Picture of a Catholic Foreign Missionary.

A secular paper quotes from Mrs Archibald Little's 'Land of the Blue Gown,' the following account of a Catholic missionary at Hoang-muchang, which it calls 'a sombre and yet a noble picture:—

'The priest, a hardy young mountaineer from Central France, showed with some pride the few panes of glass he had just had inserted into his window by his writing-desk, thus enabling him to continue working when a Chinese, by the darkness of his paper windows, is compelled to inaction. Other luxury in his spacious sitting-room there was none, unless we count a bookcase of the simplest nature to contain the few books he had brought with him from France. There was no table, three chairs; nothing more! He wore Chinese clothes, with the large, fanciful straw hat of the district. He had no wine except that supplied for Mass. It is true that he had a capital mule on which to visit his very widely-scattered parishioners. But he was one man alone, not a family nor a pair of friends, as is so usual in our missions. There was no European nearer than a very long day's journey across the mountains, and then not another for days and days. No seven or ten years will entitle him to a trip home to those French mountains, a tiny pictured guide to which he showed us, but which we noticed he did not venture to look at whilst we were there. He received no newspapers, and it seemed few letters. We asked him how he spent his lonely evenings in winter. He said earnestly that was the great trial of the first year, but after that one had got over it.'

Printing for the Blind.

THE New York *Sunday Times* gives an interesting account of a printing house established with the object of supplying religious books to the blind. Several volumes have already been turned out, and placed in various libraries throughout the United States. It says:—

There has been established at West Sixteenth Street a printery of religious books for the blind. It was founded and is controlled by Father Joseph Stadelman, S.J. While there are many books printed for the blind, Father Stadelman says that scarcely any of them are of a religious character. Since the blind, of all others, turn to religion, he has devoted himself to the development of the religious nature of those people, whom misfortune has placed in a world apart, with different ways of thinking from that of others. He is now placing within the reach of the 75,000 blind people of the United States, through the medium of the public libraries,—books which will give them the solace of religion. The society also publishes a ten-page magazine called the *Catholic Transcript for the Blind*.

A new system of printing in tangible characters was introduced with the stenographic shorthand of Lucas and the phonetic of Frere. In Frere's system the lines run alternately from right to left, so that the fingers run on from line to line without interruption. The system used by Father Stadelman is one invented by Braille, a Frenchman, and modified by William B. Waite of the New York Institute for the Blind. The machine invented by Mr Waite is known as the 'stereograph,' and works like a typewriter, with but six keys. By a variation of the keys 62 different signs are obtained. As the keys are operated, 'points,' or indents, are cut into a sheet of brass or zinc about 12 by 14 inches in size. The 'points' look like a series of dot impressions made in horizontal lines on the sheet. At a casual glance the lines look like music bars. This indented sheet is placed in a hand-press, a piece of starched paper of the same size is placed on it, and thus the impressions are transferred. But one side of the paper is printed on, and when dried it preserves the dot impressions remarkably well. The passing of the finger over the sheet does not wear the marks off. It requires about 10 days to print in this manner a book of 150 pages, and the cost is perhaps 8s a volume. The books are bound by hand, and when finished look as large as a small bound newspaper. The books can be illustrated where surfaces only are necessary to convey the idea.

A Fortunate Misfortune.

THIRTY years ago a young man named Samuel M. Bryan, a clerk at the Post Office Department at Washington, received notice that his services were no longer needed. When he looked over his stock-in-trade he found that it consisted of something less than 100 dollars in cash and—a great idea. A week later he was on his way to San Francisco, one good-natured postal clerk after another allowing him to ride in his car. On reaching San Francisco he secured a place as purser on a steamship bound for Japan, and in due course found himself at Tokio. Once in Japan's chief city he proceeded without delay to put his great idea into execution.

What he proposed was to perfect and put in operation in Japan a postal system modelled after that of the United States. Bryan found willing listeners among the high Japanese officials, and in due time was requested to prepare a prospectus of his system to be submitted to the Mikado. Its value was at once recognised and its adoption ordered. Bryan was placed at the head of the new department, with a salary of 11,000 dollars a year, and trusted with the negotiation of a postal treaty between Japan and the United States. A few months later he was back in Washington as the envoy of the Japanese Government, treating on equal terms with the man who had dismissed him for incompetency. The treaty, which he negotiated with skill and diplomacy, proved satisfactory to all concerned. Bryan remained some 15 years in the service of the Japanese Government. He then returned to the United States, a rich man. It is interesting to conjecture what his career might have been had he not lost his place in the Post Office Department.