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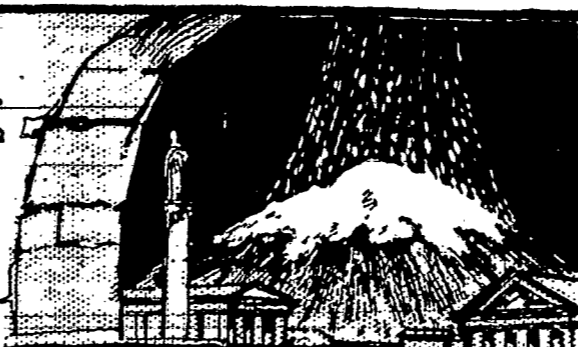
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STRANGE BUT TRUE Catholic Facts But Little Known

By M. J. MURRAY

BAPTISM BY SIMPLE INFUSION began to supplant baptism by immersion in the Thirteenth Century. Baptismal fonts then became smaller, were raised from the floor, and generally began to take the form they have today.



Legend has it that the site for the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome was indicated by a miraculous fall of snow on the summit of the Esquiline Hill in the Fourth Century.



An ORGAN which is one of the oldest in the world is used as a sacristy in a church on the island of Gotland, off the coast of Sweden. The organ's exterior is adorned with paintings dating from 1240.

IT IS AN OBSERVED TRAIT OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS IN HISTORY THAT BENEDICTINES BUILT THEIR MONASTERIES ON HILLSIDES, WHILE THE CISTERCIANS IN QUIET VALLEYS, WHILE THE FRANCISCANS AND JESUITS REPAIRED TO THE CITIES AND FOUNDATIONS. THE CLOSE OF THE 31ST INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS IN DUBLIN, IRELAND, RECALLED THAT THE CONGRESS HAS BEEN HELD ON EACH OF THE FIVE CONTINENTS OF THE GLOBE. EUROPE HAS HAD 25 CONGRESSES, AMERICA TWO (MONTREAL AND CHICAGO), AND ASIA, AUSTRALIA AND AFRICA ONE EACH.

Writes of Roman Curia's Attitude Towards Canary Islands Aborigines

By ALBERT MUNTSCHE, S.J. (C. V. Service)

Dr. Dominick Joseph Woelfel, of the Ethnological Museum of Vienna, contributes to "Catholic World" an article on the attitude of Rome towards the natives of the Canary Islands, which were one of the first of the over sea colonies of the kingdom of Spain, when it was still one of the dominating powers of the Old World. The study is an important contribution to the history of Catholic Missions, and, at the same time, a convincing apology of the noble conduct of the Popes towards the aborigines of colonial possessions. It is a fully-documented study, containing even excellent reproductions of original papers, and facsimiles of letters that passed between the Vatican authorities and missionaries.

At the beginning of his article, Dr. Woelfel rightly states that we must judge behavior of conquerors toward conquered races by the practice of the time, and scrupulously separate what was done by some irresponsible adventurers from what was countenanced by the authorities. As regards the treatment of aborigines by Spain we must bear in mind two questions: what was the contemporary opinion regarding the treatment that should be meted out to the lower races in these colonies? And what was the actual conduct of the responsible authorities? Dr. Woelfel remarks that Spain has the right to be called "the fatherland of the modern law of nations," and that it is the country that gave birth to Fray Bartolomeo de las Casas, the indefatigable defender of the Indians of the New World. This zealot made a model for those set over the natives, and he showed how the law of nations was to be applied toward subject races. Woelfel quotes Las Casas as saying in his "History of the Indies" that the ancestors of the Christian nations of Europe were themselves once savages, and found it difficult to accept Roman civilization and the light of the Gospel. "Forgetting these facts," continues Las Casas, "these subject races have (by some Spaniards) been regarded as beasts incapable of learning and virtue, and they have been looked upon only as fit to provide bread, wine and similar things for the powerful. This cruel treatment is made easy by the fact that these people are poor, meek, humble and without power of resistance. Hence, our people treat them without consideration of age, sex, or dignity. Without scruple nobles and proprietors of land have been despoiled of their possessions and honors to which they had every right."

Francisco Vitoria, Francis Suarez and Jose de Acosta, Domingo de Soto, Melchor Cano, and Ramirez, Bishop of Segovia, wrote along similar lines for the benefit and protection of the aborigines. But what did the civil and ecclesiastical authorities of Spain think of the sound and humane principles laid down by these writers in ethics? To answer this question Woelfel undertakes research in the archives of Rome and Simancas and brought to light a mass of hitherto unedited documents. On the basis of twenty-two of these documents he defines the attitude of the Crown and of its representatives towards the natives of the Canary Islands which are situated in the Atlantic northwest of Africa.

Radio Forecast

572.6M—WJWL—1100 Kr. WJWL—Paulist Fathers New York City Sunday, August 7 12:15 P. M.—The Voice of the Missions 1:30 P. M.—The Catholic World 2:00 P. M.—Catholic World 3:00 P. M.—Fundamentals of Catholic Belief Rev. Thomas G. McMahon, C.S.P. 3:30 P. M.—Gothic Monks Monday, August 8 6:00 P. M.—The Ensemble 6:15 P. M.—Smiles and Tears of James H. Higgins, soloist 6:45 P. M.—Viva Stoll, contralto 7:00 P. M.—Told At Sunset 7:20 P. M.—"Christ The World's Hope" Rev. Noble Higgins, O.F.S.C. 7:45 P. M.—Meet The Composer Tuesday, August 9 6:00 P. M.—Cosmopolitan Quintette 6:30 P. M.—Kelly and Keith 6:45 P. M.—Florentine Ensemble 7:00 P. M.—Ocean Reveries 7:30 P. M.—Talk 7:45 P. M.—"The Eyes Have It" Edward O'Brien, soloist Wednesday, August 10 6:00 P. M.—Loved Songs of Many Nations Leo de Hringopolis, baritone 6:30 P. M.—Circoline Girl 6:45 P. M.—Rudolph Forst, violin 7:00 P. M.—Under the Russian Moon Lucien Tamur, tenor 7:30 P. M.—"Question Box" Rev. Henry P. Fisher, C.S.P. 7:45 P. M.—Los Caporales Thursday, August 11 6:00 P. M.—"Mothery's Garden" George O'Brien, soloist 6:30 P. M.—Classique Instrumentalists 6:45 P. M.—Cotton Blossoms 7:00 P. M.—Ocean Reveries 7:30 P. M.—"Timely Topics" Rev. John T. McGinn, C.S.P. 7:50 P. M.—Classique Instrumentalists Friday, August 12 2:00 P. M.—Orchestra 2:15 P. M.—"Modern Youth and Education" Gerald O'Neil 2:30 P. M.—Orchestra 2:45 P. M.—"Man in the Moon" 3:00 P. M.—Lorraine Ensemble 6:30 P. M.—Paul Watson, baritone 6:45 P. M.—Emerie Kurlagh, pianist 7:00 P. M.—Hans H. Bler and His Orchestra 7:30 P. M.—Sax Breezes Saturday, August 13 6:00 P. M.—Hungarian Musicale Marie Romaine, soprano Stephen Santo, baritone 6:30 P. M.—WJWL Players 7:00 P. M.—Florentine Ensemble 7:15 P. M.—The Minstrel Boy 7:30 P. M.—Talk by a Maryknoll Father 7:45 P. M.—County Meath Boys The House of the Good Shepherd at San Pedro de los Finos, a village within the Federal District in Mexico has been closed and its director, Sister Ophelia Macia, and her three assistants put in jail.

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH SOCIETY HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONS

Diocese of Rochester, N. Y. Rev. Leo C. Mooney, Director Columbus Civic Center, 50 Chestnut Street Stone 1492 This copy is edited by the Diocesan Office in connection with National Office. Inquiries concerning missions welcomed.

AFGHANISTAN, MOHAMED'S LAST STRONGHOLD

By Rev. George J. Blatter (Continued from Last Week) At Rawalpindi a young official had promised to write recommending me to an attaché of the British Legation, as his wife was a Catholic and would be glad to meet a priest. But when the attaché had handed me at the legation, butting and errands and I had presented my card to the captain, he laughed, saying that he had not received any letter and that he was not and had never been married, nor had he had any previous notice of my intended visit to Kabul, which he would not have believed possible. Of course, the best I could do was to laugh at the joke myself. However, he soon returned with a most kind invitation from his Excellency, the Minister Machonackie, himself, kindly inviting me to stay for a few days at the legation, until I should have found the necessary accommodation through the Afghan Foreign Department. This was handsome behavior toward the American stranger, which I gratefully welcomed and wish again to acknowledge herewith; also the four days in which I was entertained as guest by his Excellency and his family. The Afghan Foreign Department is housed in a most beautiful building and park three miles north-east from the King's Ark. The evenings were pleasantly spent in billiards, enhanced by a curious selection of classic phonograph records. Several times also these liberal gentlemen listened courteously to my discussions on the new religious philosophy and other subjects from the Catholic viewpoint. It was their opinion that my stay in Kabul as a Catholic priest was hazardous in the extreme on account of the danger of some fanatic outbreak of the mullahs or the natives. His Excellency placed an auto and chauffeur at my disposal for seeing the city and for my return to my visits to Europeans and the other embassies. To facilitate these visits, he invited Mr. Hans Bogen, a German Catholic, whom I had met several times in Rome and who had preceded me as business agent of the Afghanische Gesellschaf, Hamburg, to Rawalpindi. He is a most intelligent and cultured man, who introduced me to nearly all the Europeans and the embassies in Kabul. On account of the late revolutions only the Turkish, Persian and the Russian legations were complete. The English, the French and the German were only partially represented, the Italian not at all. There are other legations or consuls in Afghanistan. The Turkish and Persian ambassadors showed me especial consideration as a Catholic priest. Mr. H. Gairol, the French representative and Dr. Pauschart and his young wife of Germany, the only European woman who braved all the uprisings since Amanullah's flight, as well as Mr. Stark, the Russian minister, also received me very kindly, all of them wondering that I had succeeded in entering Kabul and expressing doubts about my safety. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and Saturdays of every week during my stay, I continued to accept their invitations for tea at 5 o'clock, which were always connected with bridge or tennis or chess. On my first visit to Mr. Stark, I asked him, whether really the Soviet Government expected to abolish the Russian and ventured the assertion that sooner or later the ingrained religious feeling of the Russians would be roused and sweep away all such projects like chaff in a storm. This must have seemed bold to the minister and was immediately controverted. The Turkish, Persian, and Russian legations occupied beautiful grounds and buildings more near the Ark, the German over two miles to the southwest. The Ark, or residence and government quarters, and the embassies form a sort of three-quarter circle around the rude native quarters and bazaars of Kabul. They are of new and modern construction and are connected with sidewalks, avenues, gardens and parkways, built by the last three or four Amirs of Afghanistan. Interspersed between them are such public buildings, manufacturing, army and munition plants as Amanullah and his father and grandfather, Abderraman Khan managed to construct in the last 50 years. Though all embassies as well as some of the Afghan officials showed more or less apprehension at my protracted stay, all of them nevertheless treated me very courteously. The same holds true of the other Europeans. Of the French there were two engaged in scientific excavation of ancient ruins, the radio operator, and some teachers in the public high school; of the Germans there were four business men; and Dr. Pauschart and his young wife. Of the Russians there were quite a number of exiles living among the natives; there were English private residents, no Italians nor of any other nationality, except three Americans, myself, and for a few weeks Mr. Russell, of the Baltimore Sun, and a New York-Chicago Jew, trying to put through some kind of a syndicate deal which he refused to specify. He had come by aero plane from the Russian railway terminals on the Afghan border, some 90 miles north of Herat. Some of these Europeans are Catholics and the Parsee importer for the government, Rustanjil, told me that there are a number of Indians from the old Catholic settlements of South India scattered among the Afghan business people and other employees. He himself had some of them in his service. Although the number of Catholics is necessarily small, it has no doubt grown in the last two years as the fear of revolution is giving way to greater security and the full personnel of the different embassies is being supplied. Hence the residence of a Catholic priest in Kabul is well justified, and would be justified solely as a necessary preliminary toward breaking down and softening the Mohammedan prejudice in Afghanistan as in all other Moslem countries. The Afghan Foundation and this resultant journey of mine must certainly be considered as a very timely beginning for future "Christ work in this wild and vast realm of central Asia, in such grand pursuits. It is poor judgment to despise or condemn small beginnings. (To Be Continued)

Spiritual Thoughts

Jesus, kind past every thing, Christ the Lord, eternal King! Thy sinful servant, be sunk in depths of misery; Of Thy tender charity, Turn Thy Face and look on me As on Peter when he was In the hall with Caiaphas— At on Marie Magdalene As on Barquet table seen— As upon the Thief beside— These, good Jesus, crucified— O'er my sins may weep and cry, That with Magdalene Marie I may love Thee heartily, With the Thief that I may be Blest in Paradise with Thee! —13th Century Hymn. Life is an education of love, but the education is not complete until we have learned to love the Eternal. Pain is the pressure of God's hand. We are always welcome with Jesus and Mary and never tiresome to them. Fulfill it, if he genuine, find expression in charity. Humble sweetness is the virtue of virtues that Our Lord so highly recommends to us, that is why we must practise it always and everywhere. (St. Francis de Sales) "The anger of man worketh not the justice of God." (St. James) A great part of wisdom consists in knowing how to get along with fools. —Spalding.

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