

NUNS IN THE CONGO.

A ROUGH JOURNEY THROUGH AFRICA.

THE SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME AMONG THE NEGROES.

Some time since an account was given of the introduction of the Sisters of Notre Dame in the Congo. The nuns who formed the first colony of religious women who were to care for negro girls in the hour of Africa had to endure many trials before they reached their destination. An interesting account of their caravan journeys up country is printed in the January number of the Illustrated Catholic Missions.

The high road for the caravans is not exactly the thing that the reader understands by the term. Let him not think of a broad, levelled road. No; it is a mere path always winding in curves, where two can seldom walk abreast, bordered with grass six or eight feet high, which is dripping with dew and wets one to the skin in a very short time. Sometimes it crosses rough stony patches or shallow streams, or pools of black mud; now along the edges of a marsh, or even straight through it; then through a forest with branches projecting about the level of one's face, or dead trunks lying across the path. Now it plunges straight down the side of a steep valley and up an equally steep hill on the other side. The deeper streams are crossed by "monkey bridges," a tree trunk dropped across, with sometimes a rope of hind-weed arranged as a ladder. Except in the forest one is always under the full glare of the sun.

Villages are rather infrequent. They are hidden away in the bush at some distance from the road for the sake of greater security and in order to profit by the shade of occasional trees. Travelers do not care to encamp near a village for the curiosity of the blacks is often very embarrassing, and the noise and dancing frequently kept up for the whole night do not conduce to repose. The huts are built of branches, palm leaves and mats. They are about 13 feet long, 10 feet broad and 6 feet high down the centre; the roof projects downwards at the sides, forming a kind of verandah. Some of these are very neatly kept.

We append a few extracts condensed from the diaries kept by the Sisters of the two caravans, beginning with the start of the first caravan:

July 23, 1894.—Took the train at Matadi at 8 a.m. It consisted of two wagons with milk and corn, and one first-class carriage fitted with revolving wicker chairs and accommodating nine passengers. The train crawled along slowly frequently stopping to take breath and look around, till at last at a sharp curve in a cutting, it bumped into an empty train standing on the single line. They did not start again till 4 p.m., and then it was on an open goods wagon. An hour later the engine ran off the rails. This delayed them till 7:15 p.m. and in the interval they were entertained by a Swedish doctor in his iron cottage. At 8 p.m. there was a new delay; and as it was only 21 miles to Brother de Sadeleir's camp, they determined to do the rest on foot. After a journey through a forest with seven of the railway officials and five negroes carrying lamps and luggage, they reached camp at 9:30. The forty-mile journey had taken fourteen hours. Brother de Sadeleir was asleep but jumped up and soon had supper ready. They retired to their tent at 11 p.m. and the negroes kept up their chattering round a big fire almost till morning.

When crossing the streams and ascending some very steep hills they had to take to the hammocks. This was not so comfortable as might be supposed; for in addition to the stumbling of the porters and the jolting it often happened on the hillsides that their feet were considerably higher than their heads and at the resting places the bears dropped them on the ground unceremoniously. As they passed near a village the chief came out to welcome them and offered them Malagu, palm-wine. At first it is sour and disagreeable to the European palate but with use it becomes pleasant and is very refreshing on a hot fatiguing march.

On July 30 they arrived at Luvituku, the half-way station, where they were to change their relay of porters, and halt till August 4. They needed a rest after their constant marching and needed also some time to repair damages to garments and brush off the mud. Four white men are stationed here.

They called on the party and invited them all to dinner. The menu was served in the most recherche style though the cook and the waiters were only Congo negroes. The only mistake they made was to offer the Sisters cigars after dinner. The Sisters had cheerfully accommodated themselves to all the other exigencies of the situation, but they thought it right to draw the line at cigars.

As porters were very scarce, Father de Herdt determined to go alone, in charge of the thirty who were available; this was on August 2nd. On the 3rd, 80 men suddenly put in an appearance. This enabled the Sisters to convey not only the baggage they had with them, but a quantity more that had been some time stored there. While at Luvituku the Sisters were an object of the greatest interest to the women, who had never seen or heard of a white woman before. They gathered around the nuns' tent, observing every motion and exhibiting unbounded wonder.

The most disagreeable march was on August 6. They were wet through before 9 a.m., and arrived in a village drenched and muddy, their habits, veils, and wimples mere clinging and formless rags. They described themselves as looking like "hideous witches," and were not astonished that women and children fled at their approach.

On August 8, they had to spend half the day in the village. The inhabitants were most friendly. About a hundred crowded around the party and insisted on shaking hands all around; for some hours they sat in the middle of the crowd and amused the blacks by showing their watches. One sister produced a pocket mirror and exhibited it to the women. It caused some alarm among them, at first to see a living black face looking from the small frame, but when they understood the wonder the fun became immense, as each one looked upon her own beauty for the first time in her life.

On August 11 they started very early at 10:30 caught sight of the plateau of Kinuenuza. It took two hours to scale the mountain. All the colony turned out to greet them, the Fathers in advance, the schoolboys in two lines, and behind them the men and women all anxious to see the white women. The first visit was to the Blessed Sacrament, and then, after dinner, the Sisters took possession of the convent that had lately been built for them.

The second party, consisting of M. Van Bellinghe, Brother Henry, the Sister Superior and three other Sisters, started on July 27. They had to stop about half way; and here the Superior was taken ill, and Sister Rose had an attack of bilious fever. This necessitated two days delay.

On July 29, with permission of the doctor, the Sisters went on in a special train. Before long the single line was found to be blocked by a locomotive, and they had to transfer themselves to an open coal wagon and so continue. From the end of the line they did an hour's march, and then pitched their tents, unpacked their trunks and had supper.

On August 2 they arrived at the river Kulu, a torrent rushing between high rocky banks, and spanned by a "monkey bridge." They hesitated at crossing it. While they were waiting, the third caravan overtook them, and by the aid of this reinforcement the Sisters got safely over. The great event of the day was getting the donkeys across; the easiest place was selected, each in turn was pushed over a precipice 15 feet in height, and dragged through the torrent with a rope by the negroes on the other side.

On August 17 they arrived at the foot of Kinuenuza at 9 a.m. Then crossed a forest and commenced the long rugged ascent under a burning sun. They were ready to drop with fatigue when they came upon a little black sentry waiting to signal their arrival. He discharged his gun. The guard turned out and presented arms and fired a salute, and everyone hurried out to bid the Superior welcome, and take part in the Te Deum. The delight of the Sisters at finding themselves once more reunited, and established in a convent of their own after ten weeks of travel by land and sea, was indescribable.—The Monitor.

JUSTIN MCCARTHY.

LETTER TO THE HON. SECS. OF THE IRISH PARTY ON HIS RETIREMENT AND THE RESOLUTION OF REGRET PASSED BY THE COUNCIL.

Mr. Justin McCarthy, M. P., has addressed the following letter to the hon. secs. of the Irish Parliamentary Party: 73 Eaton Terrace, London, S. W.

Feb. 5, 1896. DEAR SECS.—Will you kindly make known to our colleagues of the Irish Parliamentary Party, in whatever way seems best to you, that the meeting at 24 Rutland square, Dublin, next Saturday, is called for the election of the Chairman and officers of the Party. I ought to have mentioned this in the letter which I sent you, but by mistake I omitted to do so.

Will you also kindly convey to my colleagues this expression of my deep regret that it is impossible for me to consent to be put in nomination again as Chairman of the Irish Parliamentary Party. My reasons for giving up the position are merely personal, and not in the least political.

I have still as full faith as ever I had in the sure success of the Home Rule cause, and do not even believe that that success is doomed to be so long deferred as some of our friends seem to think.

Nor have the passing discussions in the party had anything to do with my decision. These discussions are for the most part personal rather than political and they would not affect the vote of a single Irish Nationalist member in the division lobby of the House of Commons when any Irish interest is concerned. Furthermore, I see many hopeful indications that all the Irish Nationalist members may be brought again into close working union for the purpose of fighting the Irish battle in Parliament.

I am compelled to give up the Chairmanship of the Party simply because my health will no longer stand the continuous strain of occupation which the business of the Chairmanship naturally and necessarily involves. I am not a man of independent means, however small, and I have to make my living by my pen. I have neglected my own profession for many years, and the time has come when I must pay more attention to it than I have lately been doing. I do not intend to resign my seat in the House of Commons. As long as my constituents are content to put up with me, I shall only be too happy to remain in their service. But as you will easily understand, the work and the duties of an ordinary member of the party are very different indeed from those of its Chairmanship.

I need not tell you with what regret I make this announcement, but it is under the conditions irrevocable and inevitable.

Very truly yours, JUSTIN MCCARTHY.

Donal Sullivan, M.P., and Wm. Abraham, M.P., Hon. Secs. of the Irish Parliamentary Party.

Following is the resolution passed by the Council of the Irish National Federation at Dublin, on Feb. 7th:—

"Resolved—That we have learned with sincere sorrow that failing health has compelled Mr. Justin McCarthy to retire from the Chairmanship of the Irish Parliamentary Party; that we desire to place on record in the strongest terms we can command our admiration and gratitude for the dignity, fortitude, unsullied honor with which he has borne himself in that high office throughout a period of unprecedented difficulty, and that we are confident that as soon as the present divided condition of the Irish Nationalist forces passes away Irish Nationalists of all shades will unite in giving some worthy and permanent expression to the gratitude inspired by Mr. McCarthy's heavy sacrifices and noble life."

CHICAGO HOG MARKET.

Union Stock Yards, February 25.—The quotations to-day were: Light mixed, \$3.90 to \$4.15; mixed packing, \$3.85 to \$4.10; heavy shipping, \$3.75 to \$4.10; rough grades, \$3.75 to \$3.80.

LATEST MARKET REPORTS

MONTREAL LIVE STOCK MARKET.

There were about 400 head of butchers' cattle, 30 calves a d 5 sheep offered for sale at the East End Abattoir yesterday. The butchers were out in large numbers, but they bought sparingly, as they considered the prices rather high, and are hoping for more liberal supplies later on in the week. Choice beefs sold at 3 1/2 to 4c per lb; pretty good animals at from 3c to 3 1/2c; and the common stock at from 2 1/2c to 3c per lb. Young calves sell at from \$2 to \$6 each, and those two or three weeks old sell at from \$7 to \$12 each. There were no sheep sold during the early part of the day. Fat hogs sell at about 5 1/2c per lb.

PRODUCE MARKETS.

TORONTO, Ont., Feb. 25.—The market is quiet. Flour, trade quiet; straight rollers quoted at \$3.60 to \$3.70 Toronto freights. Bran, cars of bran nominal at \$11.50 west and shorts at \$13 to \$14. Wheat, market firmer; white sold at Northern at 80c, and red is quoted at 79c outside; No. 1 Manitoba hard offered at 83c n. b., with 8 1/2c bid, and No. 2 hard is 77c bid, No. 1 offered at 75c Midland; a car of No. 1 frosted sold at 66c North Bay and No. 2 frosted 57c bid. Barley market dull; no sales; No. 1 quoted at 45c and extra at 47c; No. 2 at 30c and feed at 30c. Oats, trade quiet and prices unchanged; white sold outside west at 23 1/2c and mixed at 22 1/2c west; cars of white on track quoted at 26 1/2c. Peas, market very dull; buyers at 50c and sellers at 51c outside. Buckwheat, market quiet; prices nominal at 32c outside. Oatmeal, business

quiet, prices unchanged at \$2.90 to \$3 on track, and small lots at \$3.25. Corn market steady, with 3 1/2c bid outside and sellers at 3 1/2c; yellow offered at 35c outside. May delivery, with 8 1/2c bid. Rye, market steady, quotations at 47c to 48c outside.

LONDON, Ont., Feb. 22.—The market was small to-day, owing to the blocked state of the roads in the country. Nearly all the roads running north and south are filled up, and in fact are impassable in certain parts. Very little grain came forward, and wheat quotations were nominal at \$1.35 to \$1.37 per cental. Oats were scarce at 74c per cental. A few beans sold at 50c to 60c per bushel. Peas, 45c to 51c per bushel. Barley 31 1/2c to 33 1/2c per bushel. Buckwheat, 26 1/2c to 28 1/2c per bushel. Rye, 39 1/2c to 44 1/2c per bushel. Corn 36 1/2c to 39 1/2c per bushel. The meat supply was shorter, and good beef sold at 15c per cwt., by the carcass, and a medium quality at \$1 to \$1.50. Lamb was firm at 9c a pound by the carcass; mutton, 6c and 7c per pound, whole sale. Dressed hogs sold at \$5 to \$5.30 per cwt. In poultry turkeys sold at 9c per lb. Best roll butter was firm at 20c per pound by the basket. Fresh laid eggs firm at 17c a dozen. A few barrels of apples were offered at \$2.50 to 3. Potatoes were easy at 2 1/2c per bag. Hay was scarce at \$14 per ton.

Guelph, Ont., Feb. 25.—Flour, \$2.20 to 2.25; fall wheat, 80c; spring wheat, 75c; bran, \$12; shorts, \$13; middlings, \$16; barley, 38c to 40c; oats, 25c to 26c; rye, 40c to 42c; peas, 50c to 54c; hay, \$15 to \$16; eggs, 25c to 25; butter, 18c to 20c; potatoes, per bag, 20c to 25c; sheepskins, 75c to \$1; hides \$4 to \$5; chickens, 60c to 75c; ducks, 70c to 80c; geese, 6c to 7c; turkeys, 9c to 10c.

NEW GLASSWARE. Just received, 13 packages just opened up of New Pressed Glassware, in imitation cut patterns, containing Jugs, Colery Trays, Jelly Dishes, Preserve Dishes, Nappies, Vases, Lamp, Bon-Bons, Butters, Sugars, Creams, Spoon Holders, Punch Bowls, Custard Cups, etc., all at very moderate prices, running for the various articles, from 20c each up. A. T. WILEY & CO., 1803 Notre Dame St., and 2341 St. Catherine St.

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FATHER KOENIG'S NERVE TONIC. Recovered Hearing. Zurich, Kas., Sept. 15, '94. I gave Father Koenig's Nerve Tonic to a boy 9 years old who had lost his hearing in consequence of Scarlet Fever. After using 3 bottles he was able again to hear and to talk, although the doctors said he would never hear again, but he is all right now. Several other persons, that suffered from female weakness and other diseases resulting from this cause took Father Koenig's Nerve Tonic through my advice and were cured. On my trips as missionary in eastern Kansas the people will ask for advice and I recommend the Tonic as it has the desired effect. Rev. J. B. Forsyth, Corsicana, Tex., Oct. 4, '94. My wife suffered from heart disease and sleeplessness. When Rev. Vendor of this place recommended Father Koenig's Nerve Tonic, 2 bottles had the desired effect. E. Le Beau. FREE. A Valuable Book on Nervous Diseases and a sample bottle to any 25¢ gross. Poor patients also get the medicine free. This remedy has been prepared by the Rev. Father Koenig, of Fort Wayne, Ind., since 1876, and is now under the direction of the KC ENIC MED. CO., Chicago, Ill., 49 S. Franklin Street. Sold by Druggists at \$1 per Bottle, 6 for \$5. Large Size, \$12.00. For sale in Montreal by LAVOLETTE & NELSON, 1606 Notre Dame Street, and by B. E. McGALE, 2122 Notre Dame Street.

St. Patrick's Day, 1896. THE TRUE WITNESS of the 18th March will contain a full report of St. Patrick's Day Procession, the Religious Celebration, Concerts, and all interesting incidents that time will permit of being gathered up by a special corps of expert reporters engaged for the occasion. There will also be special articles and numerous illustrations, these features tending to make it the surest and best medium for advertisers desirous of reaching at least 50,000 English speaking Catholic readers. PRICE - - 10 CENTS.

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Ladies' 12-Button length Silk Evening Gloves, opera shades, 55c pair.

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