

Mexico.

By Eber Cole Byam

Part VII.

Superhuman Labors

Demand of the Clergy.

The number of missionaries was very small, and, as a consequence, they were faced with the superhuman task of administering the sacraments to widely scattered communities numbering many thousands of families, and in addition were charged with the duty of accustoming them to an irksome industry and the use of instruments whose care was a constant reminder to the Indian of what he considered unnecessary and wasted labor. Successful results demanded constant vigilance on the part of the missionaries whose duties often took them over the mountain districts without roads to villages scattered over a radius of some times more than fifty miles.

The Spanish Government also ordered that provision be made to teach the Indians to read and write, and printed cards were supplied for this purpose. The missionaries selected promising youths from the different villages, and these were educated and sent home with the injunction to teach their fellows. Unfortunately, many of them not only failed to obey the injunction but themselves forgot what the missionaries had laboriously taught them. The introduction of domestic animals among the Indians also met with indifferent success, because the Indian expects these creatures to shift entirely for themselves.

INDUSTRIES INTRODUCED.

In some districts where a market was afforded, the Indians were encouraged to undertake certain industries, such as making baskets, pottery, ironwork, leatherwork and the like. Basco de Quiroga, Bishop of Michoacan, was especially successful in this respect, and the Indian villages around Lake Patzcuaro which he established nearly four hundred years ago still practice the trades which he taught the Indians.

In addition, the Indians were taught to wear clothes. Not that they went naked in pre-Columbian days. The Indian wore a breech clout and a blanket, and a pair of sandals—sometimes completed his costume. He wore no hat. The missionaries in some districts taught the Indian to increase his wardrobe by a hat and a pair of cotton trousers, and a cotton blouse.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED.

The difficulties encountered by the missionaries can be illustrated by the curious experience of the Jefe Politico of Calaya, as late as the latter half of the Nineteenth Century. That functionary decided that the Indians coming into town must wear pants, and issued an order accordingly, and imposed a fine large enough to purchase a pair for non-compliance. The Indians came to town, were arrested, fined, and then supplied with the necessary garments and shown how to wear them. After that the obedient Indians came to the town limits with the pants neatly rolled up in the pack on their backs; there they complied with the law, donned the garments and entered the town. On leaving they stopped at the limits, removed the pants, and carried them home on their backs.

The Indians before the Conquest used cacao (chocolate) beans as a medium of exchange, and continued to so use them after the Conquest. The Viceroy Mendoza decided to stop the practice and introduce copper coins instead. The coins were issued and the Indians were ordered to receive them in exchange for their wares in the market. This they dutifully did, but on the way home they cheerfully threw all the bright new coins into the lake. Silver coins were tried, with a like result, and the Viceroy eventually had to give up in despair.

"UNCIVILIZED" BUT NOT "MISERABLE."

The question undoubtedly will be asked—especially by those who have made a trip to Mexico City and back by railroad—"If the Spanish King and the clergy took such pains with the Indians, why are they so uncivilized and miserable?" The answer is that while they are indeed uncivilized and appear to be most miserable according to our standards, yet by their own standards they are as civilized as they care to be, and are most decidedly not miserable. Their ideas of comfort are those that their ancestors found perfectly satisfactory, and they look upon the appurtenances of the white man's "civilization" as complicated nuisances, requiring not only unnecessary labor to acquire, but still more unnecessary labor to maintain. The Indian builds his own house, and, as he believes in economy of effort, he builds it of one room and as small as possible. The floor is of dirt for the very obvious reason that the fire could not be built on it were of wood, and if it were of brick it would be torn up and sold at the first temptation to satisfy some childish fancy.

Catholic News Notes

Domestic.

Alaska is now a Vicariate Apostolic.

In Baltimore the Lithuanians are contemplating the purchase of St. Alphonsus Church of the Redemptorist Fathers.

Twenty-two boys of St. Mary's Industrial School, Baltimore, have enlisted in the United States Navy.

Rev. Dawson Byrne, a Shakespearean delineator, well known for his scholarly readings in Catholic institutions, has been ordained priest, and is with the Paulists at the Catholic University.

Two new convert leagues, says the "Catholic Convert," have been formed: one in Buffalo, N. Y.; the other in central New Jersey.

The Superior Court of California has upheld the inviolation of confidential communications to a priest, outside of the tribunal of Penance.

Ten persons in Des Moines, Ia., have promised \$1,000 each to Bishop Dowling for the college he is establishing. Already \$70,000 has been subscribed. A number will give \$500. A campaign will be begun to raise \$150,000.

Foreign.

The Swiss mobilization order does not include the Swiss Guards at the Vatican.

Recently His Holiness Benedict XV. addressed a very laudatory letter to the Patriarch of Lisbon and the Episcopate of Portugal.

The famous Leipzig Fair or Messe, was this year, despite the war, participated in by more exhibitors than in former years.

The splendid Canadian ecclesiastical College in Rome has no students—is closed.

In the Archdiocese of Munich this year, 18 priests will celebrate their diamond, golden and silver jubilees of ordination.

In Co. Sligo, Mrs. Armstrong Demeans, of Tobercurry, died in her 105th year.

Bernard Holland, the British writer, whose father was chaplain to Queen Victoria and King Edward, has become a Catholic.

BASE BALL.

Rochester will play with Baltimore on July 23rd and with Providence July 24, 25, 26, 27th.

The Gift Horses

Continued from last week.

"While she was gone Tom displayed an even more fervent devotion towards Marigold. Perhaps Jean's absence made him feel freer. He did not show as much attention to me as was his wont. This I understood. I was Jean's friend before I was his. But later he visited me. He came to ask my assistance. Marigold had promised to marry him! He was wild with delight. Only when he confessed to me that he would not consider marrying her until she was baptized a Catholic did a rush of tenderness overwhelm my heart.

"Marigold had not been baptized in any faith. Her soul was virgin soil in which Tom had hoped to plant the priceless seed of Catholicism. Would I talk with her, pray for her? She was willing, even anxious, to know his faith. Oh, Polly, what a plan it was to propose to me, was it not, my love? But I responded finally to the amazing situation. I would work for Marigold's conversion. The rest I would not think about. (Yet I prayed unceasingly for Tom's and Jean's united happiness. I had to!)

"The very first thing I did after learning Tom's news was to write Jean about it. He had given me permission and I resolved that she would hear of the state of affairs from no one else. I begged her intercession and help for Marigold and laid strong stress on Tom's future contentment. I trusted in her pride to buoy her up—and it did."

"When she returned home—still wan and hollow-eyed, despite her rest and the sea breezes—she went at once to Marigold and offered to study with her, to aid her in any way possible. It is strange, Polly, but the two girls became intimate. I watched Tom closely. He was too happy for words, or at least he seemed so. Of course Marigold's conversion was a foregone conclusion. (The rest did not look upon it in this light. I saw it was bound to happen.)

"When our friendship grew closer I realized what a beautiful character Marigold's was. She was intensely of the world, yet apart from it. In speaking of her one day, Jean called her 'a golden saint' and the sobriquet fitted her perfectly. She was saintly. What I had thought only languor was simply a holy and a humble reserve. But although I was positive that she would embrace the Faith, she herself was dubious. Belief was slow in coming, she confided to me. Did I think it would eventually arrive?

"My assurances calmed her, but did not altogether satisfy her. Something was needed to fertilize the seed in her soul. Wonderfully it was brought about."

"As the days sped on, I grew aware that the old comradeship between Jean and Tom was reasserting itself. The half-apologetic, half-shamed, attitude of the boy—for he was but a boy!—disappeared entirely. In fact, an alarm existed in my mind that Marigold would observe the warmth between the two. I wanted her to have her faith before she was awakened to the idea that Tom was not for her. My prayers at this time must have moved Heaven to distraction. I had so many intentions and all were so queerly related. I knew everything would result for the best, however; so I prayed more earnestly each day.

"In October Jean told me that Tom was waxing impatient.

"Dear Aunt Faith," she said, "they must marry soon."

"I saw then that she was afraid for Marigold's happiness. Yet she knew the marriage would almost wreck her own life! About the middle of the same month Jean again came to me and informed me that she intended accepting an invitation to make a retreat at St. Mary's during Advent. (You know St. Mary's and the dear Sisters.) It seemed that every year Jean had wanted to go to the city for this retreat, but never until this season had there been an invitation extended to her. The smallness of the con-

vent and the number of alumnae desiring to return had prevented it. Here, however, was her chance and the child was delighted. She would offer up the whole beautiful event for Marigold.

To be continued.

A CLOSE RANGE VIEW OF TOM WATSON.

What a Fellow Georgian Says of His Notorious Neighbor.

Tom Watson of wide-known repute has fallen upon evil days. Posing as a unique champion of Simon-pure Americanism by seeking to cast doubt and suspicion on the loyalty of Catholics, he has turned to a new zone of lime-light. His efforts seem to meet with scant appreciation if we are to take the verdict of the Dalton, Ga., Citizen as a criterion.

After pointing out Watson's anti-draft agitation and roundly condemning the same, the newspaper in question in an editorial of June 23, makes some very pertinent remarks from which we quote but a few.

"Recently he has been going down fast, like the drunkard who refuses to see the breakers ahead, and continues his excessive indulgence in the liquid that brings both disgrace and destruction. He has worn his Catholic 'issue' threadbare, and as the Macon Telegraph pointedly observes, the Frank 'issue' died with the election of Hugh Dorsey as governor. Therefore, Watson, is just about out of soap, and it is in the extremity of impending disaster to his unworthy bark and its small crew of misguided, often ignorant, followers, that he goes forth to seek to enlist new followers by opposing the government when it is at war with the greatest military power in the world—"

Again we are told "Georgia has suffered much on account of Watson—"

"And what we have long contended is substantiated by the editorial which says in conclusion: 'What has he ever done for his deluded followers except to exploit them and bring them misery and woe by leading them to believe that all men are dishonest and vicious, and that hate and distrust and suspicion are three cardinal virtues?'

Such is a close range verdict of the archpriest of bigotry who seems to have lost all power of discretion from long practice in his vicious abuse or the reputation of his fellow citizens.

C. B. of C. V.

A NEW PRAYERBOOK FOR SOLDIERS.

"God's Armor" is the name of a neat, compact and complete prayerbook for soldiers just issued by the Central Bureau of the Central Verein. The prayers, written especially for soldiers, are simple, hearty and unaffected. Every possible need of the soldier's varied life is provided for. Besides the prayers, pointed, pithy instructions form a valuable feature of the little booklet should form a part of every Catholic soldier's outfit.

We shall shirk a very serious and real responsibility if we neglect to safeguard the religious life of our boys, exposed as they undoubtedly will be to severe strain in the unusual experiences which are bound to be theirs.

The price for this 56 page booklet is remarkably small, 12 cents post paid. It can be had on application to the Central Bureau of the Central Verein, 201 Temple Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.

At Humboldt, Ia., a church costing about \$125,000 may be erected through a bequest.

Only 20,636 people came to this country from Ireland last year.

In her will, the late Miss Catherine A. Sullivan, of Roxbury, Mass., left about thirty bequests ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 to the city for this retreat, but never until this season had there been an invitation extended to her. The smallness of the con-

Foreign Mission News

Special correspondence by The Propagation of the Faith Society 348 Lexington Ave., New York City

"In every soul there is a kingdom—the kingdom of God."

Here is a good record for one bishop. His name is Mgr. M. Abels, B. F. M., and his vicariate is the difficult and poverty-stricken one of East Mongolia.

"During the twenty years of my episcopacy I have had the happiness of founding sixteen new stations with resident priests, which have become flourishing Christian centres. I have seen the Catholics grow from 9,000 to 30,000, and the number has been kept down by lack of means. I also count two colleges, a seminary, three normal schools and numerous other schools for catechists and lower grades. To these I may add a home for aged men and one for aged women."

The Holy Shrine in Danger of Being Destroyed.

Writing in The Crusader's Almanac a Franciscan Father says: "We are greatly concerned about the Holy Shrines of Palestine, and their Guardians, the Franciscan Fathers of the Holy Land. But it is impossible to get an adequate idea of the prevailing conditions, because all communication has been cut off, and all correspondence suspended."

"The great danger is that the Turks, if compelled to evacuate Palestine, may in revenge destroy the Holy Places, and thus deprive Christianity of the most sacred monuments of our holy Religion."

"Fearing any such wanton destruction, the Holy Father has addressed a letter to the Apostolic Delegate in Constantinople, instructing him to entreat the Turkish government in His name to spare the Holy Places, in case their troops should have to withdraw from the Holy City. At the same time His Holiness has requested the English government to kindly preserve the Holy Shrines if they came into their possession."

"In answer to the pleading of the Holy Father, the British government immediately assured the Sovereign Pontiff that it would, in any event, do all that is in its power to protect the Sacred Shrines."

"The inhabitants of Palestine, Mohammedans, as well as Christians, must be in the greatest need, as no provisions can be imported, all the seaports being closed. The population of the Holy Land, where there is no industry whatever, and where the scanty agricultural resources are hardly sufficient for the maintenance of its poor inhabitants, is greatly dependent upon the pilgrims even in prosperous years. How sad must their condition be now since for the last three years all traffic and commerce has been stopped and the Turkish government has not only levied heavy taxes upon the people, but has allowed the soldiery to take away by main force whatever the poor people possessed. Despatches from Cairo, of March 15, 1917, state that conditions in Palestine are simply appalling and that famine and pestilence are raging there. It is estimated that more than 70,000 persons in Palestine have died from starvation."

The Bishop of Des Moines has purchased, for the sum of \$130,000, sectarian property 600x400 feet with four improvements to be used as a diocesan college.

In Cincinnati there died recently, Miss Margaret McCabe, the founder of the Sacred Heart Girls' Home, and one of the founders of the Boys' Home. The Archbishop presided at her obsequies.

The four States having a Catholic population of over one million are: New York, 2,982,271; Pennsylvania, 1,865,000; Illinois, 1,406,913, and Massachusetts, 1,406,913.

Late News of Ireland

Deaths.

The death took place at her residence, Ardough, Carlow, of Mrs. E. Hoesy, relict of the late John Hoesy.

Obit.

Clare County Council have passed £2,050 for repairs and improvements to the sea wall at Lahinch, which has been terribly battered, and partly swept away by the storms and seas of the last two winters. Very Rev. Father Cassidy, P. P., V. F., in a letter to the council said it was now a question of the life or death of the village.

Deaths.

The late J. T. Pratt is succeeded by his brother, R. Pratt, as postmaster of Doneraile.

The death has occurred of Mrs. E. McKeown, Derry, mother of H. McKeown, J. P., T. G.

Joseph A. McCarthy, Timoleague, has been admitted to the Bar.

Deaths.

At Annagry a new banner was recently unfurled for Division 878, A. O. H. (B. O. E.) by Rev. William Sheridan, C. C.

E. Doherty, J. P., Clonmany, has resigned his directorship of the Derry and Lough Swilly Railway.

D. McMenamin, Clonmany, was recently admitted to the Bar.

Deaths.

The following have been ordained priests in Rome: Revs. T. O'Donnell, Dublin, Irish College; F. O'Hes, O. S. A., Church of St. Patrick; and from Propaganda: Revs. W. Collins, P. Fennerty, A. Martin, Melbourne; K. Kelly, Rockhampton; P. Dunne, Armadale, W. Horan, and J. J. Ryan, Dublin.

The widening of Chancery street, Dublin, is to be carried out at a cost of \$11,000.

Kerry.

Captain A. H. B. Fitzgerald, son of The Knight of Kerry, has been sworn in as a J. P. for County Kerry. T. Walsh, N. T., Listowel, has secured the Sloan-Duployan stenography diploma for a speed of 200 words a minute.

Kildare.

Last month a new industry was opened up in Athy, a factory bearing now working where scutch roots are purchased from the people, graded, washed and put through machinery prior to shipment to London. Through the "middleman" they are forwarded to America.

Kildare.

The building of a railway line between Castlecomer and Wolfhill collieries is said to be under consideration.

Most Rev. Dr. Bawnrigg announced at a synod of the clergy that he had been authorized to receive three names to be forwarded to Rome for the office of Coadjutor Bishop of Ossory, with the right of succession.

Sligo.

Handsome brass tablets have been placed in St. Catherine's church, Tullamore, by Mr. and Mrs. A. R. McMullen, Dixie, Ontario, in memory of their son, the late A. P. McMullen.

Limerick.

Rev. J. C. Joyce, Kilmallock, has been made rector of East Finchley, North London.

M. Kelly, Limerick, has been appointed temporary V. S. in room of the late T. Ryan, V. S.

Mayo.

A new corn mill is to be established at Ballycastle, Mayo. Very Rev. Canon Munnally, P. P., V. F., and Rev. Father Hegarty, C. C., are warmly interested in the project, which will be of great utility in this large district.

The diamond jubilee of Rev. Mother M. Teresa Lyons was celebrated recently at the Convent of Mercy, Ballina, of which she was the first novice. Pontifical high mass was celebrated by Most Rev. Dr. Naughton.

Rev. T. Killeen, professor, St. Jarlath's College, Tuam who was recently ordained, celebrated his first mass at Claremorris, his native town.