

seemingly permeated throughout with the vile influences therein entrusted to the discreet air. The genius of a Poe looking on that mute witness of a century of dishonor might well conceive loathsome, serpentine, writhing, immortal sins, crawling their slimy way in and out among the tainted wood-fibres; phosphorescent in the gloom; repulsive in the light of day. What peccadillo of Donna Inez was confessed here, to be expiated at yonder christening font? Does this suave padre know how and why Pedro was found in the canyon with a stiletto in his back?

On the whole, I preferred the confessional to the christening font. The font is not in the body of the church at all, whether because of monastic modesty, or otherwise, I cannot say. But when the padre threw open what I thought was a vault door and ushered us into the chamber in which the human infant is received into the bosom of mother church, and told (as he would learn soon enough) that he s a miserable sinner, and his parents no better, I shuddered, wondering if, perchance, our pleasant guide was one of the Ten, and had led us into Inquisitorial hands, through hints from the lion of St. Mark, to be sent to the supreme court of heaven, mercifully, "without the shedding of blood." Those grim walls of naked stone, six feet thick, that prison window with the birds twittering without, that floor of blood-red brick, and that great cauldron covered with hammered copper several centuries old, seemed more a prelude to a departure from this world than of entry upon its pains and pleasures. Talk of the witches' cauldron in Macbeth! I did not draw a free breath till I reached the other side of that studded door.

San Gabriel Mission is not specially noteworthy because it has withstood the buffets of time, it is not particularly interesting for its antiquity or relics, but it will ever be the Mecca of those who believe that America has a literature and that Helen Hunt Jackson is an exponent of it; in both of which credos I share. The mission is the central feature of the