

## Catholic Missionaries

Although Catholic missionaries are engaged in a work, supernatural and divine in its character, yet they find time to contribute in a marked degree to the progress of human knowledge. Civilisation undoubtedly has agents more familiar with scientific formulas, but it has none more devoted, more disinterested, more persevering, and more useful than Catholic missionaries.

In proof of this statement 'Les Missions Catholique' dwells first upon what Catholic missionaries have done in spreading geographical knowledge of countries in which they labored. Force of circumstances transformed the missionaries into explorers in the unknown lands in which they planted the cross to mark the extent of their spiritual conquests. Abbe Huc half a century ago (says the New York 'Freeman's Journal') won undying fame by penetrating the unknown regions of Central Asia.

The 'Annals of the Propagation of the Faith' was the first to give to the world an account of his remarkable journeyings in Tartary and Thibet. Forty years later a Belgian missionary, Father Constant de Deken, accompanied Bonavalot in his famous journey across Central Asia. In 1894 Father Constant published an account of this journey. The author's thorough knowledge of the Mongolian dialect and his familiarity with the customs of the country enabled him to produce a work which rivals Bonavalot's 'Unknown Thibet.' Father Armand David, a Lazarist, can be regarded as the successor of Father Huc. Three expeditions he made to the north, west, and central parts of China enabled him to compile maps of these immense regions. He has given detailed accounts of the geographical features of these unknown lands.

During the last twenty years the Jesuits in China have perpetuated in a worthy manner the reputation of their predecessors of two hundred years ago by publishing a series of valuable works on Chinese literature, ethnography, history, and geography.

In Africa as well as in Asia the work of Catholic missionaries has contributed to our knowledge of geography. The memory of the great Cardinal Lavigerie is inseparably associated with the Catholic missionary work in Africa. With the consuming zeal of an apostle he devoted himself heart and soul to Christianising Africa, and also to the wiping out of the African slave trade. Strictly speaking, he did not directly contribute to the extension of our geographical knowledge of the 'Dark Continent.' But he did so indirectly through the religious Order he called into existence to combat slavery. The members of this Order, in carrying out their benevolent mission, have penetrated into the heart of Africa and have left a record of their explorations.

Another distinguished son of France, Cardinal Massaja, who died in 1889, was called the Apostle of Abyssinia. At the time of his death he was known as 'The dean of the missionary bishops.' Leo XIII, recognising that the history of Cardinal Massaja's thirty-five years' residence in upper Ethiopia would be an important contribution to the science of geography, ordered him to write it. The last days of the Cardinal were spent in dictating a biography which is of great value on account of the light it sheds upon Abyssinian geography, history, and ethnography.

While Catholic missionaries were exploring Northern Africa, other Catholic missionaries were pushing their way through Southern Africa and publishing accounts of what they had seen. In Zanzibar, for example, the Superior-General of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost has published learned monographs on the Kilima Ndjaro, the Massais, and the Pygmies. Two Catholic missionaries, Fathers Roblet and Colin, have published maps of Madagascar.

The Catholic missionaries who have penetrated Central Africa have made important contributions to our knowledge of the Dark Continent. Father Coubois has published an account of Taganika. Father Gulleme has written a description of his explorations in the neighborhood of Nyassa; Father Schynze has published a map of the country west of Victoria-Nyanza.

In Dahomey and along the Gold Coast the priests of the African missions of Lyons are to be found fraternising with the natives encamped on the banks of the rivers Niger, Ougnon, Opaka, Volta, and Cavally. It was the letters of one of these missionaries, Father Borghero, which for many years supplied French, English, and Italian publicists with the only information they could obtain about Dahomey. In 1861 Father Borghero visited Abomey, the capital of Dahomey, and had a personal interview with King Greve.

Catholic missionaries established themselves in Oceania in 1831. In the neighboring continent of Australia their work was energetically pushed. In 1838 Father Ullathorne, subsequently Bishop of Birmingham, England, described his visits to New South Wales. The publication of the letters of these early missionaries added greatly to the knowledge of these remote lands.

Many Oblate Fathers in Canada have contributed greatly to our knowledge of the basins of the River Mackenzie and other rivers which empty into the Arctic Ocean. None of them, however, met with such success as has Father Petitot. The Geographical Society of Paris has conferred upon Father Petitot a gold medal, and has published at its own expense his map of the northern regions of America.

What details about the Indians in the United States, in Ecuador, Guiana, Brazil, and Patagonia, would have been unknown if it had not been for Mgr Salpointe, Fathers De Smet, Pedro, Emonet, Brunnetti, and other Catholic missionaries.

In the above rapid review of missionary work in all lands we have proof that the Church in the twentieth century is fulfilling to the letter the command given to the Apostles to go forth and teach all nations.

## St. Vincent de Paul Concert, Dunedin

The attendance at the St. Vincent de Paul concert in the Garrison Hall, Dunedin, on Friday evening was very satisfactory, which was what might be expected, considering the excellent and varied programme provided and the object for which the entertainment was given. Among those present were his Lordship Bishop Verdon and nearly all the local clergy. The programme opened with a chorus, 'The organ's peal,' by a number of pupils of the Christian Brothers, solos being successfully sung by two of the boys. As usual Miss Rose Blaney met with an enthusiastic reception, and her programme items, 'The Children's home' and 'Slumber song,' were rendered in that finished manner for which that gifted vocalist is noted. The inevitable recalls followed. Miss Dunsmuir sang 'Dear heart,' for which she was emphatically recalled, her encore number being that popular ballad, 'Comin' thro' the rye,' which was done full justice to. Miss Leonard's programme items were 'A dream of heaven' and 'When Jack and I were children,' these being supplemented by an encore number, 'Killarney,' all of which were given with much taste and expression. Miss Macloskey met with a splendid reception, and her fine contralto voice was well suited to her two songs, one of which was given as an encore. To the first item was added a violin obligato, faultlessly played by Miss G. Meenan. Mr. T. J. Hussey was in splendid voice, in fact we have never heard him sing to such advantage as on this occasion, 'The charmed cup' and 'In old Madrid' being his contributions. Mr. Brunsdon's 'A hundred fathoms deep' was particularly good, as was also his recall number. Mr. Eagar received a well-merited round of applause for his singing of 'The message of the king.' Mr. Anthony, who is always a great favorite, gave a couple of very amusing items, and it is needless to say that he was recalled. St. Joseph's Choir, under Mr. Vallis, contributed three choicest, which were not the least acceptable items of an exceptionally good programme. A popular change in the proceedings was an exhibition of bayonet exercise by a squad of the Dunedin Highland Rifles, which was watched with much interest by the audience. In the first part of the programme Mrs. Whiteman gave a recitation, 'The maniac,' for which she was encored, and in the second part Mr. Hanlon, quite unconscious of the lady's selection, recited the same piece, for which he was recalled. The conception of 'The maniac' in both cases was very different, and no doubt opinion was divided as to the merits of the treatment. It should be mentioned that during the interval a budding actor of eight or ten summers took possession of the stage, and highly amused the audience for about five minutes.

The bulk of the accompaniments were played by Miss C. Hughes, Mrs. John Woods and Mr. A. Vallis. It would not be right to close this notice without paying a meed of praise to the energetic honorary secretaries, Messrs. W. Carr and J. J. Marlow.

## Mdlle. Dolores' Thanks

We are in receipt of the following communication from Mdlle. Dolores, the distinguished Queen of Song, whose recent triumphal progress through New Zealand is fresh in the minds of our readers. It is dated 'Honolulu, April 29, 1903,' and says:—'I had hoped, before my departure from New Zealand, to send a few words of gratitude and remembrance to my Catholic friends and adherents in your beautiful Islands for the favors I have always received at their hands. It has been a great comfort to me during my journey across the vast ocean which now separates me from them to know that I have left warm hearts behind me, and I feel sure that when I return, after my tours of America and Europe, I shall be received by you with the same hearty welcome as that which you have greeted me hitherto. Will you, dear Editor, convey these few words of thanks and appreciation to your readers and to the Catholic world at large, and oblige, yours sincerely, Antonia Dolores.'

FIRST DISTRIBUTION of CASH BONUSES to consumers of "KOSIE" TEA closes on 31st May, 1903. 1st prize, £10, to the consumer who returns coupons representing the greatest quantity of "Kosie" Tea. 2nd prize, £5, to the next highest. 3rd prize, £3. 4th prize, £2. 5th prize, £1. 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th prizes, 10s each. 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th prizes, 5s each.

You may be TOO LATE to take part in the first distribution, but you can START EARLY for the next, which closes on 30th November next. In these distributions the smallest consumer has a chance, as coupons not sent in for present distribution can be saved and sent in for the next, or any future one. Bonuses distributed on 31st May and 30th November in each year. Remember "Kosie" Tea is sold at 1s 6d, 1s 9d and 2s. GOLDEN TIPS, a specially choice high-grown Tea, at 2s 6d.—\*\*\*