

## METHODIST MISSIONS TO MAKE OUR COUNTRY SAFE FOR THE SOULS OF OUR ITALIAN IMMIGRANT ALLIES.

### Slurs at the Church used to Create Zeal for the Cause of Missions

In an elaborate circular, recently published, the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church gives an interesting bit of information as to its ideals, motives and methods of evangelization among the foreign-born elements of our country.

The circular, profusely illustrated, is called: "Our Italian Allies". After estimating the number of Italian immigrants in this country at 2,500,000, and sketching their rise through the ranks of our commonest unskilled labor, through the proverbial fruitstand and peanut vendorship, to the more engaging and prosperous fields of manufacture and the professions it points out that the vast majority of these people are very slow in allowing themselves to lose their identity of language and customs. Of the condition of these Italian immigrants it says: "Nor are the low-lying, loosely-built shanties which fringe the ravines in mining camps, centers of activities calculated to pass at a full dress reception to Bishop or Mayor. The Church and all other constructive agencies have left him to this sort of thing. Of those who herd in the cities we are informed that: "This community swarming is due in part to the desire of the newly arrived immigrant to be with folks from home who talk his language and in part to the difficulties set in the way of a foreigner who tries to edge into a section of the town occupied by older inhabitants."

Here is a large field open for work in so virgin a soil for: "This very unchristian situation has a certain new and opportunity-fought challenge to the Church of Jesus Christ. Their being together indicates that they are among us in numbers sufficient to demand our attention. A recognition of their presence places us on the defensive so far as our prayer-life and creed-reading is concerned." How to meet this situation is hinted at when the circular says: "It is up to us to teach these sons of Garibaldi to read and write English, to give them practical information that will make them live more easily and more safely; to prepare them for American citizenship by teaching them our laws, customs, ideals and history with a Christian interpretation."

So far this duty has not been lived up to, we are told. Probably a bit of self-reproach, for "the greater number of our Italian allies in the United States are socialist and atheist because crushed by autocracy for centuries and because nothing better has ever been given them." This last statement and the following choice bit show the animus of Methodism's work here to be identical with that which caused so much of a stir incident to the visit of a distinguished ex-servant of the people a few years ago in Rome.

"Only a small number comparatively have remained loyal to the Roman Catholic Church whose ways they came to know better here." How much of an opportunity these poor people have had of getting to know the ways of Rome here is given by the circular itself in a prefatory remark to a list of statistics on the number of church members among the Italians. "The general apathy concerning the religious welfare of the Italians in the United States", we read, "is seen in the following communities in three New England States, having among them Italians to the number of 500 to 2,500 and no provision made for their religious life by either the Roman Catholic or Protestant Church...." It will be interesting to compare the number of adherents once adequate provision has been made for their religious belief, when the general apathy concerning their religious welfare has been changed to genuine interest.

Then we are told that there are not over 20,000 Italians enrolled in the fellowship of "the three hundred Protestant, or, as they call it, Evangelical Churches and Missions." How strong the appeal of these 300 evangelical bodies must be to bat an average of only 166.8 converts.

As a last bit of barrage prior to the "over the top" rally for funds comes this bit of shrapnel Rome-wards. "Our Italian Ally is so often a socialist or atheist as a result of his effort to break away from the dogmatism of Rome." Finally comes the inevitable assault on the pocket-book of the reader to furnish the funds for this liberty bond campaign against the dogmatism-ridden Allies of our Italian slums.

While much of the analysis of Italian immigrant conditions has in it food for thought and study for our own people and our own societies, it also affords us an added incentive to counteract the influence of any such agencies, whose chief motive in the work of evangelization is hinted at in its side-thrusts at the Church. If we have not a care for the immigrant others will.

C. B. of C. V.

## CATHOLIC NEWS

### NOTES

The fourth year theologians of St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, have been installed for the current year at the Apostolic Mission House, Catholic University, Washington, where also the Sulpicians will continue to be their instructors, until the new Sulpician St. Mary's Seminary building at the University is completed.

The United States consumes candles to the amount of twenty million dollars a year. This consumption is chiefly by the Catholic Church.

The spacious new orphan asylum of the diocese of Superior has been dedicated by Archbishop Messmer, assisted by three Bishops and over 20 priests.

Twenty-three men from the athletic squads of Notre Dame University have been commissioned officers.

In the burning of St. Joseph's Church and rectory at Wichita, Kas., Rev. R. Stollenwerk lost his collection of stamps, said to be one of the largest and most valuable in this country.

The Sisters of Mercy have offered their large building on the shore of the bay at East-Moriches, Long Island, to the Government for hospital use.

Our Catholic Hospital Association and the American College of Surgeons are now in close cooperation and agreement in a word, standardized.

At Fort Wayne, Ind., seven of eleven children of Henry Allgeier have entered the religious state.

The Church is growing rapidly in Montana. The Bishop, Mgr. Lenihan, of Great Falls, will dedicate twenty churches this fall.

Father Lindesmith, chaplain of St. Ann's Infant Asylum, Cleveland, O., is now in his 91st year.

The Sisters of the Sacred Heart, so it is reported, are to build a sanitarium in Chicago costing \$800,000.

Every twenty-four hours a priest passes away in the Church in the United States.

The Bishop of Buffalo has blessed a new and spacious addition to the monastery of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. It will afford accommodation to 125 more children from 6 to 16 years of age.

The sanctity of Catholic burial service converted a Presbyterian undertaker in Illinois.

## Why the Pope Is Neutral

### A Sane Statement of the Case by an Anglican Writer in a Church Tract.

The latest issue of the "York Books," a series of Anglican tracts in support of the theory of the continuity of Anglicanism with the Church in England before the Reformation, is "No Small Stir" (a Biblical phrase relating to St. Peter) by "Diplomaticus." It deals with the Holy Father's attitude towards the war, and contains the following striking section on the necessity for his neutrality:

"The Roman Pontiff is the supreme head of a great religious communion, the members of which live dispersed among all the nations of the earth. There is no State of any importance today which does not count numerous Roman Catholics among its subjects. It follows that if the Pope in policy or war were to support any one Power or group of Powers against their opponents, he would be favoring one section of the Church at the expense of another.

"It can scarcely, therefore, need argument to prove that at all times political neutrality is required of the Holy See, on grounds of elementary justice, not to say necessity. An exception may be imagined in the case of a religious war, i. e., a war in which the rights of existence of Catholicism as such were at stake. The present conflict, however, is not of that nature. It would show too great an ignorance of political realities to imagine that the Central Empires went to war for or against the Catholic Church, or for any purpose other than the acquisition of territory. As for the Entente, Protestant and Anti-Clerical influences have fortunately not succeeded so far in making the crusade against Prussianism a campaign against the Catholic religion. We may, then, dismiss the notion that this is a religious war, and assert that it is in consequence a struggle of the kind in which neutrality is demanded by the principles of the Holy See.

"But this conclusion fails to satisfy all objectors. We are often reminded that in the Middle Ages the Popes were in some sense the arbiters of right and wrong in Europe. 'Who,' it is asked, 'is better fitted to vindicate justice than the head of the Christian communities. Even if no religious principle is at stake, morality has at least been outraged by Germany. Let the Pope begin by denouncing that, and we shall be all the more ready to accept his decision on other matters afterwards.' This argument is certainly a very strong one, if those who employ it are ready to stand by their premises. Are they willing to restore the Pope to the position he held in the Middle Ages and to something more—for it was only with difficulty that he enforced his will even then? Which of those who blame the Pope for not arbitrating is prepared to accept him unreservedly in the role of arbitrator? We confess that very few of the Pope's critics seem to us to be in the habit of obeying him as a general rule. He may be pardoned, surely, for not knowing how many Anti-Clericals, Protestants and Anglicans were secretly hanging on his words. They have dissembled their loves so well for so many years.

"Moreover, if the Pope were to have come forward as arbitrator, it was necessary that not private individuals but the Governments concerned should invite him to undertake the office, and agree to accept his award. Did they? Did any one of them? It is surely exorbitant to maintain that the Holy See, uninvited and unassured of a welcome, should have intervened on the outbreak of hostilities with some fulminating en-cyclical directed, say, against the Central Powers, which would have imposed upon millions of Catholic soldiers in the very agony of choosing between their loyalty to the Church and their loyalty to their country. Such an

act would have been as uncharitable as it would have been senseless, quite apart from the fact that an arbitrator is bound to undertake a long and impartial study of the pleas advanced by both sides. Neither then nor since has the Pope had the material for such an investigation. We in England have, of course, a general conviction of the rightness of our cause, but an arbitrator requires not a general conviction but a point-by-point proof. Evidence of that kind as to the origins and character of the war will never be forthcoming till the Chancelleries of Europe consent to unlock their secrets. Benedict XV is, therefore, fully justified when, after referring to his efforts to alleviate the sufferings caused by the war, he concludes:

"To do more today, is not in the power given us by Our Apostolic charge. He cannot do more today. In a saner Europe, restored to the unity of the Faith, he might do very much more indeed. The way is plain for those who desire the arbitration of the Pope. They see that his power is too weak, let them labor to strengthen it."

## FOURTH DEGREE SHARE IN WAR WORK.

Ten thousand dollars have been appropriated by the Supreme Assembly of the Fourth Degree to aid the War Committee of the Knights of Columbus in its recreation work. The Board of Vice-Supreme Masters, with Supreme Master John H. Reddin of Denver, held a meeting in Chicago to plan some patriotic work on the part of the Fourth Degree knights. One of the splendid things they succeeded in doing was to secure the internationally known Paulist Choristers of Chicago to sing for the soldiers and sailors in all the army and naval camps.

The Paulist Choristers of Chicago, have one hundred and fifteen male voices, and are the most famous body of singers in Europe or America. They went to Europe before the war and took the first prize at Paris in a contest among several hundred societies. They had the same experience in this country at Philadelphia. They start in January on a six months' tour in charge of the French Restoration Committee, giving musical concerts and festivals in the principal cities of the country. They will give at least one great musical in every camp near these cities under the auspices of the Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus, and everybody is to be welcome and no charge made for admittance.

## FACTS TO REMEMBER.

1. More people were put to death at Geneva, on account of their religion, during the lifetime of Calvin, than were put to death at Rome for heresy during four centuries of the Inquisition.
2. In the very year that the Catholic Lord Baltimore was establishing religious toleration in Maryland, the Scotch Parliament issued a solemn address to the English Parliament against tolerance, and adopted a strong protest against liberty of conscience. (Noal's History of the Puritans, p. 221-22.)
3. While the Puritans were overturning religious liberty, established by the Catholics in Maryland, John Milton was writing a treatise against the toleration of Catholics, whom he denounced as idolaters.
4. Spain abolished the Inquisition in 1814, but England did not repeal the last of her penal laws against the Catholics until 1829.
5. While Denmark sustained (down to 1850) a law on her statute books making it an offense punishable by death, for a Catholic priest to cross her frontiers, O'Connell, the great Catholic emancipator, was advocating the cause of universal religious liberty, and when questioned what he would do if Catholics sought to persecute Protestants, he said: "So help me, God! I would in that case not only feel for the Protestant and speak for him, but would fight for him, and cheer-

fully sacrifice my life in defense of the great principle of universal and complete religious liberty."

## Foreign Mission News

The Propagation of the Faith Society, 318 Lexington Ave., New York City.

## PRAY FOR THE CONVERSION OF CHINA.

The Holy Father is not unmindful of the needs of the pagan world. He selected for the intention of the League of the Sacred Heart for November, the Conversion of China.

Our Faith has been planted in that country by heroic toil on the part of its apostles and plentifully watered with their blood. The list of priests, brothers, and nuns, who have given their lives to the furtherance of our Holy Religion is a lengthy one. The practice among the Chinese of killing or abandoning hopeless infants has also been the occasion for the salvation of countless souls. A great setback has been given to the work of the zealous laborers in the extensive field that has been long since "white for the harvest" by the European war. Hence, the Holy Father sends forth an urgent appeal for prayers throughout the whole world that the work of the missions in China may be continued and brought to a successful termination.

## NATIVE PRIEST OF INDIA BECOMES AN AUTHOR.

Rev. S. Prakasar, O. M. I., is a missionary known to our readers. He is a native priest of Ceylon, and has added to the literature of India by a learned work on Philosophical Saivism, that has won some favorable criticism from the press. It serves also to show the vain pretensions of the theosophists who now form a distinct enemy to the spread of Christianity. The London Tablet says:

"This book, dealing with the religion of Siva has exceptional value not only from the careful character of its research and, on the whole, excellent style, but from the nationality of its author. It is exactly what we want: a mind in tune by heredity and national instinct with what it examines, yet consciously accepting the Christian system, and capable of comparing the two, will produce work of far greater value than any student alien by birth and instinct, however deliberately impartial. Theosophists would have us hold that below the popular forms of Eastern creeds lies a superb substratum of philosophical and ethical material. That is not so; and books like this should be multiplied, to disillusionize our hoodwinked Western enthusiasts."

## A CURIOUS COINCIDENCE.

It has already been announced that Mgr. Boniface de Beaumont has been made coadjutor of Mgr. Fabre, Bishop of St. Denis, Reunion Island. The new bishop is a member of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost, and since the war has acted as military chaplain, having gone through the siege of Verdun and received honorable mention.

One day while in the trenches a poult presented him with a newspaper, saying, "Father, it seems that one of your relatives has been made a bishop. At least it is someone having your family name." Father Beaumont took the sheet and read the item. It was then he learned of the honor that had been conferred upon him.

The Sisters of Charity conduct a hospital at Ka Shing, Che Kiang, China, which treats no less than four hundred outpatients every day. Its sixty beds are not enough to supply all the sick who need care in the hospital, and often the poor creatures are content to lie on the floor if they only may be admitted. With the cost of remedies doubled by the war, the Sisters are having a hard time to care for their suffering charges. We here, who know the high price of medicines, may be able to sympathize with the Sisters in a practical manner.

## Late News of Ireland

Carlow.

Carlow Urban Council adjourned as a mark of respect to the late T. O'Donnell, manager, National Bank, and T. Williams, Tipperary, a native of Carlow.

Miss Sarah Morris, Brigids Convent Tullow, obtained a prize of £4 from the Commissioners of Education on the publication of the intermediate examination results.

Carra.

Father O'Sullivan, who refused to accept a testimonial, was congratulated by the Kinsale people on his promotion as P. P., Goleen.

Miss Elizabeth J. O'Driscoll, who has passed with honors for the M. B. degree, is Queenstown's first lady doctor.

Following arbitration by Very Rev. Father Thomas, O. S. F. C., a strike at Cork Gas Works has been averted.

Married—Michael Shinnick, Cregg, Fermoy, to Elizabeth Ahearn, Farrer House, Fermoy. Joseph Tapley, Fermoy, to Molly Murphy, 2 Cork Hill terrace, Fermoy.

Dublin.

The Father Mathew Union priests held their annual meeting in the Mansion House, Dublin. Very Rev. Canon Lyons, A. R. C. S., presided, and regret was expressed at the death of Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer and Right Rev. Msgr. Kelly, Athlone. Rev. F. Joyce, Adm., V. F., Ballinacorney, was elected a V. P. for Tuam Diocese.

James Britten, honorary secretary, Catholic Truth Society, was congratulated by the committee of Management on the dignity of Knight Commander of the Order of Gregory the Great, conferred on him by the Holy Father.

Kerry.

Parishioners of Newtownards and Knockanure presented an address to Rev. Father Carroll, P. P., Brossna, lately their curate.

Sister M. Dolores Quilts, Linnaw, has been received into the community of St. John of God, Wexford.

At St. Michael's Church, Kingstown, by the Rev. L. Potter, C. C., Michael Davis, fourth son of Michael and Mrs. Davis, Ardara, Kerry, was married to Josephine (Joe), youngest daughter of Peter and Mrs. Blake, Kingstown, late of Wexford.

The death occurred at Charlestown, Mayo, of John Brennan, native of Molloughmarkay, Castleisland, Kerry.

Dr. J. M. Curtin has been appointed Medical Officer of Limerick County Infirmary.

In the chapel of the Presentation Convent, Mitchelstown, the reception took place of Miss Julia O'Halloran (in religion Sister Mary Bernard), daughter of Michael O'Halloran, merchant, Hospital.

Miss McCarrick, sister of the Rev. Roger McCarrick, the College, Ballaghaderreen, was solemnly professed in the Convent of Mercy, Swinford, taking in religion the name, Sister Celestina.

Mrs. M. Fenton, assistant at Nenagh postoffice, has been transferred on promotion.

Cloncannon (Nenagh) Co-operative Creamery Society has presented the manager, R. J. Conroy, with a cheque, on his marriage.

Miss Elizabeth Howard, 70, who lived at "Aughton," Marbella terrace, Kingstown, was found dead in bed. She was daughter of the late Francis Howard, organist, Catholic Cathedral, Waterford; sister of Rev. Mother Dorcas, Ursuline Convent, Waterford, and of J. W. Howard, one time Town Clerk of Waterford.

At Aughrim Street Parish church, Dublin, by Rev. Father Connolly, C. C., assisted by Rev. Father O'Flynn, Denis, second eldest son of the late Richard Booth, The Heath, Maryboro', was married to Nellie, second eldest daughter of Patrick Edwards, Ballyscarvin, Moate.