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## Pierre Toussaint, Benefactor of the Poor.

### Remarkable Life Work of a Noteworthy Negro.

#### God's Image Carved in Ebony

In the recently published eighth volume of the Historical Records and Studies of the United States Catholic Historical Society a chapter is devoted to an outline of "Mission Work among Colored Catholics". And incidentally the story is told of a noble negro, the perusal of whose life and work would be the source of elevation and good to any man of any race or creed. The story is that of Pierre Toussaint, who came as a slave from Santo Domingo with his master and he master's wife, fleeing from the revolution of August 1791. The master died on a return trip to the island, and the widow "found herself in her new home without any resources."

"Toussaint" we learn, "immediately devoted himself to her maintenance. He was an expert ladies' hair dresser, and soon became the fashionable artist of the town, earning a considerable amount, which he expended on his mistress, who, on her death bed, in 1810, emancipated him." "But he also found time even then to do a great deal of charitable work, helping the poor with his savings and ministering to the sick. During the yellow fever epidemic his work was heroic. When he became free his prosperity increased and his thrift accumulated a modest competence, the income of which went to the poor, for churches, to orphan asylums, or whatever fostered the progress of religion. He lived to the age of eighty-seven, dying on June 30, 1853. It is stated that for sixty years he never failed to hear Mass every morning."

Nor were the great services which he performed unappreciated. At his death there were many to testify to his good works. A lady, a non-Catholic, who had attended his funeral in New York thus describes it in a letter to a friend:

"I went on Saturday to attend Toussaint's funeral. High Mass, incense, candles, rich robes, sad and solemn music were there. The Church gave all that it could give to prince or noble. The priest, his friend Mr. Quin, made a most interesting address. He did not allude to his color, and scarcely to his station, it seemed as if his virtues as a man and a Christian had absorbed all other thoughts. A stranger would not have suspected that a black man of his humble calling lay in the midst of us. He said no relative was left to mourn for him, yet many present would feel that they had lost one who always had wise counsel for the rich, words of encouragement for the poor, and all would be grateful for having known him."

"The aid he had given to the late Bishop Fenwick of Boston, to Father Power of our city, to all the Catholic institutions, was dwelt upon at large. How much I have learnt of his charitable deeds which I had never known before! Mr. Quin said: 'There were left few among the clergy superior to him in devotion and zeal for the Church and for the glory of God; among laymen none!' (Historical Records and Studies", New York, 1915, p. 127.)

A remarkable and beautiful story indeed, this life of the ex-slave Toussaint. "God's image carved in ebony", has he been called by another lady who wrote an account of his career. (Mrs. H. F. Leo, "Memoir of Pierre Toussaint: Born a Slave in St. Domingo." Boston, Crosby and Nichols, 1854.) And this is but one instance of the beneficial influence of the Catholic Church upon members of the negro race. The Church, the first to take up the work for the negro in this country, has always been the source of elevation for these people. Hatred of the Church and of the negro has often in fact gone hand in hand. It was so in the case of the "New York Coa-

spiracy", or the "Negro Plot", in which a number of Catholic negroes were burnt at the stake in 1741. One of these, of whom we read, Juan de Sylva, as he went to his death, "kissed a crucifix, insisting on his innocence to the last." (p. 126)

The negro in our country at the present time is in great need of the Church's helping hand. In the negro missions can be produced other characters of the same nobility as Pierre Toussaint and Juan de Sylva. In this way is not alone a religious work but likewise a social work performed. It is incumbent on Catholics to realize the importance of this matter and to contribute generously to the support of the missions among the negro people in this country. Too often, we are inclined to believe, do they fail to understand the vital necessity of this form of missionary endeavor.

C. B. of C. V.

## Foreign Mission News

Special correspondence by  
The Propagation of the Faith Society  
343 Lexington Ave., New York City

Death took a goodly toll of the missionaries during the year of 1914. The report shows that 188 died; of this number nine were bishops. As usual, the Jesuits head the list with 41 deceased members. The Paris Foreign-Mission Society comes next, with a loss of 36 priests. The Holy Ghost Fathers are third, with a loss of 22. One apostle was massacred; he was Fr. J. T. Monbeig, P. F. M., who was killed by brigands in Thibet.

Fr. Sylvain Bousquet, who has been called from his mission at Shimo Shamba, Japan, to do parish work in one of the depleted French towns, says that the children write most wonderful letters to him constantly, assuring him they have not forgotten him and telling him of the many sacrifices they are making that the end of the terrible war may soon come.

San Juan Island is having its own troubles. Fr. Thomas, P. F. M., who presides over the mission, says that he is very uneasy about the existence of its various foundations. To add to the general misery three typhoons coming in quick succession have destroyed the harvests of the entire island. This means black despair for the natives, who have only their crops and their fishing with which to sustain life. The number of Christians, nevertheless, is daily increasing.

There are quite a number of Chinese on the Island of Ceylon, engaged in fishing. They catch a fish resembling a large mackerel, which the natives of Ceylon never eat, but which seems to appeal to the taste of the Celestials, as great quantities of it are sent to China. Most of the Chinese are pagans, but they show a friendly attitude toward the Christian Indians in their employ.

## Expiation For Pagan Defects.

"We hear occasionally from Fr. Lasquier, Chaplain of the Trappistine convent at Hokkaido, Japan, and the news is always encouraging. Not only is the community of monks continually gaining members from among the Japanese, but the number of Trappistine nuns is rapidly increasing. At present there are fifty two Sisters, and the prospect is that they will soon reach sixty."

This is a very good showing, when the severity of the rule of La Trappe is taken into consideration. But Father Lasquier says that nuns will never be too numerous to offer up the expiation needed to repair the faults of the pagans by whom they are surrounded.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Omaha, Neb., has leased gone hand in hand. It was so in the case of the "New York Coa-

## News From Ireland

**Antrim.**  
To James Brady, J. P., managing director of Messrs. Nicholson, Templeton & Co., Belfast, a presentation was made of a solid silver salver by the employees of the firm to mark their appreciation of his appointment to the magistracy.

**Armagh.**  
Hugh Cosgrove, aged 60 years, of Carrickbracken, was found dead in his bed, presumably from heart disease. The man, who was in receipt of out-door relief, was of simple mind.

**Carlow.**  
The Carlow and Wicklow Gaelic League (Eastern Circuit), has, on the motion of Rev. J. Killian, C. C., Tullow, seconded by Dr. Kenna, J. P., Balingglass, protested against the withdrawal of the department grants in aid of Irish classes for school teachers.

**Cavan.**  
Died—At his residence Leeka, Shercock, James Connolly, aged 70 years.—Henrietta, wife of Robert A. McCay, Ulster Bank house, Cavan.

**Clare.**  
Regarding conscription as "an attempt to wipe out the last remnant of the Irish race at home that escaped famine, starvation, eviction and emigration," the Ennis Rural District Council passed a resolution against conscription "in any shape or form."

**Cork.**  
There has passed away at the North infirmary, Cork, Sister Agnes Lennon, formerly of Drogheda, who fifty-eight years ago joined the Sisters of Charity and had been on the nursing staff of the North infirmary since 1869.

**Derry.**  
Mother Aloysius, whose death occurred on Christmas day at the Convent of Mercy, Pump street, Derry, was interred in the vault in the Long Tower church after a requiem Mass. She belonged to a highly respected family in Strabane, and was 71 years of age, of which 56 years were spent in religious life.

The death has occurred of Rev. John Connolly, C. C., Waterside, Derry. He was a native of Draperstown. After his ordination he was stationed in Liverpool for a short period, and over sixteen years ago he came to Waterside.

**Donegal.**  
The death of Anthony Kelly, son of Francis Kelly, an extensive farmer, Summerhill, Donegal, will be learned by all those who knew him with feelings of the deepest regret.

**Down.**  
The opening ceremony in connection with the installation of electric light in Castlewells, County Down, was performed in the presence of a representative gathering of the towns people recently.

**Dublin.**  
Died—At Monaghan street, Newry, Mrs. Elizabeth Feehan.

The proposal of the Dublin corporation to transfer the statue of Thomas Davis from Mount Jerome cemetery has met with a refusal from the governing body of the cemetery, who in a letter to the corporation state that they cannot see their way to part with the statue.

**Galway.**  
Deep regret is widely felt in County Galway at the death of Rev. Patrick Gleeson, P. P., Roundstone, whose many charitable works and zeal for the faithful committed to his charge made him beloved by all.

**Kildare.**  
The Rev. Father Norris, P. P., in presenting the prizes at Naas Technical schools, J. Wolfe, J. P., presiding, congratulated Mr. Hall, the principal, on the great success achieved by the schools.

**Mayo.**  
On the occasion of his transfer to Castlebar, E. Crowley, station-master at Westport, was presented by the staff with a silver tea service.

**Tipperary.**  
P. J. Slattery, son of J. Slattery, J. P., Borrisokane, has qualified as a dental surgeon.

## The Work of a Half-Century in the Far East.

A little booklet just printed by the Jesuits of Shanghai, gives a glimpse of the conditions of Catholic missions in the Far East fifty years ago and at the present time. The figures appearing in this report speak volumes. We know, of course, that the Faith has made progress in China and Japan, but we do not realize how extraordinary this growth has been until we see the actual statistics.

Twenty-two provinces "appear here as a few of the most important: Japan in 1865 had 10,000 Catholics; they now number 72,454, and Japan is acknowledged to be a difficult country to evangelize.

Thibet, an almost inaccessible region, had 100 Catholics half a century ago; now it has 3,557.

Mongolia, also a hard country for the missionary, had 6,000 Catholics; now it counts 89,335. Its companion, Manchuria, had 6,000 converts in 1865; now there are 50,321 members of the True Fold.

Kiang Si shows 69,180 Catholics as against 9,000 half a century ago; Shang Tung 130,506 against 10,751. Feh-li is the banner province, with a total Catholic population of 485,316. Its early statistics are not available, but they would undoubtedly show the same comforting comparison. According to the authority quoted, the Catholics in the entire twenty-two provinces total 1,968,218.

## A Noble Thought.

This example should be followed by many worthy persons who think that an elaborate memorial in a cemetery is a sign of respect to the dead. It is, in a way, but the lasting tribute of Charity to Christ's poor will mean more to the dear departed than stone and marble ornaments.

A brother and two sisters determined to erect a costly monument in memory of a deceased brother. After due consideration, a simple stone marked the grave, and an offering of \$3,000 was sent for the erection of a memorial chapel. The chapel is to be dedicated to St. John the Evangelist, the patron of the deceased.

The reason for the change in plans was a list of donations given by him during the course of the past ten years. It was felt that the chapel and not the monument would be just what he would want, and so the money was given to the missions and not to the tombstone man.

It is not a difficult matter to instill into our good Catholic people zeal and love for the missions. On the contrary, there is not another religious cause so popular. There seems to exist in each Catholic heart a chord, which has only to be touched to cause it to vibrate in sympathy with the work of propagating the Faith among the heathen.

## COLLECTION FOR CHARITIES

### Will Be Taken Up in Catholic Churches Next Sunday.

Bishop Thomas F. Hickey recently sent a letter to the clergy and laity of this diocese, which was read at all the masses in the Catholic churches Sunday, directing that next Sunday a special collection be taken up for diocesan charities.

The total amount collected last year after a similar appeal from the Bishop was \$7,423.95. The expenditures last year were as follows: St. Ann's Home for Aged, \$1,000; St. Mary's Boys' Orphan Asylum, \$560; St. Patrick's Orphan Asylum, \$560; St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum, \$500; missionary work in diocese, \$4,649.13; general diocesan charities, \$12.99; printing reports and postage, \$141.83.

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## Archbishop Mundelein to be Installed on Feb. 9th.

Everything is in readiness for the installation of the Most Rev. George W. Mundelein, D. D., as Archbishop of Chicago and Metropolitan of the Province of Illinois. It will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 9, in Holy Name Cathedral, at State and Superior streets.

Archbishop Mundelein will arrive in Chicago the day preceding his installation. He will be accompanied from Brooklyn, where he formerly served as auxiliary bishop, by a delegation of local and Brooklyn clergy and laymen.

Because of the possibility of inclement weather, the plan to tender him an immediate welcome when he sets foot for the first time on the soil of the state of which he will become a spiritual director, has been abandoned. Instead, he will be escorted from the railroad station to the archiepiscopal residence at State and North avenue, where he will spend the night resting in preparation for the ceremony on the day following.

Installation services will begin at 10 o'clock in the morning. The Most Rev. John Bonzano, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, will come from Washington to officiate. The Rt. Rev. Charles E. McDonnell, Bishop of Brooklyn, by whom Archbishop Mundelein was ordained to the priesthood, and other dignitaries of the Church will be present.

Because of the necessity of the entire local clergy attending, seats in the Cathedral will be limited and admission will be by card.

## Father Cluney in Accident.

### Sexton Dies From Injuries.

Bruno Pilo, 23, sexton of St. Paul's Catholic church, Honeoye Falls, N. Y., died Sunday after noon in St. Mary's hospital from injuries received a short time before when an automobile belonging to Rev. M. J. Cluney, rector of the church, in which the sexton and rector were riding, was struck and demolished by a south-bound freight train on the Lehigh Valley railroad, at the West Main street crossing in that village. The two were on their way to St. Paul's cemetery where Pilo was to dig a grave.

Father Cluney did not see or hear the approaching train until it was but a few feet away and the automobile was on the tracks. The automobile was struck on the side near the rear. Father Cluney was thrown several feet. Pilo and the wrecked automobile were carried 500 feet along the tracks.

## Plenty of Orphans In Madras.

It is perhaps not generally known that the Catholic missions own the largest number of orphanages in the Madras Presidency, and therefore maintain the largest population of orphan children. There are in all in Madras 113 orphanages, which support 2,706 boys and 3,182 girls. Of these the Catholic missions alone care for fifty-three orphanages containing 1,050 boys and 1,937 girls; the Protestant denominations together own forty-seven orphanages, with non-Christian denominations, thirteen orphanages, with 353 boys and 16 girls.

## Feb. Month of the Holy Family

Tuesday, Feb. 1, St. Ignatius; Bishop of Antioch, St. Brigid of Kildare; Wednesday, Feb. 2, Feast of the Purification; Thursday, Feb. 3, St. Blaise; Saturday, Feb. 5, St. Agatha; Wednesday, Feb. 9, St. Cyril; Thursday, Feb. 10, St. Scholastica; Friday, 11, Our Lady of Lourdes; Monday, Feb. 14, St. Valentine; Sunday, Feb. 20, Septuagesima; Tuesday, Feb. 22, St. Peter's Chair; Wed-

nesday, Feb. 23, St. Peter Damian; Thursday, Feb. 24, St. Matthias the Apostle; Friday, Feb. 25, St. Ethelbert; Sunday, Feb. 27, Sexagesima.

## Irish Songs and Dances at the Conservatory of Music.

The members of the Gaelic Literary and Musical Association, who took part in the "Indoor Circus" at the Blessed Sacrament church hall last week, repeated their parts at the Conservatory of Music last Friday evening for the benefit of their fellow members and friends. An old Irish four hand reel was danced by D. C. Ryan, M. K. Fenelon, Miss Elsie Cole and Miss Mary Carr, and Irish Step dancing by P. Kavanagh, James Young and Miss Dorothy Waters.

Miss Mary Doyle gave a beautiful and sympathetic rendition of the delightfully plaintive old Irish ballad—"Mo Colleen Dhas" and William Bouden was well applauded for "A Little Bit of Heaven", and the enthusiasm of the audience manifested itself in wild applause in response to Mr. Daniel Coleman's singing of "There's Nothing too good for the Irish". Miss Mary Margaret Coleman accompanied the vocalists on the piano.

The Association has issued invitations to the members and their friends to a Valentine soiree to be held at the Conservatory on Friday evening, Feb. 11th, for which a small vocal program of Irish music is arranged.

## Catholic News Notes

### FOREIGN.

The Catholics of Sydney recently celebrated the golden jubilee of the arrival of the first Sisters of Mercy in New South Wales, an event of inestimable importance to the progress of the faith in that part of Australia. The pioneer Sisters were three in number, and were sent out from the Convent of St. Ethelburga, Mount Vernon, Liverpool, at their head being Mother Mary Ignatia McQuinn, a London-born member of an Irish family which has given many of its sons and daughters to the service of God in the religious life.

John Henry Joyce, of Folkestone, England, recently deceased, bequeathed the sum of \$50,000 to the Cardinal-Archbishop of Westminster towards the marble decorations of the interior of Westminster Cathedral. His total estate exceeds \$250,000, a large part of which is left to the Bishop of Southwark for the purpose of establishing and maintaining new missions.

The Rev. Francis Wolf, who died recently at Ehrenbreitstein, Germany, was for ten years pastor of St. Peter and Paul's church, Cumberland, Md. He returned to Germany in 1897. He was born in Ruedesheim, Germany, December 18, 1835. He entered the Capuchin Order on September 4, 1858, and was ordained priest at Mayence on August 14, 1860, and came to the United States in 1875. He spent twenty-two years in this country, being stationed at Hermon, Pa.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; and Peoria, Ill., in addition to Cumberland.

### DOMESTIC.

The Sisters of Our Lady of Christian Doctrine, a new order has been established in New York. Monsignor Lavelle is spiritual head of it, and Sister Marion Frances Gurney is the superior. The objects of the new institution are to give instruction and training in the doctrines of the Catholic Church, to render material aid to poor families, to provide for the spiritual care of needy children and to engage in charitable work.

Perpetual Help Society Anniversary  
The Perpetual Help Society of St. Mary's Hospital, will celebrate a quarter of a century of existence with a public reception and card party at the Rochester Club on February 16th.