

Great Personalities

Of Catholic Church

Jean-Louis Lechevalier de Cheverus, first Bishop of Boston, Bishop of Montauban, and Cardinal Archbishop of Bordeaux, France.

Arriving in Boston October 3, 1796, Father de Cheverus wrote to Bishop Carroll as follows: "Send me where you think I am most needed, without making yourself anxious about the means of my support. I am willing to work with my hands if need be."

Born at Mayenne, France, in 1768 and ordained by special dispensation before he was twenty-three years old the young priest had barely escaped from France with his life when he refused to take the oath imposed by the Revolutionists. In London a letter from a former professor, the Rev. Francis A. Matignon, then pastor at Boston, told him of the needs of the Church there and urged his peculiar fitness to help in that field.

His work in New England covered a period of twenty-seven years, and took in every form of missionary activity. Trudging on foot over long distances he attended the scattered Catholic flock, nursing the sick and burying the dead in two epidemics of yellow fever. He mastered the Indian dialects and worked among them in addition to being the constant adviser and helper of his flock in Boston.

Rigid Puritan prejudice softened under the influence of Father Cheverus' personality and charm and when the Old Cathedral of Boston was built, many wealthy Protestants donated generously to the fund for its erection. John Adams, second President of the United States, headed the list of Protestant contributors.

On April 8, 1808, Father Cheverus was named first Bishop of Boston but was not consecrated because the Papal Bulls did not arrive until November 1, 1810. When it was rumored that he was to be transferred, the non-Catholics of Boston made a formal protest saying: "We hold him to be a blessing and a treasure in our social community, which we cannot part with, and which, without injustice to any man, we may claim as withdrawn from us, can never be replaced."

His health finally made his transfer to a warmer climate imperative and he was named Bishop of Montauban in France. In 1826 he was elevated to the Archbishopric of Bordeaux and in 1835 became a member of the Sacred College of Cardinals. Charles X made him a Peer of France. He died at Bordeaux, July 19, 1836.

In Massachusetts the life of Cardinal Cheverus became a shining example of Catholicity. Concerning him, Dr. Channing, the famous Unitarian divine, asked: "Who among our religious teachers would so fitly compare between himself and the devoted Cheverus? ... How can we shut our hearts against this proof of the Catholic religion to form good and great men? It is time that greater justice were done to this ancient and widespread community."

Charles Bullard Fairbanks writing under the name of "Aguecheek" in 1869 says of Cardinal Cheverus: "The memory of the first Bishop of Boston, Dr. Cheverus, is (for most Bostonians of my age) the most precious association connected with the Cathedral. He was endeared to the people of this city by ten years of unselfish exertions in the duties of a missionary priest, before he was elevated to the dignity of the episcopate. His unwillingness to receive the proffered mitre was as characteristic of his modest and humble spirit, as the meekness with which he bore his faculties when the burden of that responsibility was placed upon him. His 'episcopal palace' as he used facetiously to term his small and scantily furnished dwelling, which was contiguous to the rear of the church, was the resort of all classes of the community. His simplicity of manner and ingenious affability won all hearts. The needy and opulent, the learned and illiterate, the prosperous merchant and the Indians in the unknown wilds of Maine, found in him a father and a friend."

"Boston valued him highly," the same writer continues, "but few of her citizens thought as they saw him bound on some errand of mercy through her streets, that France envied them the possession of such a prelate, that the peerage of the old monarchy was thought to need his virtuous presence, and that the sacred dignity of a Prince of the Church was in reserve for that much and self-sacrificing servant of the poor. Had he been gifted with prophetic vision, his humility would have had much to suffer and his life would have made unhappy by the thought of coming power and honor."

When the Bishop finally was transferred from Boston, we are told, "Doctrinal differences were forgotten. Three hundred carriages and other vehicles escorted him several miles on the road to New York, where he was to embark."

Woman Witness Gets

Lawyer All Tangled Up

The lawyer for the defense was conducting a cross-examination. The witness was a woman, and in reply to the first two or three questions she always qualified with "They say," or "I've heard," until the lawyer cautioned her:

"Now, madam, hearsay testimony is not acceptable in this court. If you cannot answer a question from your own personal knowledge, then you cannot answer it at all. We do not want to find out what you have heard about the case, but what you actually know at first hand."

Then the lawyer continued with the preliminary questions.

"You live here in Curryvale, I believe?"

"Yes, sir."

"How long have you lived here?"

"About five years."

"Where did you live before that?"

"At Stockton."

"Where, before that?"

"I have lived only in the two towns—Stockton and Curryvale."

"Ah! So you were born in Stockton. When were you born?"

The witness was silent.

"I say, when were you born?" the lawyer repeated.

"I can't answer the question," the witness replied.

"But you must answer! When were you born?"

"But I can't," the witness insisted.

"All I know about the matter of my birth is mere hearsay, and you just said I couldn't give that kind of information!"

Old Documents Indicate

Chinese Found America

In 1761 the distinguished sinologist, De Guignes, published a paper which he had found in the works of early Chinese historians, in which appeared the statement that in the Fifth century certain travelers of their race had discovered a country which they called "Fu-sung," which from the distance and direction described by them appears to have been northwest America. The original document, according to the author of "Fu-sung, or the Discovery of America by Chinese Priests in the Fifth Century," was the report of the priest-missionary, Hsü Shih, in the year 490 A. D., who returned from a long journey to the East. The report was entered in the year book of the Chinese empire, and while the evidence offered is limited, it has every appearance of being a serious state document.

Archibell, in his "Sunset Canada: British Columbia and Beyond," says there is a history of Vancouver Island that is clouded in the vapor and incense of China. The stranger or the "native" of Vancouver Island quickly and constantly observes the resemblance of the Indians to the Chinese and Japanese. Merely circumstantial evidence would point to very early visits of Chinese voyagers to this coast—whether intent on voyages of discovery, or in ships driven across the Pacific by storm, is a matter of speculation. Chinese junks and vessels were blown across the Pacific as late as the last century, and the sailors captured and enslaved by the Indians.

Pressure of Steam

Modern steam boiler practice is catching up with pure science. Some engineers may have remembered at high school or college learning something of what is called the "critical temperature" or "critical pressure" of a gas, the former being the temperature above which the gas might not be condensed at any pressure, and the latter being the pressure when the critical temperature was attained. All this was considered "pure science" or "high-brow stuff" with no application to practical affairs. But the critical temperature and critical pressure of steam are only 706 degrees Fahrenheit and 3200 pounds a square inch, and boilers are now being used at pressures of more than 1,000 pounds with the tendency toward higher and higher pressures. Many interesting things happen to both water and steam when near the critical point and now practical engineers are beginning to take keen interest in what was formerly thought fit only for laboratory discussion.

A Deep Plot

The minister of a certain church called upon a woman, a member of his congregation, and, finding no one at home, slipped a card through the letter box, after scribbling upon it the words, "Sorry to find you out."

When the woman returned home, Mary, the maid, met her at the door and presented the card with a whisper: "Here, mum; I took charge of this. It would never do for the master to know the minister's found you out."

Father's Surprise

Sutor: I hope my proposal for the hand of your daughter hasn't taken you by surprise, sir.

Father: Well, to tell you the truth, it has. You've been so infernally slow in getting around to it, I thought it wasn't coming off at all.

Chopping Him Off

"Ah, sir," began the meekly mendicant, "I eke out a most miserable existence, and—"

"Well, I shall not assist you to eke out any longer," ungraciously interrupted J. Fuller Gloom.—Kansas City Star.

CANADA NOW HAS

AN OFFICIAL FLAG

Banner Bears Maple Leaf, Fleur-de-Lis and Crosses.

Toronto, Ont.—Canada at last has an authorized flag of her own. There has previously been a so-called Canadian flag, but sticklers for correct usage in these matters pointed out that it was always quite improper to use it as a national flag. It was a variation of the British red ensign with an aggregation of devices called the Canadian coat of arms in the fly. Thirty years ago Canadian registered merchant vessels were authorized by the British admiralty to use this ensign. Up to the present it has been the only Canadian flag of any kind ever authorized and is only for ships.

A little over two years ago King George authorized the use of a new Canadian coat of arms design that had been prepared for the purpose by a special interdepartmental committee of the Canadian government. On April 28, 1922, by order in council, the shield from the new Canadian coat of arms replaced the old shield on the fly of the red ensign. The use of flags bearing the old shield was permitted up to March 31, 1924. This period of license, granted in order that mercantile concerns stocked with old flags might not be losers, has now expired. From April 1 the official flag of the Dominion of Canada is the new and duly authorized Canadian flag.

Carries Three Crosses.

The main feature of the new flag, as in the case of the previous unauthorized flag, is the old union jack of the British Isles with its combination of the crosses of St. George, St. Andrew and St. Patrick.

Its distinguishing feature is the minor figure on the fly of the red ensign—the new and distinctive Canadian coat of arms. The shield, while less complicated than the old device, is designed to indicate the composite origin of the Canadian nation. England, Scotland and Ireland, each already represented in the union jack, are again designated by "arms." But prominently displayed in addition is the fleur-de-lis of France. Then at the bottom, to link all four together, is a sprig of the Canadian maple.

The committee which designed this new coat of arms was composed of Sir Joseph Pope, Sir Willoughby Dunt, Thomas Mulvey and Dr. A. G. Douglas. They followed the following reasoning: (1) That Canadians stand to their king in as close a relation as do any of his subjects elsewhere; (2) that Canada, an integral part of the British empire, has emerged from the war a member of the League of Nations; and (3) that Canada was founded by men of four different nationalities—French, English, Scottish and Irish—and that Canadians inherit the language, laws, literature and history of all four countries.

The design of the new flag has not escaped criticism. Leading Canadian journals have protested against the shield on the fly. Most critics hold that the only "defacement" should be a simple maple leaf.

The Montreal Witness records that it has pleaded with every government from that of Alexander Mackenzie on to have this meaningless spot—replaced by the simple Canadian maple leaf and no more, a symbol that could be distinguished at any distance and would make the heart of every Canadian, from whatever province, beat higher.

Many other suggestions were made. One of the most interesting was put forward by the Manitoba Free Press. It suggested the union jack in the quarter with a white field, whereon should be shown in blue the constellation of the dipper and the north star, thus producing a flag with a family resemblance to the sister dominions of New Zealand and Australia, whose flags display in the manner suggested the stars of the southern cross. But the flag committee was unmoved.

"There are many residents of Canada who think no Canadian flag at all is necessary. They use the union jack and think it quite sufficient for any part of the empire. Their aspiration is often expressed by the sentiment, 'Some flag, or else, one of those.'"

The heraldic description of the quarterings on the shield of the new Canadian coat of arms is as follows: "First, gules, three lions passant guardant; second, or, a lion rampant within a double tressure flory-counter-flory; third, argent, a harp or stringed argent; fourth, azure, three fleurs-de-lis; fifth, three gold fleurs-de-lis on a blue field; for France, and the third division of the shield argent, three maple leaves conjoined on one stem proper."

Ironless Test Ship

to Sail Baltic-Sea

Reval.—An ironless ship will be sent to the Baltic Sea in a few days to investigate the effects of terrestrial magnetism upon navigating instruments. Capt. von Garnet, an Estonian, has constructed the Cecilia, without a pound of magnetic metal. Even the cooking utensils on the sailing ship are of aluminum and the table knives are of bronze.

Germany, Sweden, Finland and Denmark have all designated scientists to accompany the expedition.

Regard Heads of Fox

as Greatest Trophies

The vast forest regions lying on either side of the Amazon are probably the least known and the most dangerous portions of the world. All this is brought out forcibly in Charles W. Domville-Fife's book, "Among Wild Tribes of the Amazons."

The tribes are full of strange and barbarous customs. Most of them regard the heads of slain enemies as great trophies. Mr. Domville-Fife managed to discover in one tribe the place where the heads were prepared. "Here at last was the secret death-house of the Hunubias. The floor was hard with congealed blood drained from human bodies for unknown years. At frequent intervals this fierce tribe attacks neighboring villages, capturing the women and girls and killing the men. The bodies of those slain are then decapitated and the heads brought back in triumph."

"These ghastly trophies are stuck on lances, and the tribe assemblies round them for a wild night orgy. Drinking, feasting and unnamable debauchery continue until dawn, when the heads are removed by the witch doctors to the death house."

One of the most mysterious stories told by Mr. Domville-Fife is about the poison called yare which gives to people who take it the power of describing events of which they can never have either seen or heard in full consciousness. European cities, music and current events have been pictured in detail unprovided for by the meager vocabulary of the native dialect, and only possible of communication with the aid of rough drawings.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Becket Was Murdered

by the King's Knights

Thomas a Becket was the archbishop of Canterbury and a great advocate of church rights, even defending the church against Henry II, whose parliament he had formerly been. Henry II was overheard to pray, "to be rid of this turbulent priest." Accordingly four knights murdered the archbishop in the Canterbury cathedral December 29, 1170.

Becket was canonized by the church and Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" were told of a pilgrimage to his shrine, which formerly existed in Trinity chapel, Canterbury cathedral, England. It contained the bones of the martyr-bishop, removed thence from the crypt of the cathedral in 1220, and remained for three centuries the object of one of the famous pilgrimages of Christendom.

In 1538 Henry VIII despoiled and demolished the shrine, caused Becket's name to be stricken from the calendar and ordered his bones to be burned and scattered to the winds. The pavement of the chapel and the stone steps that lead up to the place where the shrine formerly stood are worn by the knees of countless pilgrims.—Detroit News.

Love and Life at Vigo

Love at a distance until you are engaged is the rule in Spain. As a result of that somewhat inconvenient custom lovers are driven to strange expedients to communicate with each other. Consider the gentleman of Vigo whom Mr. Ralph Stock tells about in the "Cruise of the Dream Ship."

Picture, if you can, says Mr. Stock, a well-dressed Spanish gentleman standing in the middle of one of the main thoroughfares and gazing toward one of the house-cops; he is apparently engaged in practicing the deaf-and-dumb alphabet. No one of the stream of pedestrians passing along the sidewalks takes the slightest notice of him; neither does the wheeled traffic, except to avert obliquely out of his path. It is his affair, and a love affair at that. He is conversing with his innamorata at the third-floor balcony window yonder. It needed three vulgar sightseers such as the crew of the Dream Ship to find anything unusual in the proceeding. I am ashamed to say that the lady caught sight of us and pointed us alarm; whereupon the gentleman turned with an excusable grown of annoyance, and we hurried on our way.—Youth's Companion.

Insects Lead All

It is computed that there are five times as many different kinds of insects as there are species of all other living things put together. Seventy years ago the number of species of insects preserved in collections was about 170,000. Today it is estimated that there are 750,000 sorts, and that without counting the parasitic creatures. In Europe alone there are 350,000 species. Most insects live on trees or plants. There are known to be 450 sorts which make their home in oak trees, and about 200 in the pine. Of beetles alone the varieties exceed 190,000.

A Different Miss

Bull.—Why the gloomy look, Joe? Joe—I'm in trouble. My wife overheard me telling Steve Jackson that I had had the women in my car the evening before.

"But that is no excuse for a row. Why, every motorist has engine trouble."

"But she found out that only one of them was in the engine."

Erudite Pinheads

"Did you ever see that pinhead which contains the Lord's Prayer?"

"No, but I know a pinhead who has all of Shakespeare's plays at his finger's end."—Farm Life.

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