### A Doctor At Calvary amounting Crown of Thorns

make By Pierre Barbet, M.D.

Selected from the book A DOCTOR AT CALVARY—The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ as Described by a Surgeon. P. J. Kenedy & Sons, Publishers, March selection of the Catholic Book Club. All rights reserved.

There are two executioners, one on each side of Him. They alternate their strokes, with great zest. At first, the strokes leave long livid marks, long blue bruises beneath the skin. Remember that the skin. AT EACH STROKE the body it is sore owing to the millions gives a painful shudder. But He

They have completed the

And this great Fool claims to

Jews, of all ridiculous things!

He has had some trouble with

His subjects; what matter, we

will be His faithful supporters.

Quick, a robe, a sceptre! He

has been put to sit at the base

of the column-not a very se-

cure place for His Majesty! An

old legionary's coat thrown

over His shoulders confers on

Him the royal purple; a reed

in His right hand, and every-

thing is complete, except for

the crown. (For nineteen cen-

turies. He will be known by

this crown, which no other

In the corner there is a bun-

dle of faggots, cut from those lit-

tle trees which thrive on the out-

skirts of the city. The wood is

flexible and covered with long

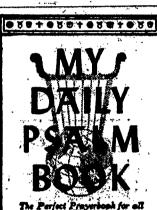
thorns, much longer and sharper

already clotted with blood; long

critcified being has worn.)

the balls of lead. Then the skin execution; it is the unchaining of sionaries totaled over 5,000 in into which blood has crept, be demons. The blood flows from China before the communists comes tender and breaks under His shoulders down to the earth fresh blows. The blood pours and is scattered like rain by the out: shreds of skin become de- lifted whips, as far as the red cloaks of the onlookers.

tached and hang down, The whole of the back is now But the strength of the Victim no more than a red surface, on soon begins to fail; sweat breaks the tangled hair and into the which great furrows stand out out on His forehead; His head beard. The comedy of adoration like marble; and, here and there, whirls with giddiness and nau- has begun, everywhere, there are deeper sea; shivers run down His spine; wounds caused by the balls of His legs give way into the pool



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# Missioners

#### In Red China Hong Kong-(NC)-Only 217

foreign missionaries remained in communist China at the end of February, according to statistics released here.

The total at the beginning of was pointed out that if this rate stop the turning about of the seized power.

streams of blood have flown down to the forehead, under the band of rushes, have soaked into

Each in turn comes forward and bows the knee before Him, with a horrible grimace, followed by a great blow: "Hail, King of count, even though they have the Jews!" But He answers not counted. After all, they have nothing His poor face, so ravnot received the order that He aged and pale, displays no moveshould die under the lash. Let ment. It really is not funny! In Him recover a bit; there will be their exasperation, His faithful further chances for amusement. subjects spit in His face. A blow on the crown of thorns makes it be a king, to be King of the nk further in, and then fresh

> A blow from a stick delivered from the side has made a hor rible bruise on His face: His fine well-shaped nose has been disfigured owing to the septum being broken. The blood is flowing from His nostrils.

BUT NOW PILATE' is back rather worried about the prisoner-what have these brutes been doing to Him? Well, they have dealt with Him all right. If the Jews are not satisfied now! Hè will show Him to them from the balcony, in His royal robes. But he has underestimated their

"Away with Him, crucify Him!" And then they put forward the argument that terrifies Pilate: "If thou release this man, thou and harder than those of the ac- art not Caesar's friend. For who acia. They plait with caution soever maketh himself a king they place on His head. They ly and washes his hands.

beat down the edges and with a bleed.) The top of the head is

NEXT WEEK: Calvary.

## THE LIFE OF CHRIST

By BISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN

## Christ Is Shunned In His Own World

(Continued from Page 1) the year stood at 265. Twenty- ox and an ass to warm Him with Him—Divinity is always where Covetousness is already chalfour were ousted in January, their breath; that He Who, in we least expect to find it, and another 24 in February. It the language of Scriptures, could CHAPTER IV

of little intra-dermic has not opened His mouth, and of expulsions continues, almost Arcturus, would be subject to an studio, because the paintings are of Divine Power which otherwise thas brought about by the His allence redoubles the Satanic all the foreign missionaries will imperial edict of a cersus; that the creation of his own mind; knows no bounds, is often too rage of His executioners. It is have been ousted by the end of He Who clothed the fields with if the sculpter is at home great a tax upon minds which Further marks are made by no longer a cold-blooded, judicial this year. Foreign Catholic mis- grass would Himself be naked; amongst his statues, for they think only of power in terms of that He from Whose finger tips, were begotten of his brain; if atomic energy, They cannot tumbled planets and worlds, a husbandman is at home among grasp the fdea of Divine conwould one day have tiny hands his vines, for he planted them; descension, or of the "rich bethat were not long enough to if the father is at home in his coming poor that through His touch the huge heads of the family, because they are his own, poverty, we might be rich." Men cattle; that Feet which trod the then surely, argues the world, He shall have no other sign of Divin-



ever-lasting hills would one day Who made the world should be (ugh! it hurts!) something like speaketh against Caesar." The be too weak to walk; that the at home in it; He should come the bottom of a basket, which coward then surrenders complete- Eternal Word would be dumb; into it as an artist into his that Om nipotence would be studio, and as a father into his They tear off the cloak which wrapped in swaddling clothes; home; but for the Creator to band of twisted rushes bind it has already stuck to His wounds. that Salvation would lie in a come amongst His creatures and on the head from the nape of the blood starts to flow once manager; that the mirth of Heav be ignored, for God to come eck to the forehead.

THE THORNS DIG into the They replace His own clothes, that built the nest would be among His own and not be rescalp and it bleeds. (We surgeons which become stained with red. hatched therein—no one would ceived by His own, for God to be know now much a scalp car. The cross is ready. They place ever have suspected that God homeless at home, that to the coming to this earth would ever world can only mean one thing be so helpless. But that is precise-- that that Babe could not be God. But that is just why it

> where we least expect to find it, The Son of God made man is forced to enter His own world through a back door. Exiled from the earth. He is born under the earth as the First Cave Man of Christian history. There He shook the earth to its very foundations. Being born in a cave, all who enter must stoop. To stoop is the mark of humility. The proud refuse to stoop, and miss Divinity, Those, however, who bend their ego and enter, find they are not in a cave at all, but in a new universe where sits a Babe on His Mother's lap, with the world poised on His fingers.

missed Him. Divinity is always

#### Manger vs. Cross

The manger and the cross thus stand at the two extremities of the Saviour's life :-- He accepted the manger, because there was no room in the Inn; He accepted the Cross, because men said: We will not have this man for our king." Disowned in entrance, rejected in exit. He is laid in a stranger's stable at the beginning, and a stranger's grave at the end: An ox and ass surround His crib at Bethlehem; two thieves will surround His Cross on Calvary. He is wrapped in swaddling bands in His birthlace, and in swaddling grave lothes in His death place—both symbols of the limitations imposed on His Divinity by taking on a human form.

The shepherds watching their

#### Restore Crucifix' Crusade Launched

Antwerp - (NC) - A crusade to restore the Crucifix in the home has been launched by a Belgian priest.

"Could we do anything better during this Marian Year than to give back the Crucifix of Her Divine Son the place of honor in our homes?" asked Father J.

Croegaert. "In many horres of citizens and workmen, the Crucifix is disannearing, and where there is no Crucifix, there is no prayer

Formerly, when a Belgian family moved the mother transferred the Crucifix to the new home before the rest of the property was whilled It was an old tradition that a Crucifix was a part of the bedroom furniture

clothes, lying in a manger."

Cross the only cross a Babe an eclipse, that only the humble could bear that of poverty, exile of spirit may recognize Him. and limitation. His sacrificial into the hills of Bethlehem:

"This day in the city of David, A Saviour has been born for you. No other than the Lord

is confronted with the humili good If the artist is at home in his ation of a stable. The swathing ity than the absence of power as they expect it the specacle of a Babe Who said He would come in the clouds of heaven, now being wrapped in the clouts of earth

> Goes Into Eclipse He Whom the angels call the 'Son of the most High" descends

into the red dust from which we all were born, to be one with weak, fallen man in all things. save sin. And yet it is the swaddling clouts which constitute the 'sign". If He Who is Omnipotence had come with thunderbolts, there would have been no sign. There is no "sign", unless something is contrary to nature.

no "sign", but an eclipse is. He said that on the last day, His March 19, 1954

coming will be characterized by 'signs in the sun" such as the sun refusing to give its light. He was already bearing His Here the Divine Son goes into Only two classes of people

tent already shines forth in the found the Babe: the Shepherds message the angels are singing and the Wise Men; the simple and the learned; they who know they know nothing, and they who know they do not know everything-never the man with one book; never the man who thinks he knows. Not even God can tell lenged by poverty, while pride the proud anything! It takes will to find God, and this truth the angels proclaimed from

> "Peace on earth to men that are God's friends." (Continued Next Week)

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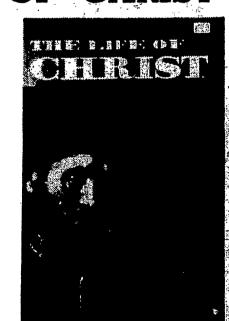
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