

CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN CHINA

At the meeting of the Association for the Propagation of the Faith, held recently at Plymouth, Rev. Father Wolferstan, S.J., read a paper on 'Catholic Missions in China,' in the course of which he said:—

For the whole of China, last year there were employed 1408 European and 700 Chinese priests; 198 European lay Brothers; 685 European and 1195 Chinese nuns; and 13,300 catechists and others. The Chinese Catholics numbered 1,345,376, and the catechumens were 496,912—on June 30, 1912. The outlook for the future, from an official point of view, is promising. China appears to be on the point of officially renouncing paganism. Religious liberty has been promised to all; the higher offices are to be open to Christians—even Mandarins are to be allowed to embrace Christianity. But, on the other hand, there is the intense conservatism of the Chinese character to be reckoned with; as well as the danger that all the energies of the people may be swallowed up in the quest of material prosperity. Further, the 'blessings of civilisation' are finding their way to the Far East; and these are usually inimical to Christianity—including, as they do, the latest rationalistic propaganda, which, through the agency of the secret societies, are making much progress. That there is any great wave or movement in the direction of Christianity, I do not for a moment believe; but we may hope that the progress of the Catholic Faith, though slow, will be as solid as it has been hitherto.

It only remains for me to recommend to your prayers and alms the work of the Association for the Propagation of the Faith. This, as you are well aware, is an international society for the practical furtherance of the Divine command to 'go and teach all nations.' While the missionary gives his whole life, leaving country, friends, everything that makes life pleasant—to labor and die, sometimes by violence, in a strange land—the missionary societies concern themselves with the training of those who are to follow him, and the general apportionment of a field of operations for each. The Association for the Propagation of the Faith endeavors to provide the means to enable both the societies and their missionaries to carry on their work, unhampered by considerations of how to obtain the wherewithal to do so. Last year the Association raised £322,063 0s 5d. 'A wealthy Association!' you say. Well, when the amount was dispensed, there remained the magnificent sum of £3 14s 8d. Of the total receipts, no less than £25,000 was allotted to missions in China Proper alone. What comfort the missionaries must live in! Let the Rev. Lord William Cecil—a Protestant clergyman, and one of the most generous and ungrudging admirers of the Catholic missionary—let him describe it:—'There are few bodies of people who are more heroic and devoted than the Roman missionaries; they have died by fever, have been massacred, they live on a miserable pittance—I was told that one enlightened missionary, once a professor in Paris University, lived on £12 a year.'

Work in connection with the completion of St. Mary's Cathedral is proceeding steadily (says the *Freeman's Journal*). The authorities recently introduced a steam drill to test the foundations. Already they have completed the test for the foundations of the tower, and are now proceeding with that of the buttresses. In all sixteen bores have been made at a cost of about £80. The authorities considered that it was only right that nothing should be left undone to secure foundations on solid rock. The bores were made from 10 to 15 feet below the portions that have been excavated.

ELECTRIC MASSAGE.

in your own home by means of the Zodiac machine—a wonderful apparatus easily carried in the pocket. Never requires recharging. For all pains, rheumatism, neuralgia, etc., it is unequalled. Thirty shillings, post free, from WALTER BAXTER, Chemist, Timaru.

Homes Made Happy

— BY —

Holmes and Sons

130-132 HIGH ST., CHRISTCHURCH,

COMPLETE HOUSE FURNISHERS,

AND

STAFFORD ST., TIMARU.

We carry the largest and best assorted Stock of Iron Bedsteads in the Dominion, and can supply them in any color, mounted in BRASS or NICKEL.

We manufacture all our own Bedding and guarantee it to be made from the best materials procurable.

OUR FURNITURE is made by experienced workmen and we guarantee every article. We hold a large Stock of LINOLEUMS, BLANKETS, HEARTH RUGS, CARPET SQUARES and RUNNERS.

People contemplating furnishing should pay a visit to—

Holmes and Sons' Establishments.

High Street, and Christchurch,
Stafford Street, Timaru.

Call and inspect our . . .

FUMED OAK FURNITURE

Design and Finish Unsurpassed.

Send for our new 1913 Illustrated Catalogue.

Brimful of New Styles, New Designs, New Ideas.

A. & J. WATT

FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS - DUNEDIN.

DR. J. J. GRESHAM

MAIN STREET, GORE. . .
PAINLESS DENTISTRY.