

student and gave promise of making a success of anything he might have undertaken in life. His Christian manliness, spirit of faith, and exemplary conduct will long remain a source of inspiration and edification to those who knew him well.

—REQUIESCAT IN PACE—

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### THE WHITE FATHERS IN AFRICA

Everett Cameron, '45

I set my pen to the pleasant task of conveying some facts to those who are in the dark concerning the duties and customs of the White Fathers of Africa because there are many people in the world who know of the White Fathers only by name and many others who do not know of them even to that degree. They form a very important society because they have done, are doing, and will continue to do much for the maintenance and spread of Christianity in Northern and Central Africa. Think of the vast number of little negro children they instruct and baptize every year. Think also of the vast number of children they teach to read and write, and you will then realize what a great institution this really is.

From its founding about seventy-four years ago by the Archbishop of Algiers, later Cardinal Lavigerie, the society of the Missionnaires of Our Lady of Africa of Algiers has been known to us as the *Pères Blancs* or White Fathers. In 1867 there was a great famine in Algeria. This was the cause of there being left many Arab orphans to be educated and instructed. Cardinal Lavigerie founded the society expressly for the purpose of educating and instructing these orphans. He also had in mind a secondary aim for the society, the conversion of the Arabs and negroes in Central Africa.

These missionaries do not exactly constitute a religious order. They may have a property of their own, but they may expend it in the society only at the direction of the superior. One of the most important of the rules of the society is that the members must always be three together. The members are bound by a vow to labour for the conversion of Africa according to the constitution of their society.



The society is strictly an international one. Young men of all nations can be, and are, members. This fact is clearly illustrated by the situation of the different recruiting houses all over the world. These recruiting houses are in Canada, Belgium, Holland, Germany and France.

At those places are admitted those who are not yet ready for the novitiate. After they have finished their philosophical studies and have done one year of general theology they are admitted to the novitiate. The last three years of their training are spent at the scholasticate of Carthage at Tunis. Here they learn the language of the people amongst whom they are going to work.

The costume of the missionaries is nearly identical with that of the Algerian Arabs. It consists of a cassock or gandoura and a mantle or burnous. Their clothes are all white to counteract the violent heat of the sun in that country. They wear the rosary and cross around their necks.

The pagans wishing to be baptized have to undergo a test for four years. In addition to the religious instruction they give, the missionaries hold classes in reading and writing and they also teach the languages of the European nations governing that country. The brothers teach the young blacks trades and agriculture.

When the missionaries are at the scholasticate of Carthage, they have every Thursday free. On these days they go on long bicycle trips through the country and converse with the Arabs. The Arabs are very friendly and have a great liking for the White Fathers. The missionaries learn the language of the Arabs very well and they converse freely and often with them.

The Society of the White Fathers now numbers over two thousand members consisting wholly of Fathers and Lay Brothers. They have many stations in various parts of Africa. In French Africa they have stations in Kabylia, Sahara, and the Sudan. In Belgian Africa their stations are in Ruanda, Urundi Baudouinville, Kiwi, and Lake Albert. In British Africa they have many stations at such places as Uganda, Tanganyika, and Fort Jameson.

These immense territories have an area as large as that of the United States and have a population of over twenty million infidels. The society has one independent mission, four Apostolic Prefectures, eighteen Vicariates, and three hundred and nine mission stations. For the conversion of



these twenty million infidels there would be needed approximately twenty thousand missionaries and at the present time they have scarcely more than one-tenth of this number. Although they miss the assistance once given them by such nations as Belgium, Holland and France, their prospects at present seem to be very bright and they will undoubtedly continue to do their works of mercy and charity in Africa.

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### OUR SOLDIER'S SAINT'S

A. Kelly, '46

*You've taken the red and white, boys,  
Away from the College hill,  
You've planted it far, in a land of war,  
And there you've honored it well.*

*You've deepened the red with blood, boys,  
That flowed for our Country and King.  
You've wished for true peace, though your life should cease,  
And fought that true peace you'd bring.*

*You've guarded the white from stain, boys,  
To the badge of the pure you're true;  
You've stood with the right, against rampant might,  
Now God is honoring you.*

*You've passed from a war-torn world, boys,  
Now wished-for peace is obtained,  
You've won from our Lord His greatest reward;  
By death your life is regained.*



First think, and if thy thought approve thy will,  
Then speak, and after, what thou speak'st fulfill.

—Randolph