

Liberty, Justice For All?


Meridian, Miss. — (RNS) — A white missionary minister of the Church of God (Anderson, Ind.), who has been trying to build a small Negro college at nearby Union, Miss., said he was severely beaten by a white mob.

Claiming that several of the attackers were members of the local White Citizens Council, the Rev. J. H. Germany, "at the threat of their lives," and clubbed and kicked him after they fled.

Mr. Germany, who suffered cuts and severe bruises, said about 20 men were in the mob. He has been trying to build the college in spite of continued protests of white citizens.

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BOOK SHELF

Fool of Love
By SISTER MARGARET TERESA
Nasareth College
Fool of Love: The Life of St. Ramon Lull, by K. Allison Pitts.
London, 1946. 127 pp.

Fool of Love is a little biography that carefully sorts legend from fact, but is mindful of the author's delight in the fifty years of apostolic journeyings and writings of his remarkable subject, Ramon Lull, says Peter, who lived not all his two hundred fifty years (this is the Christian era) in the Christian era, and it works out at an average of five a year, but perhaps just one or two, but he gave him literary immortality.

Reduce the bulk of Lull's writings by the fiercest flames of criticism, to ashes, and there still remain Blanquerna (which has as its 90th chapter the little book is popular today. The book of the Lover and his life, a wordless, successful, married, a father, a poet. The image of the Crucified interrupted his poetry and his fidelity when he was thirty, and he was known by his family, estates, habits — and becoming a poor preacher of his beloved.

There is fascination in what he was, as well as in what he wrote. He was an older contemporary of Dante, but a Catalan, a Majorcan, a king's tutor, a wordless, successful, married, a father, a poet. The image of the Crucified interrupted his poetry and his fidelity when he was thirty, and he was known by his family, estates, habits — and becoming a poor preacher of his beloved.

THE ANNIVERSARY
celebrations had been opened earlier by Cardinal Felix of Paris, in the presence of the mayor of Chartres, 15 bishops and several abbots. The opening ceremonies marked the 700th anniversary of the cathedral's consecration, which probably took place on October 24, 1260.

Construction of the cathedral as it now stands was begun in 1194, although major portions of preceding cathedrals have been included in it. The kings of Christendom contributed to the work, because Chartres was a center of international pilgrimage.

St. Louis, King of France, is said to have journeyed 17 miles on foot to the consecration ceremony. He and St. Ferdinand, King of Castile, donated some of the cathedral's magnificent windows.

The origin of Chartres cathedral are pre-Christian. It is said that before the birth of Christ priests of the Druids venerated on this spot a wooden statue of a seated woman holding a child on her lap. The statue was called Virgo Paritura — the virgin who is to give birth to a child.

Christian missionaries arriving in Gaul — modern France — saw in the child-bearing virgin a figure of the Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ. In A.D. 475, they converted the statue to a church in her honor. It is believed to have been the first church ever dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. The present cathedral of Chartres, successor to that church, also succeeds to that honor.

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Plan Spaghetti Supper

HOLY CHILDHOOD School parents group will sponsor a spaghetti supper Nov. 19 from 5 to 9 p.m. at Most Precious Blood School hall. Planning the affair are from left, Mrs. Joseph Long, ticket chairman; Mrs. Edmund Kolb, co-chairman; and Mrs. Ted Balleu, chairman. Mrs. Angela Mantanarella is in charge of cooking.

Chartres 700th Birthday

The druidic statue was burned in 1793 during the Reign of Terror of the French Revolution. The cathedral is sometimes called a giant reliquary for the "veil of the Blessed Virgin," a piece of fine silk cloth given to the cathedral by Charles the Bald in 876. It came into the western world, as a gift to Charlemagne from the Empress of Byzantium. A recent analysis of the veil, whose identity was not revealed to the silk experts in Lyons who analyzed it, said it was typical of cloth woven in the Levant about the first century of the Christian era.

Another center of devotion in the cathedral is a striking stylized statue of the Virgin and Child known from its color as the Black Virgin. It is also called the Virgin of the Pillar.

Mothers March In School Crisis

Colombo — (RNS) — Some 1,600 mothers of Roman Catholic school children ignored rain to stage a rally here at dawn against the government's plans to take over the country's state-assisted church schools. A large number of which are Catholic.

The mothers formed a long line outside the office of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, but were prevented from entering the building by strong police reinforcements.

Later, the Prime Minister agreed to receive a delegation of the Catholic women. However, she subsequently changed her mind and the police ordered the mothers to disperse.

Loud booing and jeering greeted the police announcement, but the demonstrators were finally scattered.

Some time afterwards, Mrs. Bandaranaike issued a statement saying "I wish to make it clear that I am not prepared to grant interviews merely because of ill-conceived and irresponsible demonstrations of this nature."

"An unfortunate idea," she added, "seems to have gained ground in this country that established government must yield to pressure moves such as this. I do not propose to encourage irresponsible demonstrations."

The Prime Minister concluded by appealing for "peace and calm" in a situation which observers here have described as building up increasing tension in the Hindu as well as Catholic and Protestant communities of this predominantly Buddhist country.

The Catholic schools have an enrollment of 250,000 pupils of whom around 45 per cent are Catholics. The Protestant schools have about 140,000 students of whom the great majority are Buddhist or Hindu. Of Ceylon's 4,000,000 population, 2,000,000 are Hindus and 80,000 Christians.

Rhodesia Law Perils Freedom

Salisbury — (NC) — The Southern Rhodesian government's Riot Bill is a blow to personal freedom, Archbishop Francis Markall, S.J., of Salisbury said here.

The heads of Protestant communities in this British African colony have also protested the bill, which provides severe jail sentences for certain relatively minor offenses.

For example, anyone who throws or threatens to throw anything at a motor vehicle is subject to at least five years imprisonment. Maximum penalty is 20 years.

POLICE ARE also given the power to prevent any person from speaking to any gathering. They may also enter any private home or any other place where more than three persons have gathered, if they have reasonable grounds for believing that a breach of the peace may occur or that a subversive or seditious statement may be made.

The government introduced the bill in the wake of widespread riots in early October in African districts adjoining the colony's major towns and cities, inhabited mainly by whites.

Troops were sent to occupy these districts, and Southern Rhodesian Prime Minister Sir Edgar Whitehead said he would introduce drastic new laws to curb future outbreaks.

"When I miss one day," he would say, "I know it. When I miss two days my wife knows it. But when I miss three days my public knows it."

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