

THE ENTERPRISE

VOL. XVII NO. 6

WILLIAMSTON, N. C., FRIDAY, DEC. 17, 1915

\$1.00 a Year in Advance

TRIP ACROSS THE CONTINENT

Very Interesting Sketch Of a Trip To The Panama-Pacific Exposition And Western Canada.

By HARRY A. BIGGS

Although the combination of ocean, desert, mountain, and gorgeous coloring and the soft, balmy climate had fascinated me, yet for one who revels in things of the past, who is retrospective in his nature, there is a far more fascinating part of the wonderful Garden of Nature in Southern California than this, and it is that which remains of the once famous Missions of the Catholic church.

When the new world was suddenly revealed to the astonished gaze of Europe, it was not merely the adventurous ones who hastened to its shores, but priests accompanied them, for wherever civilization has spread throughout the entire world, there one finds also the Catholic church exerting its influence towards the Christianization and enlightenment of mankind. Priests of the Catholic church accompanied Columbus on his voyage into the unknown, and the first thing they did after landing on the soil of the new world was the celebration of the Mass in thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God for the success of the undertaking, and many other exploring expeditions to this western world received the blessings of the church. In California the church took the initiative, the salvation of souls was one of the principle purposes of the invaders, and the Franciscan Brothers established themselves in this land of beauty and wonder, coming from Mexico and Peru, and grew and waxed strong, and in 1834 a line of missions stretched from San Diego in the South to San Francisco in the North, and about twenty thousand Indians had been converted and trained to be skilled carpenters, masons, millers and farmers. The Missions grew very rich indeed, each had its countless number of acres where thousands of horses and cattle, sheep and goats grazed; fruits, grain and flowers in their well cultivated fields, and the Missions grew in prosperity and in influence, and thus formed the source of the present civilization of this wonderful state.

The Missions of San Diego, Santa Clara, San Gabriel, San Juan Capistrano, Santa Barbara and San Francisco, from which the towns bearing these names had their beginning, all had their influence upon the lives of the people and gave to Southern California a charm and romance resembling that of the Old World. The Missions became so rich and had such wonderful influence upon the people that it excited the envy of the people of the East, who heard marvelous and thrilling tales of their wonders, at least they came, and unfortunately have robbed the Missions of much of their wealth and influence, so that now most of the Mission buildings are in a sad condition; earth quakes have battered some, and neglect and malice have disfigured others.

I visited the Missions of San Gabriel, Santa Barbara, and that of Monterey; it is at the former which is just a few miles from Los Angeles, that I witnessed

the famous Mission Play which is being given this year, and which portrays in a most charming manner and realistic way the history of the early Missions and their effect upon the early history of the grand and glorious state of California. The Mission Play was written by John Stephen McFarthy, a Carolina poet and historian, and it was first produced on April 29, 1912. The play ran ten weeks the first season. In 1913 it ran 23 weeks at San Gabriel, and in 1914 it went on a pilgrimage to San Francisco and San Diego for seven weeks. It has never been produced outside of California, and it is to the state what the Passion Play is to Europe.

I went in an automobile, a distance of about fifteen miles, with some friends from Wilson, to witness the play, and it afforded me as much pleasure as anything I saw during the whole time I was in the West. The play is performed in three acts, and conforms to the rule laid down by Aristotle that "the play shall have a beginning, a middle, and an end;" the first act shows the founding of the Missions, and the planting of civilization and Christianity on the shores of California and the western shores of America.

The sufferings, privations of many sorts, struggles and self-sacrifice of the father and brothers of the church are vividly portrayed. The second act gives a true picture of the Missions in the days of their glory, when success and the greatest prosperity had been achieved. In this act the audience sees again the fascinating charm and beauty of the early life of Southern California, sees the peace and plenty which reigned there. It is also in this act that the native Spanish and Indian dancers appear, many of them being direct descendants of those whom the Mission influenced in the early days, in celebration of the splendid influence the Catholic church, thru its Missions, had brought to the people of that land.

In the third act is shown the sad story of the ruin of the Missions. All through the play the story of wrong, injustice and death is depicted, though it all however, there glows the ever living faith in the Cross of Jesus Christ. The whole history of California's early life can be learned within a single afternoon or evening.

The play is produced in a theatre just across the street from the Mission of San Gabriel which was founded by the Franciscan Fathers in 1771. These men brought Christianity to this part of the world and have exercised a powerful influence upon its citizenship even down to today.

There was in all 23 Missions, standing each one days journey apart, from San Diego, where the first Mission was founded, to San Francisco, the last, which was founded in 1823.

In its day the Mission of San Gabriel was the greatest in wealth and power of them all, and was known as the "Queen of the Missions." The architecture of the Missions is very wonderful, conforming, of course, to the Spanish style, and has been made the subject of pictures by many artists in this country as well as in Europe, some of these pictures may be seen on the walls of the Monastery. The church is in excellent repair at this Mission, and Mass is celebrated there every day during the entire year.

Another very interesting thing about the effect of the Missions

upon California is found in the architecture of the buildings, for nowhere in the world does one see so many bungalows as are found in this fascinating country which, after all, is but a diminutive form of the buildings which conform to the Spanish model. In one place this influence is particularly noticed, for it has caused to be erected one of the most magnificent hotels in the world, and certainly the most unique one to be found in the United States. The Mission Inn at Riverside, California, is certainly a gem in architecture, and no where on this continent will one find a hotel which will be more pleasing and appeal more strongly to the artistic loving than this. It is modelled along the lines of the ancient Missions and gives to the visitor that charm of romance and glory of the fascinating unknown which one would expect to find hidden behind the well guarded walls of a convent or monastery. Its gardens and courts contain some of the most splendid specimens of palm, olive, date and fig trees to be found in California.

In the hotel is an art gallery in which are paintings valued at nearly 2,000,000.00, principally of religious subjects, brought from Spain, Mexico and Peru; there is one picture by Raphael, and many by celebrated artists of a later date. Its music room is wonderful, it has a fascination which no other music room in a hotel in the United States has. It represents a chapel, the altar is richly decorated, the walls are hung with the most beautiful designs in tapestry, and on the tables in the room are found books of priceless value; many copies of the Mass written on parchment in Latin, dating back to the third and fourth centuries, and brought from Rome, are there, and the whole place affords a museum which is of the greatest interest to one who would be fascinated by such things. Even the seats in the music room lend a religious atmosphere, for they are arranged like pews in a church, and one may kneel when he likes, and when the lights are turned off, and the sweet, soft tones of the magnificent organ are heard one forgets that he is in a hotel which is highly beautiful and artistic, but thinks indeed he is in house of worship, and a feeling of the deepest reverence comes upon him.

In the hotel there is a collection of bells and crosses for which Mr. Miller, the owner, has paid several hundred thousand dollars. The crosses are collected from all parts of the world, and those ancient ones brought from Palestine of peculiar interest. It is interesting to note that bells were first rung in churches in 900 by order of Pope John IX as a defense against paganism, and it was on account of the reaction of bells to the Missions that the owner of this hotel has collected this large number. One of the greatest in this collection is the oldest known dated bell in Christian history, which was produced by Mr. Miller from London. It has the following inscription in Spanish: "Jesus, Jesus Christ, Mary; Quintano and Salvador made me in the year of our Lord 1247." Surely this old bell, although now cracked and clapperless, has power to call up strange scenes and forgotten deeds even to the most unimaginative.

A ship bell of brass has been brought from San Francisco, which survived the fire and earthquake in 1906. In all there are 258 bells in the collection,

AGED WOMAN PASSES AWAY

Mrs. Mary Emily Cook, daughter of Stanley Duggan and his wife, Sallie Coffield, was born in Martin County, N. C., Oct. 23rd, 1842, and died after four weeks' illness of stomach and liver disease, at the home of her son, John S. Cook, in Williamston, at 5:45 P. M., Dec. 9th, 1915. She was married to John Edward Cook, Dec. 24th, 1868. Her only daughter, Sallie M., and her youngest son, James H., preceded her in death; and after them her husband died April 19th, 1906. She is survived by her sons, Henry, Thomas and John. She professed faith in Christ, and was baptized by Elder C. B. Hassell, in the fellowship of Skewarkey Primitive Baptist Church, near Williamston, July 8th, 1877. She adorned her Christian profession with a godly conduct and conversation. She was reverent toward God, and friendly to her fellow creatures; humble and sincere

quiet and gentle, true and patient. For many years she was very feeble; and in her last illness she suffered greatly from pain and nausea. She was perfectly willing to die, and longed for rest, and to drink of that pure water, clear as crystal, that flows from the throne of God and the Lamb. Everything possible was done for her by her children and kind friends and good physicians. She fell asleep so gently that it was hard to tell when she passed away.

In the presence of many friends on Dec. 10th, I held a short burial service at her home and at the grave. Her remains were interred beside those of her husband in the cemetery at Skewarkey. We believe that, as she hoped, when her liberated and purified spirit left its tenement of clay, she saw her Saviour and fell at His feet in loving and loving adoration; and that when in person He comes again to this world, He will raise her body, and make it immortal and glorious like His own, and reunite it to her spirit, and take her home with all His saints, to be forever with the Lord.

Sylvester Hassell.

In Memoriam

In sad and loving memory of our dear daughter and sister, Marguerite Moore, who departed this life, Dec. 17th, 1912. Dearest daughter, how we miss you, since from earth you passed away; and our hearts are aching sorely, as we think of you each day. But we know that you are happy in the mansions of the blest, where there is no parting sorrow, in your sweet eternal rest, we'll meet where there is no parting. O blessed thought, to store to have a happy home in heaven, when the toll of life are o'er.

Her Family.

and there are 174 crosses from all parts of the world. Even the rooms of the guests have on their doors small bells which are rung instead of knocking.

I have given a very poor and uninteresting description of this wonderfully fascinating hotel, but I fear too much detail would be uninteresting, so that with this I close this paper and in the next one will deal with San Francisco, the metropolis of the West, and the Panama-Pacific Exposition.

EARLY MORNING FIRE

Last Friday morning about five o'clock, the fire alarm was given when W. G. Lamb and family were aroused by a dense smoke in the house. Miss Annie Lamb, who was sleeping in the room above the dining room, was the first to detect the smoke, and give the alarm. Citizens rushed to the scene and discovered that the buffet in the dining room was on fire and the flames had reached between the plastering and the walls. But for the good condition and thickness of the plastering, the damage would have been serious. Holes were cut in the floor and walls and the fire extinguished. The damages to the building and furniture will amount to several hundred dollars and is covered by insurance.

This is the third time the residence has been on fire within a few years. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Mission Closed

The Mission services conducted by the Rev. John H. Griffith, of Kinston, closed last Friday night. This was not the first visit of Mr. Griffith to Williamston, and many heard him with renewed interest. Each sermon was alive with vital truths which made his hearers think, and this was a clear demonstration of the power of his words. His gifts of voice and presence lend largely in the effectiveness of his presentation of the Gospel. Being actively engaged in mission work among the mill operatives of his own parish, he is fired with unusual missionary zeal, which fits him for the social work of a Missionary. He left Saturday morning to fill his regular appointment at St. John's parish, Pitt County, one of the six churches under his care.

Tobacco Figures

During the month of November, the number of pounds of tobacco sold in the State totaled 44,975,363, exceeding that of 1914 by 768,439. Wilson leads in the November sales with 4,979,369 pounds. Williamston sold 442,960, and Robersonville, 403,541, making 851,501 for the Martin County markets. To Dec. 1st, the markets have sold this year 3,746,827. During the last season, Williamston sold over three millions alone; this last report shows that the market has only sold 1,855,224, exceeding Robersonville by 65,621 pounds.

Cotton Ginned

To Dec. 8th, 612,845 bales of cotton had been ginned in North Carolina against 674,310 for the same period last year. Martin County had ginned 7,279, being 1,399 more than the number for the period in 1914. Roberson County still leads with 42,776.

Davenport-Edmonson.

Motoring over from Hamilton to Robersonville on Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Pat H. Davenport and Miss Helen Edmonson gave their friends a surprise marriage. Both parties are prominent young people of Hamilton, and have many friends in the county who will be pleased to learn of their happiness. They will make their home in Hamilton, where the groom is in business.

WILLIAMSTON MAKES BID FOR

The Big Dupont Powder Plant

The Chamber of Commerce Wires Dupont Powder Plant Asking That They Locate the Plant Here—Letter Follows.

On Thursday of last week, the Chamber of Commerce wired the Dupont Powder Co., at Wilmington, Del., asking it to locate the proposed North Carolina plant at Williamston. This message has been followed by a letter in which are set forth the advantages of the town.

With a magnificent water front on a river on which freight steamers go out into the commerce of the country and yet the sound will not admit of the passage of the modern warships to this point, and with the Atlantic Coast Line touching all points, the town can offer the best proposition to the Duponts, which can be made in this Eastern section.

The Wilson farm with its hundreds of acres, lying on the river, is the ideal place for the establishment of such a plant.

The people of the town are anxious to secure this plant and will offer a site and other considerations to induce it to come to Williamston. The establishment of the plant here would mean great material advancement. It is earnestly hoped that the Dupont Company will consider this location.

Judge W. M. Bond Presides

The exchange of courts between Judges Rountree and Bond was not arranged before the publication of the Enterprise last week, and as it was stated that Judge Rountree would hold court this week. However, it happens that Judge Bond is presiding over the term much to the satisfaction of the local bar.

The Term was opened at ten o'clock Monday, and Judge Bond delivered his charge to the Grand Jury with his accustomed force and wisdom. He plainly stated the duty of the Jury in the application of the law to offenders, and emphasized the fact that he would mete out equal justice to all. The Grand Jury completed its work on Tuesday and was discharged, and the entire session of court has been given over to the hearing of criminal cases, as no calendar was made for the trial of civil cases.

Condition Favorable.

Friends here and in the county will be pleased to learn that the condition of Mrs. Theodore Roberts is improved. She was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital at Norfolk, where Dr. R. L. Payne, Jr., operated on her and found that she was suffering from a complication of diseases. For several days after the operation, her life hung in the balance, and little hope was expressed for her recovery. Mr. Roberson was with her and remained until there was a marked change for the better. It will be several weeks before she will be able to come home.

Last week Dr. Saunders carried Mrs. Chas. Baker to St. Vincent's for an operation for appendicitis. The operation was successful and Mrs. Baker's condition is very favorable. Mr. Baker accompanied her and remained with her.