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THE CONVERSION OF A NOTED GEORGIA SURGEON

WILLIAM WHATLEY BATTLEY RECEIVED INTO THE CHURCH ON HIS DEATHBED

Under date of March 22, the Rev. Father Richard Hamilton, of Albany, Ga., writes to the Catholic News, of New York as follows: "As I go from place to place in Georgia on extensive mission journeys I find that among Protestants many are convinced of the truths of the Catholic Church, but are not converted. And I find, also, that any amount of persuasion and conviction never bring Protestants into the true fold. Only a ray of light emanating from the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth, can convert those outside the sheepfold. Every conversion is a miracle of the power of the Holy Ghost. He is the 'lumen intelligentie' who alone, can enlighten the mind seeking after truth; who alone, can light the way of men who wander through the valley of unbelief and spiritual ruin.

Last week brought us, here in Georgia, into close touch with the workings of the Holy Spirit in the individual soul.

William Whatley Battley, M. D., descendant of a long line of skillful surgeons, some of whose works adorn the clinics of the world, a man noted for his charities to and his sacrifices for the poor, passed out of life on March 16 at his home in Augusta, Ga., surrounded by his most interesting family.

Dr. Battley was born of Methodist parents in Georgia. His father was killed in the War of the States, and his mother married the well-known Rev. Dr. Mann, presiding elder of one of the very important districts of the Methodist Conference in Georgia. Dr. Battley was carefully trained in the tenets of Methodism and became a loyal and faithful communicant and lived so for years.

A year ago the doctor's sight began to fail, and a fatal disease struck down this brilliant physician. Early during the week just ended the pastor of the Methodist church in Augusta visited the patient and prayed earnestly for him; but the doctor, with alert and unprejudiced mind, recalled many things which a faithful wife and loving sons had done for years, by way of good example in the household, and turning to the clergyman he said; 'My dear sir, I have no doubt in the Scripture. There is no passage you need explain to me. I have made up my mind to embrace the faith of my wife and children.'

'Then one of the sons addressed his father and said, 'Father, dear, do not become a Catholic out of sentiment.' 'No my son,' replied Dr. Battley, 'I have prayed to the Holy Ghost for light.'

'Then the son said, 'Remember, father, if you recover from this illness you must live up to the teachings of the Church you are about to embrace.'

'And the father replied, 'I will do so.'

'Then the clergyman left the room and Fathers Morrow and Kane of St. Patrick's, administered conditional baptism and the last rites of that Church against which hell shall never prevail. A day or two afterwards the soul of William Whatley Battley passed out beyond that unknown sea which rolls round the world to the celestial chorus of the saints in glory.

in the midst of friends of various beliefs, or of no belief at all. He was a student who thought well and reasoned wisely, and must have been convinced long ago of the truths the Church teaches.

'But I have so many stumbling blocks,' he would say; 'so much to impede my progress in Christian perfection.'

'In this he was at least conscientious. His family, always devout, setting good example at all times, but never influencing him otherwise, made an indelible impression upon his mind and found him not indifferent as indifference exists to day among Protestants. But notwithstanding his convictions and the example set by his family, God's grace had to penetrate his soul before he could make the plunge into the true Church.

'William Whatley Battley, will be greatly missed not only in the city of Augusta, but throughout the entire State of Georgia. No, we shall not look upon his life again, for his life was gentle and the elements so mixed in him that nature might stand up and say to all the world, 'This was a man.'

CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY OF CANADA

The second series of lectures, conducted by the Catholic Truth Society of Canada for the smaller towns and cities in Canada, was given by members of the Society of Bracebridge, Ont., on Sunday, March 22nd. A general meeting of the members of St. Joseph's Society of the town was addressed in the forenoon on the work of the Society, followed, in the evening, by a lecture of the "Relations between the Church and the home," before a very large audience.

It was unanimously decided to form a local corresponding section of the Catholic Truth Society in Bracebridge. The Catholic Truth Society wish to take opportunity to thank Rev. Fathers O'Leary and Casey and the members of the Committee from St. Joseph's Society of Bracebridge, as well as the citizens of that town, for the courtesy extended to the visiting delegates and for the appreciation of the work that the Truth Society is doing.

THE EFFICACY OF PRAYER

There are many beautiful devotions to particular of God's saints that have the approval of the Church and that are encouraged; among which is the devotion to St. Anthony, lovingly called the wonder worker. But it need scarcely be mentioned that St. Anthony does not make a specialty of returning lost quarters and dimes, plated or solid gold or silver jewelry, embroidered or lace handkerchiefs, jeweled garters, coal shovels or snow shovels, favorite cats or pet dogs. To illustrate: Let us say that when a woman who prefers dogs to children should have the unspendable misfortune of losing her pet bull terrier. If she prays to St. Anthony she'll find her dog, eh? Well, Catholics do not believe that it works that way. The Catholic idea of prayer and invocation of the saints is an entirely different thing. The right disposition is essential; prayer, to be meritorious, must come from a heart that is in tune with the Infinite—in harmony with God. True Catholics, humbly begging God through the mediation of His saints for favors, spiritual or temporal, know that the beginning and the end of their prayer is "If it be God's holy will."

It is to be doubted whether all Catholics really understand this. The writer can point out a half dozen instances that have fallen under his personal observation which were pathetic, to say the least. One single case will serve to illustrate: A certain woman's husband became seriously ill, and being unable to work, the family suffered in consequence. The woman was a Catholic—oh yes! That is to say, she went to church on Sundays, when the weather was fair, and to the sacraments regularly once a year. That was the sum and substance of her religion—the full measure of her Catholicity. No prayers were ever said in her home, either by herself or by any members of her family; grace before and after meals was unknown; no morning or evening prayers; and certainly no prayers during the day. There were few prayer books and fewer rosaries, and no crucifix adorned the wall. But now that trials and troubles had come, she sought refuge in prayer, and successe of tribulation. In her desperation she, whose whole life was a series of prayerless years, resolved to make a novena to recite some little formula on nine consecutive days—and only nine days. And after the novena was ended, nay, before she had asked, nay, before she had asked, the restoration of her husband's health, had not been granted, she complained bitterly to the writer that there was no efficacy in prayer. Had she not tried it for nine days? she said, and God did not grant her request!

It is to be hoped that such stupid presumption to call it by no harsher name, does not sway many of those who ask favors of God directly or through His saints. It is to be feared, however, that there is a fair sprinkling of Catholics who turn to God only in time of trouble, or because His assistance only in material and mundane things. That is making a mockery of prayer and trifling with God's bountiful mercy.

—Extension, (Chicago).

FATHER FRASER'S CHINESE MISSION

The noble response which has been made to the CATHOLIC RECORD'S appeal in behalf of Father Fraser's Chinese mission encourages us to keep the list open a little longer.

It is a source of gratification to Canadian Catholics that to one of themselves it should have fallen to inaugurate and successfully carry on so great a work. God has certainly blessed Father Fraser's efforts, and made him the instrument of salvation to innumerable souls. Why not dear reader, have a share in that work by contributing of your means to its maintenance and extension? The opportunity awaits you: let it not pass you by.

- Previously acknowledged: \$4,112.30
In honor of abandoned souls: 10.00
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J. M. Scott, Ottawa: 5.00

SUBSCRIBER, DELTA.—As we have discontinued the publication of "Favors Received" will subscribe please write us, giving name, so that we may return the money enclosed in letter of April 24th.

DIED

FENN.—At Bracebridge, Tuesday, 28th, Grace Ruth, fourth daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Fenn, aged twelve years. May her soul rest in peace!

McKINNON.—At Sault Ste Marie, Ont., on April 8, 1914, Frances, wife of John McKinnon, aged thirty-six years. May her soul rest in peace!

TESKEY.—At his late residence 286 Dalhousie street, Ottawa, Ont., on Friday, April 10, 1914, Mr. Stephen Lorne Teskey, seventy-two years. May his soul rest in peace!

"THE MENACE"

Whereas, the Canadian Government, through the Honorable Post Master General, has refused to permit the transmission through the Canadian mail of a malignant paper known as the Menace; and Whereas, the sole object of said publication is to stir up religious strife and to promote anti-Catholic prejudice by publishing gross misrepresentation against the Catholic Church and its members; be it therefore Resolved, that we, the members of Stella Maris League of the Cross, of Inverness, N. S., heartily commend the Honorable Mr. Pelletier on his prompt action in the matter; and be it further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Hon. Post Master General and to the Catholic press for publication.

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