

on his horse or walks on foot to the spot where, healing the body, he may save a soul.

At home he has a poor bed, a poor kitchen, poor food, no comfort or what might be called by that name in this century of comfort, but he has God and, while his pagan neighbors honor perhaps the devil, he kneels down before the little tabernacle to implore strength for himself and light for those who sit in the darkness of hell.

He wins some souls. What a joy! There is no joy on earth like the happiness of bringing some souls into the outstretched arms of the crucified God-man. But there are more to be won for heaven. Farther and farther he spreads his activities. Often he is tired. His travels are exhausting in the mountains. Dangers surround him: precipices, sickness without help, unknown roads, perhaps enemies who hate him as does Satan their master. But there is a guardian angel to guide him and a Providence to take care of him as long as it shall please God.

He builds a more decent chapel, a modest school, he writes letters upon letters to expose his necessities to his parents and friends. How

often does he write in vain! How excruciating to see the good to be done thru schools and catechists and not to have the means to do it! But on he goes.

And when success has crowned his superhuman efforts, some day a letter arrives from his superior saying "go" and he is sent to another distant unknown place to find it in the same condition as his first mission.

Discouraged? -- No. He will begin all his work over again and later he will begin it a third time and more, till finally an unwritten letter arrives from his Great Superior not saying: "go" but "come".

And even there the work of the Missionary shall not stop. Yes, even there he will remain a missionary praying for the missions, praying for his benefactors. Must not these prayers be powerful before the Lord?

Yes, the missionary will remember you in his daily mass; the converts you make by your help, owing to you their salvation, will be grateful and above all, Christ Your Redeemer, Whom you help by redeeming others, will reward you here and hereafter.

---

## If You Don't, Who Will?

The object of this monthly Review is shown by the title: "THE LITTLE APOSTLE OF THE MOUNTAIN PROVINCE." My dear readers: You are all acquainted with the Mountain

Province of Northern Luzon. It is inhabited by 300,000 non christian people, Filipinos as well as are the Tagalogs, the Ilocanos, the Visayans.

In the year 1907 the Belgian Mission-

aries of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary were called by the then Bishop of Vigan, now Cardinal of Philadelphia, Monseñor O'Dougherty and the then Apostolic Delegate, Monseñor Agius, and were ordered by the Sacred Congregation of the Propagation of Faith and the Holy Father to undertake the conversion of these 300,000 Filipino inhabitants of the Mountain Province.

Eight Missionaries arrived during the month of November of the same year and went immediately to that uncultivated vineyard of the Lord. Since that time about 16,000 Igorotes have been converted at the price of great sacrifices, both in money and personal hard work.

16,000 out of 300,000 seems very few after 16 years. Little by little, however, this Review will show why no more than 16,000 have joined the Catholic Church, exposing the enormous difficulties in the conversion of that vast province, the Alps of the Philippines. But let it be said now that the strongest reason why only 16,000 have been baptized is: the lack of resources for real missionary work, especially schoolwork.

The Missionaries have sacrificed their personal fortune and income. Belgium, already supporting missions in China, Congo and other pagan countries, has backed its Missionaries as far as it could, especially before the war. The United States have contributed largely to the evangelization of the Igorotes.

But . . . yes, there is a but . . . but the Philippines could have done more. Certainly some good Catholics have sent in their alms to the organization of the "Union that nothing be lost." Lately too, many children from Manila have offered their mites for the building of a few chapels in God's desert of the Mountain Province. But more could and should have been done by

the brethren of the tribes of the Mountain Province.

And why is it that comparatively so little has been sacrificed by the Filipino Catholics? Because they have not been informed enough of the actual conditions of the faith among the Igorotes. Because they have not enough understood the necessities of the Missionaries among the pagan tribes of this country. Because the generosity of the Filipino Catholics has not enough been stirred up. Appeals to their Catholic faith and duty, to their high patriotism, to their noble charity, have been very few. Nevertheless whenever these appeals have been made, they have been answered immediately, alas! again to be more or less neglected later.

Therefore it is the purpose of this little Review to visit the Catholic homes and especially the Catholic schools of the Archipelago, to show the needs of the missions in the Mountain Province, the work of its missionaries, the conversion of the pagans, the results and success of both the Missionaries in the field and the missionaries at home, who are you, my dear readers, who by your generous help are really missionaries as well as those who sacrifice themselves personally: yes, without the missionaries at home, little or nothing can the missionaries in the field do. In you, Catholics, is their hope. In you is the hope of the 300,000 pagans of the Mountain Province: by your help shall the word of Christ reach them.

If then you have any interest in the work of Christ, in the Christianization and civilization of your brethren in Christ and your compatriots, read this little Review, make a subscription to it. After you have read it give it to a neighbor; be a missionary of the "Little Apostle of the Mountain Province" and you will be a real apostle to receive some day the reward of the

Apostles in heaven. Now is the time. The Mountain Province must be converted. It shall be converted, and that within a short time, if you, dear readers, do your part. Let more help come in and the missionaries in the Mountain Province shall be multiplied, their work too shall be multiplied thru more and better or-

ganization. It all depends on YOU, on YOUR apostleship.

Sure you will answer my appeal for a subscription to this little Review and for spreading it among your friends: for all this, rest assured, the Missionaries in the Mountain Province will not only thank you but they will pray for you.

## A Letter from Father Claerhoudt,

*Missionary in Bokod*

NOTE: Bokod is a small Igorote town in the northern part of Benguet. In former years it was visited now and then by the Missionary of Itogon (near Baguio). But the people of Bokod and surroundings seemed to be so well disposed towards Christianity, that a year ago it was decided to send a missionary there.

And the means to support him? I, the undersigned, promised to collect a fund sufficient to provide the Father at Bokod with one hundred pesos a month. In the meantime he should live on camotes, rice and what else Providence would send.

So Father Claerhoudt, old soldier of the world war, was sent to that promising place. If he mentions a wonder in his following letter, he forgets to say that he himself he has been a continuous wonder in his work. Poor in health, he has worked day and night and that without the necessary food he should have had. He can easily figure out how often he tasted meat at his mission. — Why? — Well, the fund was not ready and is not ready as yet.

To tell the truth, ₱ 10,000 more are required. But now that THE LITTLE APOSTLE OF THE MOUNTAIN PROVINCE will make a little noise about the fund. I hope to complete it within a short time. May I be a true prophet! Any alms sent for this purpose will be announced in this review.—O. Vandewalle.

Here follows the letter of Father Claerhoudt.

Bokod, Feb. 11, 1924.

Dear Father Vandewalle.

I thank you a thousand times for the 50 yards of cloth you sent to cover the nakedness of the dear little Igorote angels of my mission. How they like to have a dress, but

they do not always have it: they are so poor!

Thanks be to God, there is progress at Bokod. It is true the old pagans of Bokod refuse still to be baptized, but those who are already baptized become more fervent. Several of them receive Holy Communion every day. You understand what a sacrifice it is for them to come to the chapel every morning. Very early they have to go to their fields and they return late in the evening to pound rice and do other heavy work, before they can take their well earned rest of the night. Now these fervent converts pray for their townmates. I am sure that, within a short time, Our dear Lord shall be loved and served here by all His children from Bokod and that with a pure heart.

Blessed Little Theresa of the Infant Jesus has cured here a young girl, a pagan as yet who, I hope, will later ask for baptism. It is not for nothing that the Blessed Little Theresa is the patroness of my mission. Yesterday I found a young boy, the