

Established 1817
The Geneva National Bank

Geneva, New York

Capital, \$300,000

Surplus, \$300,000

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**COLONIZERS
 AND CIVILIZERS
 OF THE WORLD**

The Catholic priesthood has faithfully carried out the injunction of Christ—"Go teach all nations." They were the first to bring the blessings of Christian morality and education to every civilized nation in the world. The world owes a bigger debt to the Catholic priesthood than the world is willing to admit.

The countries about the Mediterranean would have been overwhelmed by barbarism during the epoch of the migrations of the nations if Popes, Bishops and priests had not tamed the Germanic hordes and converted them to Christianity. Ireland owes to Saint Patrick what England owes to Saint Augustine, who under Pope Gregory the Great, brought to the Island the Gospel of Christ, and with it a high morality and culture. Bands of missionaries from the Island of Saints brought to the Continent the message of salvation and established new centers of culture. Germany received the light from Saint Boniface, Switzerland from Saint Gall, Sweden from Saint Ansgar; scarcely a nation, Christian or pagan, but has not as its Patron Saint a Priest of God. During the Middle Ages the Church attained fullness of her power, and sent missionaries to propagate the Gospel in pagan lands. Catholic missionaries first brought to Europe news of the existence of China. Three Franciscans, commissioned by the Pope in 1246, appeared in audience before the Emperor of the Mongols. Less than a century after that the first Christian church was built in Peking.

The Copernican theory which was received as a truth by the world, stimulated discoverers. The great discoverers of the world were Catholics, and on their journeys they carried with them Catholic priests. As a consequence, from the Volgo to the desert of Gobi, the Franciscans and Dominicans covered the land with their missionary stations. After the Reformation, the zeal of the Jesuits gives them a place of honor. Their achievements in the Reduction of Paraguay are as incontestable as their great services in the United States.

Since the days of Saint Paul, perhaps, no greater missionary has appeared on earth than Saint Francis Xavier. When he entered the Kingdom of Travencore he found it entirely idolatrous, but after a few months he left it entirely Christian. Along the coast he founded forty-five churches. In the Island of Moro he converted the whole city of Tolo, containing twenty-five thousand souls and at his death left no fewer than twenty-nine towns, villages and hamlets added to the Kingdom of Christ. Along the two coasts from Cape Comorion he converted more than two hundred thousand souls.

The work of the pioneer priests in America is the history of America in her early days. Scores of rivers, lakes and cities are by their very names monuments to the work of pioneer priests. The historian Bancroft declares that no notable city was founded, no river explored nor cape circumnavigated without a Jesuit showing the way. Even if Buckle's statement were true that culture is not the result of religion we could point to the work of Catholic missionaries who are striving to uplift the savages in pagan lands to a higher state of morality and civilization, thence to transform them into Christians.

One of the most remarkable pioneers in the history of the Western Continent is Bartolome de Las Casas. The life of this great man is almost a summary to the colonization of the Philippines in the year of his death. He sailed from San Diego as a colonist in 1520, and from that time until his death, at the age of ninety-four, his activities never seemed to flag. He was in succession miner in San Domingo, a military leader with Velasquez in the Conquest of Cuba, a leading layman, the priest of a parish, a social reformer, the intimate of kings and ministers, a legislator in Spain, a colony promoter in South America, and the official protector of the Indians throughout all the Spanish Colonies. He became a Dominican at the time of the destruction of his colony in Venezuela when he was fifty years old. As a missionary to the

natives of Guatemala, a student of native languages, a Bishop in Mexico, the counsellor of two kings and the general molder of Indian policies, of their governments, as a scholar and historian, the last half of his life was as full as the first.

He gathered the largest record of facts relating to the first history of America by any man. Through the whole history of Spanish Conquest, Las Casas stands out in history like some protecting spirit of the Indian race. Not even Cortez or Pizarro could surpass the personal courage in the face of danger of this unarmed priest, who confronted them in the flush of victory with his claims of the ascendancy of moral right over brute force.

The earliest of the famous Jesuit missionaries was Father Jean de Brebeuf. His zeal brought him to Canada in 1625. By his winning ways and Christian amiability he overcame the dislike of the Cononists for Jesuits. He immediately took up his abode in the Indian wigwams. The story of his trials and tribulations, his martyrdom and death with his companion Lalemant, is too well known to require lengthy narration. The heroic virtues, manifested in so remarkable degree at every stage of his missionary career, the almost incomprehensible endurance of privations and sufferings, have set on foot a movement for his canonization as a Saint and Martyr.

Probably the most wonderful of all the Jesuit missionaries was Father Isaac Jogues. He came to the New World in 1636. Father Jogues traveled through the dead of winter over the rivers and lakes of the northern portion of the country, accompanied only by an Indian and sometimes alone. When he was taken a prisoner by the Mohawks, the Dutch Commander of Manhattan ordered that efforts be made to secure his release. Father Jogues refused, and would not desert his post. After his release he went to France, returning again, however in 1644. He frequently acted as ambassador for the Indians, and as such was always received in a friendly way, but he insisted on being the priest and wearing his cassock and cross, contrary to the advice of the friendly Christian Algonquins, and for this he was put to death by the Iroquois.

One of the most famous of the early Jesuit missionaries and explorers of what is now the western part of the United States was Father Claude Allouez. The historian Shea calls him "the founder of Catholicity in the West." He labored among the Indians for thirty-two years, preaching to twenty different tribes. It is said that he baptized ten thousand Indians with his own hands. None of the missionaries of his time dared more or traveled over a wider territory.

Probably the most widely known of the early Jesuit missionaries is Father Marquette. He was born in 1636 of an ancient French family distinguished for civil and military service. He entered the Jesuit Society when seventeen years of age, and was sent to labor on the Indian Missions of Canada in 1666. His fame outside his missionary work rests on the discovery of the Mississippi. Marquette drew a map of the country and kept a diary which describes the villages, tribes and topography of the country and is one of the most important and interesting documents of American history. The discovery of the Mississippi opened vast fields for missionary zeal and added impulse to colonization.

In 1887 a bill was passed by the State Assembly of Wisconsin authorizing the placing of a statue of Father Marquette in the Hall of Fame. It is conceded to be one of the most artistic in the capitol. Bronze replicas have been erected at Marquette and Mackinaw Islands. Thus have been verified the prophetic words of Bancroft: "The people of the West will build his monument."

Among the great Franciscan pioneers of California, Father Junipera Serra stands at the front. He was born on the Island of Majorica, November 24, 1713, and died at Monterey, California, on August 28, 1784. In 1760 he began his great work of founding missions in California. From San Diego to San Francisco he founded a string of Missions and thousands of the Indians were civilized and Christianized. Father Serra is recognized as the greatest pioneer of the far West, and California delights to honor his memory. A fine public monu-

First National Bank

Corning, N. Y.

RESOURCES

Loans	\$ 989,781.71
Overdrafts	337.87
U. S. Bonds to secure circulation	100,000.00
U. S. Government Bonds	163,775.65
Other Bonds	928,349.34
Stock Federal Reserve Bank	6,000.00
Banking house, furniture and fixtures	127,014.96
On deposit Federal Reserve Bank	148,951.80
Cash in Vault and due from Banks	176,060.75
Redemption Fund and due from Treasurer	4,600.00
Accrued Interest	8,818.71
Checks and Cash Items	23,481.10

Total \$2,677,171.89

LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in	\$ 100,000.00
Surplus and undivided profits	128,387.74
National Bank Notes outstanding	97,400.00
Unearned Interest	5,645.00
Deposits subject to check	\$1,587,709.93
Certificates of Deposit	742,401.01
Certified Checks	13,138.80
Cashier's Checks	2,489.41

2,345,729.15

Total \$2,677,171.89

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