is also able to appease their mental capacities." appease their mental capacities. Dr. Heiler is noted for his studies in the field of religion. His recent book on "Buddhism" attracted

FRENCH CATHOLICS FORM FEDERATION

widespread attention.

A National Federation of the Catholics of France has just been founded in Paris under the presi-dency of General de Castelnau, with the approval of the highest ecclesiastical authorities. The organization is destined to unite, in the defense of their religion, "all French people without distinction of political opinion who, baptized in the Church, and having respect and sympathy for the Church, are conscious of the mortal peril threaten-

ing their most sacred interests."

The Catholics will be grouped in parish unions, and the parish unions will be united in diocesan unions, and all together will make up the National Federation, which will be headed by a directing committee. General de Castelnau, temporary president, has promised to conse-crate his entire activity to the launching and development of the

new organization. Societies already in existence, unions, associations and syndicates of all kinds will affiliate with the Federation. It is absolutely understood that it will not in any way constitute a political party. Each Catholic will naturally remain free to belong to any party he may see fit. But the Federation will watch attentively all political events which might affect the interests of religion

Up to the present there have been many different Catholic works and committees in France, but no national federation to unite them. The creation of such a body had been delayed through fears of the misunderstandings which it might bring about with the political par-But since it has become evities. dent that the Catholics are going to be forced to defend themselves on NOTED SCHOLAR PAYS
the very grounds of religious liberty, all objections have fallen, and the necessity of the Federation has become plain.

SOME REMINISCENCES OF CARDINAL LOGUE

Many good stories are told of the age Cardinal Logue. He was the feature service to Fort William many good stories are told of the late Cardinal Logue. He was the most modest of men, says the Evening Standard. When a distinguished English cleric visited him recently the Cardinal met him at the door and carried his bag in. at the door and carried his bag in.

The simplicity of his manner was matched by the simplicity of his house. He had never had a secretary in his life, and dealt with all his hysiness and correspondence.

The simplicity of his manner was matched by the simplicity of his house. He had never had a secretary in his life, and dealt with all his hysiness and correspondence.

To m. arrives in Fort William at 11 p. m., leaving there 15 minutes later and in Winnipeg at 9 a. m.

Returning, the "Toronto-Montreal Special" leaves Winnipeg at 7 p. m. arriving at Fort William at 12 p. m., leaving there 15 minutes later and in Winnipeg at 9 a. m. his business and correspondence

What would I do with a secretary?" he asked recently. would be idle." " OLD MICHAEL "

A few years ago he noticed an American in the Cathedral and took East, which will receive the serious him around. At the end of the consideration of those who desire him around. At the end of the tour the visitor felt in his pocket, and, turning to the simple-looking old man, asked, "What's your name?" consideration of those who desire efficient service. Dominion Express shipments are delivered hours earlier which is also a feature.

Franciscan Friar proudly pro-claimed to a number of Protestant theologians. And another Catholic made the bold statement that 'in ten respect the whole of Germany will be years the whole of Germany will be Cardinal's residence. One day when Catholic.'

GAINING NEW STRENGTH

MANA it is true that Catholicism

They went to the window to see

" CHARMING HUMAN WAYS" Cardinal Logue lived in the magination of his people above all by his charming human ways. All over Ireland they have known instances of his little acts of gra-

cious kindness to small children and to the old and poor.

When one thinks of Cardinal
Logue one is reminded of endless
stories of the early Irish saints who
worked extraordinary miracles with

were Irishmen.
It is not for nothing that Cardinal larly the educated—an inclination towards the Church of Rome, sometimes open and avowed, at other times concealed and unacknowledged. Finally the conversions of prominent men and women—like the forey artist new the Rendie.

days whom he resembled so closely, he was a born fighter, fearlessly independent and forcible in his own opinions, and he enjoyed a battle which was worth fighting. In Ireland, where strong personalities are remarkably frequent, he stood out pre-eminent, and there is no country in which force of character is more fully appreciated.

was only this year that Cardinal Logue threatened to forbid Communion to women wearing immodest dress. "The want of dress of women of the present day is a crying scandal," he said.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

THREE UKRAINIANS MAKE PROFESSION On Monday, the 15th inst., Octave of the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Lady, a notable cere-mony took place in the chapel of the Christian Brothers' Novitiate at Aurora. Before the Most Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar, three Ukrainian novices knelt and pronounced their first vows, conse crating themselves to the service of God and to Catholic education. They are the first Ukrainians to be admitted to the great family of Saint De La Salle in America and are destined to carry on the apostolate of Catholic education among their countrymen in the Canadian West. The Brothers who made their religious profession are Brother Athanasius (Nicholas Stuss.) Rev. Brother Methodius (William Koziak.) and Rev. Brother Peter (William Gayski.) Rev. Father Basso, Chaplain of the College, exposed the Most Blessed

Sacrament and celebrated the Holy Mass, and Rev. Brother Austin, Provincial of the Christian Brothers of Ontario, received the vows in the name of the Superior General. It is the ardent hope of the Christian Brothers that this ceremony is a happy augury of what they aim to accomplish among the Ruthenians of the West in an effort to keep them within the fold of Mother

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IN MEMORIAM

HARTERY .- 'n loving memory of Patrick Hartery, who died Sept. 7, 1922 aged fifty-six years. May his soul rest in peace.

losses Catholicism has suffered in many countries as for instance in Czecho-Slovakia; in spite of the vigorous efforts made in Italy and elsewhere by Freemasonry and the Free Thinkers, it seems that we are approaching a period of new prosperity for Catholicism.

"Amidst the chaotic and topsytury conditions of political life the world - embracing organization of the Catholic Church preserves her unshakable firmness and strength were frequent and eloquent.

"I never hesitate to condemn deeds of blood from whatever source they spring," he said.
"Patriotism is a noble virtue when it pursues its object in accordance with God's law. Otherwise it degenerates into blind, brutal reckless passion inspired by Satan."

Although over eighty years of age Cardinal Logue journeyed to Rome to assist at the last Conclude the last Conclude the logue of the Catholic Church preserves her unshakable firmness and strength."

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