FEAST OF THE MOON

A MISSIONARY'S INTERESTING

EXPERIENCES

What did you think of the Feast of the Adoration of the Moon last night?" Thus questioned several of my Chinese students at Catechism Class when I had finished the regu-lar lesson and asked: "Any ques-tions?"

On the previous evening on the main street of Kaifeng in front of many residences I had noticed tables which were laden with fruit, vegetables and pastry together with lighted candles and burning incense. Beside the tables were the housewives and children in a prostrate position. The Chinese were adoring the moon and offering the gifts which were on the table to the

students had judged that I would treat this annual celebration as a big joke—as something to be laughed at or even ridiculed. They did not think I would look upon the celebration as a serious act of worship. Thus all my students in the Mission School where I taught English were expectant, gazing at manual training?" I asked from me amusedly, as if I were going to give a flippant answer.

Even though these students did knew that the parents of the boys, or at least some of their elders had offered fruit and vegetables. I knew that these boys had a great

EXPECTED HE WOULD POKE FUN

'Perhaps you expect me to poke fun at the Chinese celebration last night," I began with a smile. I smiled because I wanted as Saint Ignatius of old "to go in their door and then lead them to come out my

door."
"The celebration last night made floor. not believe, you know, in adoring the moon. Yet I respect those who do. You know I don't adore the moon but God Who made the moon."

The answer did not satisfy. Chinese the moon but God Who made the moon."

illustrations. So I called Mr. Ling, one of my brightest boys, to the front of the class.

"Suppose you had a donkey, Mr. Ling, and I wished to ride to the North Gate, would you loan me your donkey?"

"You know, Father, we could have placed these dear old souls in another part of the enclosure but the leastion elect to the ability."

Certainly, Father, and I would be glad to run along and lead the

donkey."

"After you had run alongside of your donkey for three miles, and I would dismount, wouldn't you think that i would be ungrateful dren, are imbued with the spirit of Christ in caring for these homeless and penniless old women." if I would pat your donkey on the neck, and repeatedly say: 'Thank you, little donkey,' and yet never say a word of thanks to you who owned the donkey?" Thus I questioned.

When I arrived in Stanghai I went direct to the orphan asylum of the Little Helpers of the Holy Souls.

it were—and forget the good God Who made the moon?" They were quick to see the point.

missionaries whose work is progressing in China, I visited the establishory in China, I visited the Divine or phan asylums in Shanghai. "The alongside of Father King, who with Father Clark, was the first Amerigirls are not permitted to take any Father Clark, was the first American to leave from the house of studies at Techny, Illinois, with Father Hagspiel, better known to juvenile readers as Father Pruno, with the Right Reverend W. Gier, Superior General of the Society, and other priests I listened to some 500 Chinese intone the sublime prayer of the morning "Tsai T'ien neue tang foutchee" (Our Father Who art in Heaven). To hear this ancient Our Father, that nineteen centuries of faith have repeated, and to hear it in this strange language so far from the shores of guage so far from the shores of America made me weep with joy, and I appreciated in a new manner the great miracle of the Catholicity of the Church. Father King said that their vicariate, presided over by Bishop Hennighaus, had almost 100,000 Christians with almost 50,000 Chinese who were studying to become Christians.

WHAT CHRISTIANITY MEANS TO CHINESE Later, around the dinner table,

today?"

The answers were varied. But all of the missionaries agreed that the Chinese regarded Christianity as the root of Western civilization.
Thinking Chinese long ago discovered, said the Fathers, that
Western civilization has been largely formed by Western religion. "Our Chinese are finding," said a native Chinese priest who sat next to me and who could speak Latin fluently, and who could speak Latin fluently, "that your Western civilization is better fitted to cope with the modern world than the old civilization of the East. And, to the Chinese, we Fathers here in Shantung are really seeking to vindicate the civilization of the West.

women more numane that offspring at our door, or send the child to us."

In this asylum, Mother Casilda pointed out, the great need is for American medical missionaries. In an adjoining manual training school, conducted by the Jesuits a lay of the cynnucl is described as the most ancient book now in existence in the world. In this ancient text there is told an adjoining manual training school, conducted by the Jesuits a lay

"Why all this teaching?" continued the priest. "To prove that Western civilization had a kind of education which fits more people better for the hardships of life than the Oriental education. Thus the Chinese think."

In the convent of the Sisters of the Holy Ghost I noted about 40 Chinese girls and young women engaged in making lace, embroidery, tapestry, and vestments for the church; about 40 others with awl and needle were stitching shoes for the community or cutting out winter clothes for the seminarians; the several blind women were winding spools of thread. In the laundry 22 girls were scrubbing the clothes while outside several blind girls were pumping the water. In another room several girls, talented with

one of the Fathers who accompanied me.

"You remember your conversation with the Chinese priest," re plied the Father. "These mission-ary Sisters are upholding the civilization which is a product of Christianity. And when our Western respect for their parents even though they had no respect for this religious observance.

EXPECTED HE WOULD POKE FUN

EXPECTED HE WOULD POKE FUN

Taking A when the Weeker will be a with the been vindicated thoroughly, I believe there will be a much wider acceptance of the doctrines taught by Christ."

SHIN FOO LAI

Finally when the Sisters opened the door of a dormitory and said:
"Shin Foo, lai," (the priest comes,
I was amazed to see twenty aged women fall to their knees with their hands touching the bare, brick

The answer did not satisfy. Chinese in caring for these old, infirm boys as well as American boys want friends of Jesus. The old women

this location close to the children is a source of mutual edification. The old women see that we love The old women see that we love and cherish the children, especially

But Father, you wouldn't be so about the Chinese babies.

foolish as to pat a dumb donkey, and say: 'Thank you, little donkey,' interjected one youngster.

"Won't you tell me, Mother, why such a sign on which is inscribed: 'Don't Throw Your Girl Babies In Here. Dead Babies are Bad For donkey," interjected one youngster.

'Or to forget Mr. Ling who owns
the donkey," interrupted another.

"And yet if you say that I would
be foolish to pat a dumb donkey,
and ungrateful to forget Mr. Ling,
the owner of the donkey, shall we
not pity the people who kowtow—
who pat the moon on its face as
who pat the moon on its face as
it were—and forget the good God

Chinese babies.
"A Chinese, who has not a son, uick to see the point.

To profit by the methods of other dissionaries whose work is progress-whose work is progress-whose work is progress-whose Sisters baptize about 400 Word, at Yenchowfu, in the province father is very unhappy unless he of South Shantung. There kneeling can leave after him an heir to offer

"It would be regarded as a bad omen for the family if the first-born is a girl. Thus to saye the whole household from certain mis-fortune, the girl child is killed, con-tinued the Mother as she pulled up the sheet over the emaciated form of an infant which died just hefore we entered the ward before we entered the ward. "And how do they kill their babies?" I asked.

Later, around the dinner table, at which were seated priests from Germany, Belgium, France, Holland, China, and our own United States I asked this question: "What does Christianity mean to the Chinese today?"

The answers were varied. But belgius 1 asked. Many of the unfortunate babies are deprived of life in the mother's are deprived of life in the mother's room, being either strangled or sufficeated by the deluded parents. Chinese dumps. Some pious Chinese men and women go to these dumps before the answers were varied. But day-break, and listen for the wail of these subjects. The translation under discussion is followed by former Baltimorean, whose sister is numerous notes and commentaries, which are the production of these subjects. Mrs. Walter Boggs, and whose brother was the late Paul Brown who died as a Jesuit scholastic.

"And why do they go before day-break?" I asked.
"To get there before the dogs,"
Mother Casilda said. "Other women more humane leave their offspring at our door, or send the child to us."

"Do we teach school?" questioned the venerable Chinese priest. small boxes. "We supply almost details in his treatment of his subject. A striking feature of the "Besides a large school for boys and seminarians, maintained by the Fathers and Brothers, there is a school across the road, directed by the Sisters of the Holy Ghost, with about 100 girls ranging in ages from six to twenty years."

"We supply almost "And a medical missionary, with a knowledge of the alments which affect these foundlings could save about 100 babies every year, said the Mother.

ROMAN CATHOLICS NOT CHRISTIANS From my mission of Kaifeng in the province of Honan to Hsuchowfu I traveled over the Belgian Long Hai Railroad through a district infested by the bandits. On the rear of the train there was a "Pullman" or with account man" car with accommodations which would not do credit to a freight caboose in America. However in order to miss none of the excitement I took a seat in a third class day coach in which over 100 Chinese were crowded. Naturally in travelling through a country such as China. a foreigner is often such as China, a foreigner is often misunderstood. But it was the first time in my life that I was ever exhorted to become a Christian. This is how it happened.

En route a young Chinese civil engineer entered and sat down by my side. He noticed me reading my Breviary, and asked, in broken

'Are you an Anglican priest?" "No, sir, I am a Roman Catholic

priest."

"A Roman Catholic priest!" repeated the Chinamen with much astonishment. "Then I hope you will turn to be a Christian. You see Roman Catholics are not Chris tians

"If Roman Catholics are not Christians, who are?" I apologetically asked.
"The Christians are Anglicans,

Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists, and some others whose names I Roman Catholics don't worship God. You Roman Catholics don't worship God. You worship Mary."

My "enlightened" teacher left the train before I could give an apptidate to the teaching.

antidote to the teaching of some Protestant missiouary in China, but have his address, as well as the address of his teacher.

LOOKING BACKWARD

After the train pulled out of the station, and the soldiers took up their stand at each end of the car, and the conductor, guarded by five soldiers each armed with a rifle, a revolver, and dagger, came along collecting the tickets I settled back, or rather settled up on my wooden bench (for there was no back) and I travelled in imagination to the seaport of Nagaski, Japan. On the hills surrounding Nagaski harbor over 25,000 Catholic Japanese have been put to death because they wouldn't don't death because they wouldn't deny the founder of Chris-

And yet I stood there in imagination on the dock in Nagaski with so many evidences of Japanese Cathol-icism looking down upon me, my view of another Catholic Church was blocked by a huge sign on which is painted in huge, black letters: "Christian Institutions Represented in Nagasaki, Japan." And then I in Nagasaki, Japan." And then I read the following list: "Methodist, Episcopal, Reformed Church in America, Southern Baptist Mission, Congregational, Presbyterian, Salvation Army, Seamen's Home, Y. M. C. A."—but not one word about those Catholic institutions looking down upon that sign or about the Catholic Church which

the sign hid from my view. After recalling that Protestants had the audacity to paint that sign in full view of several Catholic institutions in such an old Catholic city as Nagaski, I couldn't help sympathizing with the Chinamen who wanted to convert me to Chris-

WORLD'S OLDEST VOLUME

CAPUCHIN TRANSLATES CHALDEAN CYLINDERS

What is said to be the most ancient book in existence in the world figures in a recent work by Father Hillaire de Barenton of the Capuchin Order, which hasattracted extensive interest among specialists. and has been received with much attention in various parts of the

Father de Barenton has just completed and published his trans-lation of two Chaldean cylinders which are known as the Goudea cylinders, and which belong to the museum of the Louvre. Much light is thrown by these researches upon some of the striking ways of people of the ancient days involved, especially with regard to their manner of writing.

These cylinders may be described as blocks of a hard substance, which were employed by the Chaldeans and Assyrians of old as seals. They were covered with inscriptions which are of great interest to the present day student of these subjects. The translation under discussion is followed by which are themselves deserving of

BEFORE BIRTH OF ABRAHAM Goudea was a Priest-King who reigned in Chaldea from about the year 2100 to 2080 B. C., a little before the birth of Abraham. On the clay of the cylinder is found inscribed a text, and it is this that

deductions to be drawn from a reading of this text is the evidence it gives that many Chaldean customs were carried into the Western World and thus contributed to the civilization of the present day.

Many attempts at translation of this text were made before the present one, but they were all incomplete on many points. One of the highly important points ably elucidated by Father de Barenton is his proof, by means of recently discovered synchronisms that vari-ous ancient Chaldean dynasties which had hitherto been believed to have been successive in time were have been successive in time, were, in reality, contemporaneous.

Aside from his present work, Father de Barenton is well known for his scholarly works on the Etruscan tongue, which have been crowned by the Academy of Inscriptions.—The Pilot.

TO REMEMBER

Remember day by day, that He who gives thee the morning, does not promise thee the evening, nor yet the morrow. Spend, therefore, every moment of every hour accordence to God's Will as if it were the ing to God's Will as if it were thy last, and so much the more, for of each moment thou wilt have to give strict account.-Father Laurence

TRY MAGNESIA FOR STOMACH TROUBLE

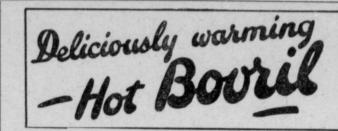
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that seems to follow most everything you eat.
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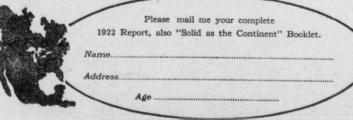
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