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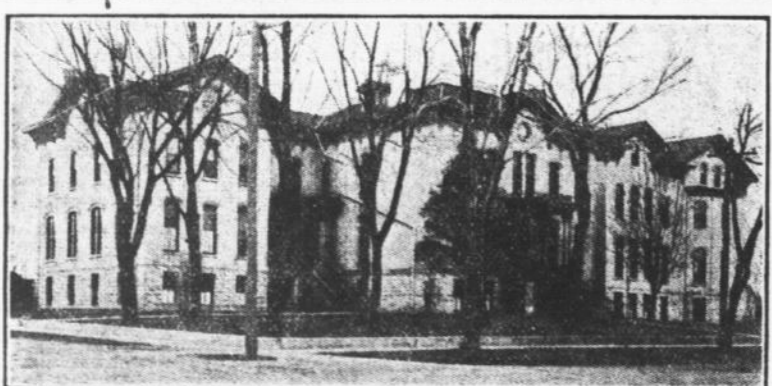
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### LETTER FROM AN INDIAN MISSIONARY.

Rasur Remount Depot, Mattigiri,  
(India), July 25, 1916.

Dear Rev. Father:

I received both your letters today. I nearly lost my breath when, on opening them, I discovered two cheques, one of \$10, a gift from Father W., and one of \$5 from Miss M. R. I am very grateful to you for having thanked these kind benefactors on my behalf. I shall certainly write to them direct at the earliest opportunity. As regards the kind lady who inquired about the motorcycle, you may suggest to her that it would be better to procure one in America. Good motorcycles are not available now in India owing to the war. Owing to the bad state of the roads in these districts, and because I shall be under the necessity of having a sidecar attached to it, a good strong machine of 4 H. P. is needed. A cycle car or a small sized motor like the Hummerette would be the best suited for my work, but the price is prohibitive. A beggar may not suggest his desires, his likes and dislikes or look a gift horse in the mouth. I am ready to accept anything that is given me. In the interests of the donor, however, I thought I ought to be explicit. It would be a great disappointment to them to find that, in spite of the expenses incurred, their gift would prove not quite serviceable to me.

I thank you very much for your very kind and sympathetic letter. May God bless you for the charity you show a poor Indian priest. I shall act on your suggestion as occasion offers itself provided you look after "my English." I have already sent you a letter but in those days of torpedoes and bombs one can't be sure whether it has been blown into the air or drowned in mid-ocean. Hence I re-write the whole and leave it to your discretion to use it as you please. In case you have received the first letter you may just publish such parts as are "new."

As I am in charge of about twenty Christian villages and five chapels I have to tour about, throughout the year, staying a month or so in each chapel so as to give the Catholics a chance of making their Easter duty, of having their children baptized, etc.

Just now I am at the extreme corner of my district. The chapel, built of mud without stones or even bricks, is old and like old people is trembling at the foundations. The chapel has no vestments of its own, so that I am obliged to carry everything with me when I go there. I have already told your readers the state of my own Mass vestments. Such usage does not help to make these vestments better! The altar is the nest of the white ants and I have a busy congregation when I say Mass. Except for three old antique statues the altar is completely bare. The statues have lost their paint and varnish. One statue there may represent any saint in Heaven according to the label attached to the pedestal which has been half devoured. The one of St. Anthony has lost its right arm, a poor recommendation for the great wonder worker who dispensed and still dispenses charity so bountifully. The dragon's head in the statue of St. Michael is gone—an indisputable evidence of fierce battle and complete victory!

In this place there is no such thing as a market, postoffice, etc. I have become a pure vegetarian not out of principle but from sheer necessity. I live now on a little rice and vegetables—not cabbages, carrots, salad, etc., that you may naturally think of, but just some greens that your poultry may pick at. But that is a good picnic I assure you; it gives the inner machine some rest from the usual grinding and makes one relish the good things when they come. Just now it is very warm and everyone swears by the heat. We have, however, a cheap system of cooling our system—not elaborate and complicated that Americans would invent and patent. When Jupiter is propitious I have just to stay in my room and I can have a shower bath free of charge as often as I want. During the night I need not be idle; I want to brush up a few forgotten notions of astronomy—a subject sadly neglected during school days—the damaged and perforated roof serves as nature's own telescope. I look out for "Pisces" in the "Aquarium" for "Aquila" on the helmet of "Hercules" (provided he has one) and for the "Crow" on the "Crater;" my search ends in the cloud of failure and my sleep in the morning mists with a hazy Deo Gratias.

I have just finished the administration of this village. Before my advent, the annual average of Communion was 200 but last year the total went up to 850, whilst this year it reached 1,200. Every year, for one reason or another, over 25 would miss their Easter duty. This year I have not even one to record, all have done their duty. Deo Gratias. Again I must leave a sigh and say, Oh! If I had a motorcycle, if I could visit these people oftener and not once a year as I have to do now. I leave your readers to conjecture the answer from the results I have noted above. With renewed thanks and kind wishes to self and kind readers,

Yours ever sincerely in Christ,  
JOS. D'SOUZA, M. Apost.

### ON THE MEXICAN BORDER.

From Mercedes, Texas, there comes to the Catholic Church Extension Society a pitiful letter from one of the Oblate Fathers in charge of a large territory mostly inhabited by Mexicans, who are, in the majority, very

poor. These people are always most anxious to receive a Catholic education, but when money, good clothes, and the like are offered to them by the proselytizers they are easily won over, and so, what is a poor missionary without these enticements to do? Is he to let his poor people fall into the hands of bigoted men and women, and in time become Protestants; or will the charity of the Catholic people help him keep them in the fold? Read this letter for yourself, and we feel certain that you will send something to us for Father Janvier.

"You have always listened kindly to our missionary troubles, and for this very reason I come to tell you my last one. Mercedes, in Texas, is the place where lies the trouble. Mercedes is a town seven years old. For the present it has a population of about 1,000 inhabitants, one-third of American birth, the balance Mexicans. Last school year showed an attendance at the Mexican school of 140 children. For seven years all has been running smoothly for our little ones. Broad-minded citizens from the very start of the public school, the one for the Mexican element, knew nothing better than to call a religious Sisterhood to have charge of the children. Accordingly two, then three and four Sisters of Mercy, whose motherhouse is in Laredo, Texas, and who for these last seven years have devoted time and talents to the education and instruction of the children, teaching them religion after the class hours and reading, writing and figures, etc., during the hours scheduled by the trustees and laws of the state. Year after year the public could witness and pronounce it 'well done,' the work of the Sisters, while enjoying the entertainments given by the children. They did not know what to admire most, the patient and successful work of the teachers, or the smartness of the little ones in delivering their English speeches and songs. Two years ago the Sisters were obliged to take off their garb, but still were kept in charge. It was but the first step to the decision taken this year by a new board of trustees prejudiced against anything Catholic. The Sisters were not even thanked for their past services. The local paper announced the school trustees had had an election for the coming year and that three new teachers were appointed for the North school. With outside help they have built a small chapel for our Mexicans; they have had it enlarged and even now, during the hot months of summer, daily, under the plea of teaching English and Spanish, they draw to them our little ones. But, thanks to God, few fathers have sold the souls of their children for a varnish of instruction, a new dress, a bushel of corn, or the coin for the monthly rental of the hut. Are we to get discouraged and lay down our arms? No. Alas, we feel weak. But you, dear readers, are you not going to aid us with the oil that will give us new strength in the fight? We give ourselves, we do the fighting, we build the schoolhouses, we oversee the work, we bring in the children, we teach them religion, we teach them to be true sons of the Church and State, we show them Who is the Way, the Truth, the Life—in a word, the material and the spiritual work, we do it. But you—your part is to give the means and divide the merits. Just now, let us enter into the company. Send \$1,000 and my trouble vanishes; \$500 to build class rooms, \$500 for two teachers for ten months, and for this school year, I abandon to you all merits that justly must come to us."

A school at Mercedes is a necessity for the preservation of the Faith; there is no money to pay the teachers, and with the Protestant teachers well supplied with money, poor Father Janvier is having a hard fight. Any amount you feel disposed to give will be gratefully received by the Catholic Extension Society, McCormick building, Chicago.

### MEMORIAL CHAPELS ARE INCREASING IN NUMBER.

From time to time the value of placing money in a memorial chapel for our departed relatives, rather than in tombstones, has been set forth. Happily, many persons have taken this way to aid the work of the Propagation of the Faith, and the number of chapels that are being erected in mission lands is gradually increasing. There are thousands of little missions without a suitable dwelling place for the Lord of Heaven and Earth. In these districts souls are being lost, thousands of them, and Jesus Christ is fighting a losing fight, simply because Catholics here at home would rather erect costly monuments over the remains of their dead than provide the Living God with a place where He may dwell among His children.

A chapel, be it ever so humble, in which the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered daily, is a memorial, the worth of which in obtaining the release of their loved ones from Purgatory cannot be estimated.

### MISSIONARY IN NEED OF HYMN BOOKS.

Just the other day the Catholic Church Extension Society received, from a little priest who is struggling with a small congregation in Nevada, a letter inquiring whether the Extension Society could not send him some hymn books for his mission church.

He says that our discarded or second-hand books would serve the purpose very well. Perhaps you may have some on hand to send, or perhaps you know of some one who has no further use for theirs.

In either case, send them on to the Catholic Church Extension Society, McCormick Bldg., Chicago, and they will be promptly forwarded to destination.

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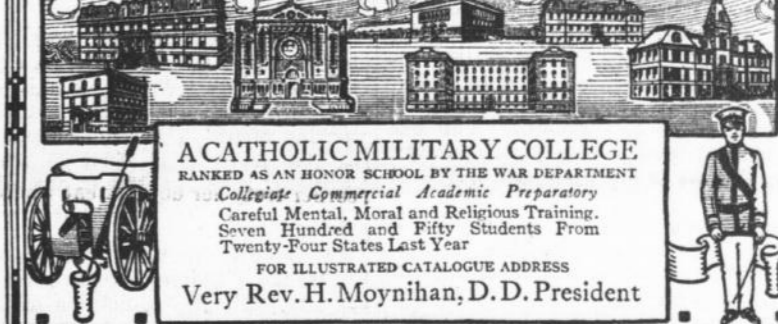
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