

Papyrus of First Christian Century Discussed in Paris

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Paris. — At a recent meeting of the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles-Lettres, M. Salomon Reinach commented on a letter written in Greek by the Emperor Claude to the Alexandrians, which was discovered recently on a papyrus dating from the year 45 of the Christian era.

Claude, in this letter, forbids the Jews from bringing any of their compatriots from Syria or the rest of Egypt. Their conduct fills him with deep suspicion, and he declares himself ready to fight "a pest which threatens to extend to all human kind." This doubtless refers to the early Christians, who were then confused with the Jews. It will be recalled that this emperor expelled the Jews from Rome because, according to Suetonius, they were constantly urging people to turn to Christ.

This papyrus therefore represents a very ancient testimony to the origins of Christianity.

Only Syrian Pastor Of English Speaking Parish in U. S. Dead

Pittsburgh, Dec. 12.—The Rev. Paul Baccash of the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Cecil, Pa., died here Tuesday morning in St. Joseph's Hospital of pneumonia. Father Baccash, a Syrian by birth, is believed to have been the only priest of his race to speak the Latin rite.

He was born at Aleppo, Syria, and educated in the Jesuit College at Beirut. There he was ordained when he was twenty-four years old. Missionary work in his native land occupied his efforts until 1902 when he came to the United States to study conditions here. He spent four years in New York and was then called to Rome where he spent seven months. He returned to the United States and took up advanced studies at St. Vincent's College, Pa. Two years later he was sent to Pittsburgh where for six years he was connected with the Church of St. Mary of the Mount. Later he was sent to Cecil to head the parish there.

Lighted Cross On Irish Church Is Mariners' Beacon

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Dublin. — The cross on the spire of the Catholic church at Clifden, Galway County, will in future be a beacon to ships at sea. The spire is 200 feet high. The cross on top is 15 feet high by 6 feet wide. This cross is to be lighted with electricity so that it can be seen for miles out at sea. About 30 electric bulbs will be illuminated at each side of the cross, and in order to meet the difficulty of replacement a number of extra bulbs will be affixed. Replacement will then be necessary only once every two years.

Clifden is a town on the verge of the Atlantic Ocean, and the church, one of the handsomest in Ireland, is built upon an eminence overlooking the town and the waves. The illuminated cross will be a more reliable guide to ships than any of the existing ones.

Former Provincial Of Notre Dame Nuns Dies In St. Louis

St. Louis, Dec. 11.—Mother M. Petra, formerly of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, died at Sancta Maria in Ripa, South St. Louis, the motherhouse and novitiate of the southern province, on Monday after a long illness.

Mother Petra was born in Rochester, N. Y., and had been a member of the School Sisters for sixty years. For seventeen years she was Directress of the Boarders at St. Mary's Academy, Quincy, Ill., and later was the superior at Detroit, Mich., and of St. Alphonsus School, St. Louis.

For the past twenty-five years she was, with the exception of one term, Provincial Superioress of the Southern Province.

Funeral services with Mass of Requiem were held in the convent chapel on Thursday, to which the deceased Mother's lay friends were invited, and this morning, at 10 o'clock the Rev. J. F. Stevens celebrated Mass for the religious and a sermon was preached by the Rev. O. T. Siessner.

His Grace Archbishop Glennon spoke briefly in eulogy of the departed and gave the final absolution. The interment was in the Convent cemetery.

Anglican Cathedral Thrown Open to All By Liverpool Bishop

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) London. — A bold new bid for the unity of the churches not in communion with Rome, is made in an invitation by the Protestant Bishop of Liverpool, who has thrown his new cathedral open to "all men of good will without regard to creed or manner."

Dr. David not only wants his own clergy to hold services within the cathedral, but invites the "Free Churches and the Greek Archbishops to go along and bring their own congregations."

The bishop's act is described by one secular paper as "an important step in the history of the Church," and all the papers have featured the story.

The Bishop of Liverpool was officiating at the last of the consecration services in connection with his recently opened temple when, in making his charge to the Canon of the Cathedral, Dr. Raven, he said: "The cathedral can only reach toward completion when it is the rallying place of all our brother shepherds in the great fold of Christ. Moreover, we desire that you should further our purpose to call every minister with the care of souls to exercise his office at the holy table of this our cathedral — his and ours — at least once in every four years."

To the sub-dean the Bishop said: "We charge you to take care that thanksgivings are offered for the public work of men and women engaged in disinterested service, no matter of what nature or religion."

To the people the Bishop declared: "We shall endeavor to assist and be assisted by every man who pursues unflinchingly the quest for truth, which is the quest for God.

"Our ministrations sacramental and otherwise, shall not exclude any one who, bound by no contrary allegiance, declares himself to be loyal to the Church's creed and claims its service."

English Tories Take Issue With Cardinal On Labor Party Plans

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) London. — The Labor candidates at the recent General Election used to great advantage a sentence attributed to Cardinal Bourne: "The Labor Party has nothing in its program against religion." This sentence was printed on handbills and distributed broadcast throughout the country on behalf of the Labor candidates. In consequence Tory Catholics are indignant that the Cardinal should appear to assist the Labor Party. Many of them see "Red" in everything Labor.

Lord Denbigh, in a letter to the Press, bows to His Eminence's opinion, and adds: "With the greatest respect I contend that both as an Englishman and as a Catholic I am entitled to hold, and shall continue to hold, the opinion that, as at present constituted, every addition to the Labor Party is regarded as a direct encouragement by the foreign International organization with which that party is always in contact."

It is interesting to trace the origin of His Eminence's statement which has caused so much discussion. It was given to a Dutch journalist in the course of an interview. The conversation was in French, was translated into Dutch, and the English quotation came from the Dutch. The significant passage, as thus translated, reads as follows:

"But," persisted the interviewer, "there are Labor men they are socialists."

"With a gesture of deprecation, and smiling, the Cardinal replied: 'Socialists! I assure you most emphatically that our Labor Party has nothing in its program against religion. Obviously there are some extremists among them, but the party as such, has nothing in common with Socialism in the Continent. Mr. MacDonald is neither a materialist nor a Marxist, and that is true of all the leading Labor men.'

The Cardinal has not qualified this statement as the result of the Tory criticism, but as it is not a verbal rendering of the interview it cannot represent precisely what the Cardinal said.

A slightly different version appears in the French paper "Les Nouvelles Religieuses." The N. C. W. C. correspondent has good reason for believing that this translation in French more nearly represents Cardinal Bourne's views. A literal rendering is:

"The journalist having remarked that among the members of the Labor Party there are socialists, the Cardinal replied with a smile: 'I assure you for certain that our Labor Party has nothing in its program against religion. Certainly there are some extremists among its members, but as a party it has nothing in common with the socialists of the Continent. . . . Mr. MacDonald is neither materialist nor Marxist. . . . I can say as much of the principal Labor men.'

Applied Christianity University Planned By Symes Foundation

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) New York. — A "University of Applied Christianity," with powerful resources and great scope, is planned for New York says an announcement here. It is proposed to establish it at once, and its sponsors hope to institute in it the best educational methods in the country, by avoiding mistakes made by such institutions already established.

Chief backing of the proposed institution is to come from the Symes Foundation, created to care for the remainder of a grant of land on Staten Island made by Queen Anne to Major-Lancaster Symes, Colonial pioneer of New York. Major Symes was a vestryman of old Trinity Church. The foundation has the disposition of property of great value.

Concerning the proposed, the Foundation has made a statement, which, in part, is as follows:

"How to attain spiritual development, more spiritual power, and to employ those things that are seen, which enables men and women to know and grasp things that are unseen, and thereby develop character and put religion behind law, is taught in Christ's acts—His method, which is to be employed to make His message live in the hearts of men and women.

"To teach these, the message and method of Jesus Christ, is the aim and purpose of all true education. Upon the rock, Jesus Christ, this university stands in its Symes Foundation. In its university stewards, in all members of its faculties, in all of its college trustees, and in its structure in any and all forms—

It is proposed to have at least six colleges, and the courses are to be coeducational and to teach the usual subjects, with applied Christianity as the basis in each case. The colleges, and even divisions of them, will not be centralized, but will be scattered about the city of New York. Some buildings may be located in the heart of the business section, and they will have churches in them. Each student will be required to serve some form of the public good, without pay, through his undergraduate days, and to agree to continue such service throughout his life afterward.

Trustees of the colleges have not yet been chosen, but some of the university stewards, who are to direct affairs of all the colleges, are: Frederick W. Frost, William A. Hasloun, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Joseph M. Steele, Philadelphia; Mrs. Helen Barrett Montgomery, Rochester, N. Y.; Dr. Stephen J. Corey, St. Louis; Dr. E. H. Knobel, President, United Lutheran Church; Dr. Howard A. Kelly, Baltimore, Md.; Dr. Bernard I. Bell, President, St. Stephen's College; Dr. Ira Landrith, Nashville, Tenn.; Dr. William H. Foulkes, Cleveland, Ohio; Dr. William I. Chamberlain, New York; Dr. William Lowe Bryan, President, Indiana University, and several New York, Newark and Brooklyn business and professional men, including lighthouses on the Irish coast.

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MRS. WHEELWRIGHT OF ROCHESTER

Mother of Emond De Valera

Amongst Rochester's many famous residents, perhaps none have achieved a wider range of popularity and publicity than Mrs. Charles Wheelwright of 13 Brighton street, the mother of the famous Irish Patriot: Who with unswerving tenacity has endured every privation, risked his life almost every day since he attained his majority and still with death and prison staring him in the face continues the fight for his beloved Ireland. One has only to see and speak on the subject to his mother to realize from where that dauntless spirit came. The writer a short time since in an interview failed to draw from the Grand Old Lady aught but her contempt for the pro-British press, with a few exceptions meaning a few in widely scattered sections of the U. S. A.

Mrs. Wheelwright was born in Limerick, Ireland, and has the bearing of a Queen to the Manor Born, with a quiet dignity and a world of understanding. Truly the hand that rocks the cradle are the hands that rock the world when people rebel against tyranny. No son of a mother as great as De Valera's could do other than dedicate his life to a cause more noble than to give his all to the cause of Ireland, the land of his mother's birth.

History of Founding of Christianity in East India Planned

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Paris, Dec. 4.—The religious of the Society of Foreign Missions are soon to publish a "History of the Establishment of Christianity in India." Father Croze, missionary from Kumbo-Konan had collected the material for this history but was unable to complete his work. Returning to France during the first months of the war, he was killed in Champagne in 1918. His colleagues have found his notes among his papers, and have thus been able to publish the work he had planned.

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