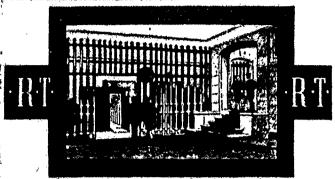
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Little 'Citizens of the Cathedral*

By C. V. Service)
Of hardship are heroes made.
While soft living and comforts
make for indifference denial and

peraccution develop strength of character and fortitude. This contention holds true particularly of religion. No better of this could be offered than the history of Mexico. For well over a century this ill-starred country has been governed by men who have regarded the Catholic Church as an enemy and have done their best to exterminate her and the influ-ence she might exert on the minds

and hearts of the people.

Following the example of the mother country, Spain, the Mexican Republic instituted the "riforma," which meant the suppresslom and looting of churches and monasteries in the nineteenth cenmonateries in the initicenth cen-tury, and in more recent years— when practically all property had been confiscated—the suspension of even religious services and the persecution of the faithful. Neverthe-less, both Church and religion have survived: in fact, the blood of martyrs, added to the suffering of tens of thousands of men, women and children, confessors of the faith, give the promise of a glorious resurrection of religion in a coun-try too long harassed by politicians and usurpers falsely orientated. CLEARLY SHOWN

What religion means to the plain people and the children of Mexico has nover been more clearly or simply illustrated than in the tale of a Methodist missionary, published recently in "World Outlook," tudes, take over their religious dutues, t a Methodist raission paper. Not tice with a sense of grave importance to stay in a little town in church has more to offer its chilthe mountains of Mexico. Arriving dren than the churches of other at moon, he partook of a meal and then went to sleep. Hardly had he fallen asleep when the sound of children's feet awakened him. Still half aslep, he pondered why one can always distinguish the foot-steps of a child from those of a man. Then he noted something he could only describe as queer: there was no other sound than that of the footsteps. "Children coming home from school chatter. Children going out to play call to one another. I went out on my balcony

to see why there was no sound."

The Mcthodist saw a group of children headed toward the plaxs.
"Most of them were little girls dressed in white, some with their First Communion veils." Back of the children came the mothers and the children came the mothers and grandmothers, all hurrying, "but it was not the hurry born of the need to be at some place at a certain time. It was the hurry caused by the importance of the thing that was to be done. The little girls had shirning, solemn, excited faces. I realized they were too full of the importance of the moment to talk. That was the cause of their silence."

Naturally, curiosity got the better of the observer so he followed them. "I climbed after them up the precipitous stone street until I came to the plaza. Here, as in most Mexican towns, the cathedral sprawled at the side of the plaza like some large, dirty but motherly market woman."

The children crossed the thresh-old of the cathedral, familiarly but with a certain dignity, knowing what they were about, "and their mothers and their grandmothers knew they knew and let them step ahead." Once inside, the Protestant missionary states, they moved easily and surely through the children's mass, responding, genufiect-ing, and at the proper time lifting their garlands to be carried for-ward to decorate the sitar. "In the midst of an ancient ritual they were at home." DUTY DONE

After Mass had ended, he contihuos, the children came back to their mothers and all went out into the late afternoon sunshine. The children gave you the feeling that they had got through with some responsible task and now could re

The observer's reaction is especially algorificant. "I do not hold much with children's Masses," he muce with children's Masses," he asserts, "but I fell to thinking on the way back to my room that I had just watched a very successful demonstration of the part children demonstration of the part children can play in the church. Now I doubt very much if the Roman Catholic Church of México given much of its time and though to child psychology. But it is an eminently practical church. It recognizes the practical importance of children as ethicses of the cathe-dral if the Catholic Church is to crist at all in the bestle atmos-phere about it.

"Because it is dependent for its recognition its whiteren it has no

Among the Heroes



Major James Patrick Sinnott Devercaux, United States Marine Corps, commander of the brave garrison which, in the face of superior numbers, defended Wake Island in the war in the Pacific. Major Devereaux is a member of Eleased Sacrament parish, Chevy Chase, D. C.

condescension toward them. the children, swift to sense attidren than the churches of other faiths." But, the missionary ad-mits, "the thing that bothers me is that I can scarcely ever remem-ber a child being as completely at home in the church as the children of Mexico were in their gloomy an-

clent building."
In conclusion, the missioner affirms: "It takes wisdom to live long. And it takes wisdom to let children take their place in the church."

The author might have added The author might have added that it is not merely the children who have been "citizen; of the cathedral" in such countries as Mexico. Religious tenacity has slways been a characteristic of the poor who have held on to their faith through all manners of adversity, including acquality acquainty accounts. including especially persecution, and every church has always and everywhere been considerd by them their Father's House, in which they have a right to be and feel at home.

Voices Fervent Hope World May Gain Peace

VATICAN CITY .-- (NC) - Voice ing once more the fervent hope that peace may be restored to the world, His Holiness Pope Pius XII addressed the Noble Guards. The Holy Father expressed the wish that "in this sea of tempes-

tuous storms and human disasters the fury of the winds may cease and the tranquility of the waves restored, that on the ship of boun-ty goodness and fidelity may clasp hands and justice and peace em-

His Holiness then pointed out that nobility must be founded on virtue. Too often, he said, virtue's light is dimmed by that of nobility. The Pope recalled that many Roman families owe their nobility to the Pontifical Throne and that therefore their duty of preserving themselves faithful to their ancestral traditions is the greater.

Getting On In The World

Do you ever notice in the Want Ads the requests of young men for adventurous work, for exciting occupations?

Did you ever meet a woman hav-ing a man's haircut who said, drawing her breath through her teeth, that she wanted to live dan-

If you didn't, it's just as well.
People who look for danger for
danger's sake are generally fools.
All men who try to save their

All men who try to save their souls sometimes live too danger-ously to save them without the ously Church

Church.
Psychologists sometimes express admiration for the fact that there are few suicides among Catholics. They have a safety vaive. They get rid of their worries, the really serious worries that trouble the soul.
The neo-pagan president of a large American university once remarked that he would like to have something akin to the Catholic

something akin to the Catholic confessional in contemporary edu-

cation.
Why something like it, when the

real thing is here at hand?

No one is a judge of his own case. Physicians do not cure themselves; they call in other doctors. Likewise, a confessor can judge

better than you can.

Abide from the fact that he IS
the judge representing the Almighty, he will im that role settle
your doubts, relieve your fears; inatract where there is ignorance, work out a program of daily living, build positive character, and sug-gest practices which bring you closer to the true happiness you are seeking.



