

RELIC OF OLD EGYPT, THE COPT

Preserves Racial Individuality After Ages of Foreign Domination, Is Christian in Faith and Not Half a Bad Fellow.

Exemplifying the possibilities of earnest effort with meager means in an apparently hopeless field, the results of Christian mission work in Egypt speak for themselves. Mr. Haskin will produce the statistics of the Coptic church in his next article. He handles the matter as dispassionately as if it were bags of grain instead of cleansed and enlightened human beings that constituted an output. In the orient the gospel of soap and water must be made all but equal to the gospel of salvation itself, and Mr. Haskin will tell why this is so.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

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Washington, June 8.—The ancient division of the Christian family known as the Coptic church is one of the most interesting features of twentieth century Egypt. The Copts are the only lineal descendants of the ancient Egyptians. They have been Christians since the days when the Apostles were still preaching Jesus as eyewitnesses to his matchless life. They are today a peculiar people. The moral condition of their church is low, they have absorbed much of the forms and ceremonies of Islam, and their religion is embalmied in a dead language. For all of that their church is an interesting study.

Services are still held every Sunday in an ancient church in old Cairo, on the site of a still older city on the confines of Memphis, owned by a congregation to which, there is good historical reason to believe, the gospel was preached by St. Peter and St. Mark. The church is named "Babylon," and has been identified by ancient papyrus documents with the church, "Babylon," from which St. Peter wrote his First Epistle, and from which he conveyed the messages of St. Mark to the church at Jerusalem.

Coptic church also marks the place where the infant Jesus was laid when brought to Egypt by Joseph and Mary, but the authenticity of that site has little or no historical support.

Separate Church Since 451 A. D.

Certain it is that the church in Africa was founded and ministered to by St. Mark. He was the first patriarch of Alexandria, and there his bones were buried for many years until they were stolen by the Moslems. The Coptic church also marks the place where the infant Jesus was laid when brought to Egypt by Joseph and Mary, but the authenticity of that site has little or no historical support.

Habitual Constipation

May be permanently overcome by proper personal efforts with the assistance of the one truly beneficial laxative remedy, Syrup of Figs & Elixir of Senna, which enables one to form regular habits daily, so that assistance to nature may be gradually dispensed with when no longer needed, as the best of remedies when required are to assist nature, and not to supplant the natural functions, which must depend ultimately upon proper nourishment, proper efforts, and right living generally. To get its beneficial effects always buy the genuine, MANUFACTURED BY THE CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. SOLD BY ALL LEADING DRUGGISTS. ONE DOLLAR BOTTLE—REGULAR PRICE 50¢ PER BOTTLE.

The Cause
of Colds, "Grip" and Head-ache is quickly reached by
Orangeine
(Powder)
Health Restored—Sickness Averted: Thousands know it—why not you?

theological definitions, but it is a far cry from the fifth to the twentieth centuries.

Blooded in Jesus' Name.

The church in Africa had given to Christianity some of its greatest men in the days of the early fathers. St. Anthony, St. Augustine and St. Chrysostom will keep alive its name forever. The monastic principle was born under the wing of the African church, and the hoary monasteries of the wilderness of Sinai today attest the ancient glory of this church.

The Copts did not have a peaceful career after the great division in the church. Theological disputes were backed up with the sword in those early days, and the green valley of the Nile was plashed with the blood of Christians who believed that Jesus had a single nature, but to the sword by Christians who believed that Jesus had a dual nature. The emperors of the east supported their clergy with their arms, and for years Egypt was overrun and the Copts persecuted.

When the green flag and the crescent of Islam were seen in the Nile approach across the desert from Arabia, the Copts welcomed the invaders, that they might be rid of their Byzantine oppressors. The Moslems took possession of the country at the beginning of the eighth century, and have held it at first, as they were allies. But the militant spirit of Islam did not brook the prosperity of the infidels. The Copts soon were being forced to adhere to the prophet on pain of death.

Services in Unknown Tongues.

Then came King David of Abyssinia, who controlled the sources of the Nile in Egypt. He told the caliphs that the persecution of the Copts must cease, or he would divert the waters of the Nile and fertile Egypt would become a vast desert. The threat had its effect, and the slaughter of the Copts was stopped. Since the Arab conquest the Copts have suffered deprivations and humiliations from the stronger Moslems, and no one can fail to admire the zeal and devotion, the self-immolating faith, which has kept the church of the Copts alive.

Yet the Coptic church is so bound up with oriental conservatism that it confers upon its people very few of the advantages of enlightenment with which the church bears the same relation to the Egyptian language of the day of Ramses that the English of Shakespeare bears to that of Chaucer. The Coptic language has been dead for several centuries, and very few of the clergymen who intone the liturgy know the meaning of a word of it. The higher classes of the clergy can read and write it, but no living man can converse in it. The sermon, when there is one, is preached in Arabic. The church service on Sundays and on holy days is about three or four hours long. As the people stand through all of it, a Copt on his way to church is seen carrying a crutch which he uses to support himself through the tiring ordeal. In view of this custom it is all the more remarkable that the Copts are devout and faithful church goers.

The church interiors are much the same as those of the Greek orthodox faith. There are no images, which are held to be idolatrous, but the priests have great pride in their pictures. The Madonna and Child, St. Joseph and the infant Jesus, St. George and the Dragon, and the Child Jesus in the Temple are favorite subjects for sacred art. Some of these pictures are many centuries old.

They Are the Real Egyptians.

The Copts themselves are a distinct race from all other inhabitants of Egypt. Their descent from the ancient monument builders of glorious Egypt has been admitted by the great ethnologists, and it is proved to the layman by the striking facial resemblance between a Coptic clerk of today and the monuments of Ramses, Seti and the ancient kings.

Each Renowned for One Virtue.

The Coptic women veil themselves as do their Mohammedan sisters, yet the church is strict in enforcing monogamy and in prohibiting divorce for any other than Biblical reasons. A Moslem may divorce his wife or his wives at will, with or without reason. In this particular the Copt is, therefore, far superior to his Mohammedan neighbor. The greatest fault of the Copts is intemperance. The devout Moslem will not drink intoxicating liquors. It is one of the seven cardinal sins denounced by the Prophet, and all Moslems are total abstainers except those who have come under European influence. The Copt, like his Christian brother in other lands, has advocated the middle course of temperance with the result that many have fallen into the lower path. On this account the Arabs look upon the Copts as the lowest of human creatures.

Wakes Up to Education.

The patriarch of Alexandria was almost as conservative as the grand murt of El-Azhar university. He has objected to popular education for girls, and has made some trouble for reform movements. But his chief fear was that too much European and American schooling might undermine the faith of his people. Now he is fighting the devil with fire, and is the most indefatigable founder of schools in Egypt. The Coptic church has been awakened to the need of popular education. What this new departure will do for the ancient organization no one may predict with certainty.

The Coptic clergy looks askance upon the activity of the Protestant missionaries in Egypt, but the latter is inclined to extend brotherly aid. The majority of the accessions to Protestant churches are from the ranks of the Copts, yet there are many orthodox Copts of wealth who give largely to the mission schools. There are about 1,000,000 Copts in Egypt, most of them living above the delta on the Upper Nile. Religiously, they represent the advance of the cause of modern education; politically, they are the backbone of the native sentiment which is in favor of continued British occupation.

The ignorance of their priesthood and their failure to recognize the fact that cleanliness is next to Godliness separate them widely from the Christians of more favored lands, but their tenacity and devotion are admirable. The oldest of the separate Christian churches, cut off from fellowship with any other Christians for many centuries, the descendants of a great race of ancients, the Copts are the most interesting people of Egypt.

Double Wedding.

New York, June 8.—A double wedding in which the two daughters of General and Mrs. Edward H. Ripley were the brides took place in Grace church today. Miss Amelia S. H. Ripley was married to Raphael Welles Purnell, son of Professor and Mrs. Raphael Purnell of Newport, and her sister, Miss Alice V. D. Ripley, became the bride of A. de T. Orden Jones of this city. Many guests from Boston, Newport, Philadelphia and other cities were in attendance.

The Liberal party in Georgia is preparing to put a full state ticket in the field in the next election. Steps toward organizing for the campaign have been started under the direction of Sidney C. Tapp, who was the candidate of the Liberal party for president during the last presidential campaign.

PIONEERS COME FROM ALL PARTS

Early Settlers Visit City in as Large Number as During the Fair.

Pioneers are coming into the city by the hundreds every day now and Secretary George H. Himes at the city hall is being kept busy passing out badges to them as they arrive. An attendance almost as large as the one which greeted the society in 1905 is looked for.

Mr. Himes is preparing an extensive program with which to entertain the pioneers Friday evening at the Masonic temple and a large attendance is expected. At the banquet no one but the pioneers themselves will be allowed on the floor of the armory, but any persons desiring tickets of admission to the gallery can procure them by calling upon Secretary Himes at the city hall. The following committees have the work in charge:

Mrs. Charlotte M. Cartwright, general chairman, with power to act; Miss Mollie Burke, secretary-treasurer. Committee on tables—Mrs. Benton Killin, chairman; assistant, Mrs. D. P. Thompson.

Table No. 1—Mrs. William D. Fenton, Mrs. Alexander Muller; assistants, Mrs. Ralph A. Fenton, Miss Lela Goddard, Miss Hannah Connell, Miss Myrtle Muir.

Table No. 2—Mrs. H. H. Northrup, Mrs. Tyler Woodward; assistants, Miss Mae Hirsch, Miss Laura Northrup, Miss Mildred Cooper, Miss Lizzie Carson.

Table No. 3—Mrs. Frank M. Warren, Mrs. W. E. Robertson; assistants, Miss Frances Warren, Miss Grace Warren, Miss Nan Robertson, Miss Grace Robertson.

Table No. 4—Mrs. A. B. Croasman, Mrs. J. M. Freeman; assistants, Mrs. W. W. Harder, Miss Lillian Croasman, Mrs. Ben Gadsby, Mrs. Frank F. Freeman.

Table No. 5—Mrs. M. C. George, Mrs. Irving W. Pratt; assistants, Mrs. H. G.

Table No. 6—Mrs. L. A. Lewis, Mrs. J. Wesley Ladd; assistants, Miss Salie Ladd, Mrs. Frances Lewis, Mrs. Cronan.

Table No. 7—Mrs. W. R. Sewall, Mrs. Charles T. Kamm; assistants, Miss Susan Steiner, Miss Ruth Church, Miss Mildred Nichols, Miss Inogene Rafferty.

Table No. 8—Mrs. L. A. Lewis, Mrs. J. Wesley Ladd; assistants, Miss Salie Ladd, Mrs. Frances Lewis, Mrs. Cronan.

Table No. 9—Miss Felling, Miss Elizabeth Hamilton; assistants, Mrs. Hamilton Brooks, Miss Caroline Burns, Miss Kate Felling, Miss Olive Felling.

Table No. 10—Mrs. A. Meier, Mrs. P. J. Mann; assistants, Mrs. Julius Meier, Mrs. S. Garde, Mrs. Lammig Stout, Mrs. James Malarkey.

Table No. 11—Mrs. George W. Welder, Mrs. John McCracken; assistants, Mrs. L. L. Patterson, Mrs. J. H. Cook, Miss Mary Ann Adair, Miss Margaret Catlin.

Table No. 12—Mrs. P. L. Willis, Mrs. M. A. Ashley; assistants, Mrs. C. W. Sherman, Mrs. McCully, Mrs. George H. Notkage, Miss Frances Jeffery.

Table No. 13—Mrs. Lewis L. McArthur, Mrs. George Taylor; assistants, Mrs. L. L. Patterson, Mrs. J. H. Cook, Miss Mary Ann Adair, Miss Margaret Catlin.

Table No. 14—George H. Himes, Mrs. Edward E. McClure; assistants, Mrs. Harold G. Rice, Mrs. Fred L. Riggs, Miss Jean McClure, Mrs. Harold Povey.

Table No. 15—Mrs. A. M. Cronan, Mrs. H. B. Nicholas; assistants, Miss Gertrude Church, Mrs. Byron Nicholas, Miss Beulah Nicholas, (one to be supplied).

Table No. 16—Mrs. John Gill, Mrs. J. K. Gill; assistants, Mrs. W. A. Montgomery, Miss Frances Gill, Miss Bickel, (one to be supplied).

Table No. 17—Mrs. George H. Lamberson, Mrs. S. T. Lockwood, Miss Grace Lamberson, Miss Marie Meusdorffer, Presb. W. Gillette.

Table No. 18—Mrs. June McMillen Ordway, Mrs. E. W. Spencer; assistants, Miss Fay C. Himes, Miss Myrtle R. Allen, Miss Charles W. Spencer, Miss Ella Brown.

Table No. 19—Mrs. Milton W. Smith, Mrs. Allen Ellsworth; assistants, Mrs. Frederick Leslie Warren, Miss Josephine Smith, Mrs. Franklin Griffith, Mrs. Fleeting S. Kelly.

Table No. 20—Mrs. H. S. Gile, Miss Holman; assistants, Miss Eleanor Gile.

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Colton, Miss Florence George, Miss Gertrude Pratt, Miss Maud Upton Scott.

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Mrs. W. W. Biddle, Miss Ernestine Felling, Miss Grace Gray.

The chairman of the table committee requests that the ladies in charge of tables report at the armory Friday, June 11, at 10 o'clock a. m., to get and decorate their tables and also that their assistants be at the armory at 1:30 o'clock. In addition, the ladies of each table are requested to provide the necessary salt, pepper and napkins.

Committee on Supplies.

The committees on supplies are as follows:

Booth No. 1—Meats, fish and salads, Mrs. John W. Minto, chairman; assistants, Archie L. Pease, Mrs. D. M. McLaughlin, Mrs. Samuel A. Herring, Mrs. D. J. Malarkey, Mrs. A. D. Charlton, Mrs. H. E. Coleman, Mrs. J. H. Burgard, Mrs. George W. Hoyt, Mrs. R. H. Birdsell, Mrs. George Campbell.

Booth No. 2—Miss Nannie E. Taylor, chairman; assistants, Mrs. W. D. Porter, Mrs. D. W. Taylor, Mrs. Bruce L. Carr, Mrs. A. H. McCowan, Mrs. A. J. Meier, Mrs. Plympton Kelly, Miss Nellie Lambert, Miss Linley Morton, Miss Hildegard Plummer, Mrs. Maria L. Myrick.

Booth No. 3—Ice cream, milk, cream and butter, Mrs. G. F. Moffett, chairman; assistant, Mrs. E. A. Breyman.

Booth No. 4—Miss Mary McKay, chairman; assistants, Miss Ella Breyman, Mrs. A. J. Van Wessenhove.

Booth No. 5—Mrs. Clara Wait Morton, chairman; assistant, Miss Ella Breyman.

Booth No. 6—Mrs. Albert Brown, chairman; assistant, Mrs. E. Brown.

Booth No. 7—Miss Mildred P. Himes, chairman; assistant, Miss M. Outfield.

Booth No. 8—Mrs. Robert Porter, chairman; assistants, Mrs. E. F. Humason, Mrs. Charles Holman, Mrs. T. T. Struble, Miss Caroline Holman, Miss Lola Struble.

Booth No. 9—Mrs. James P. Moffett, chairman; assistants, Robert Marsh, M. McClure, Miss Margaret Malarkey, Miss Harriet Harlow.

While the donations of food have been liberal, up to last evening there was not enough promised to supply the expected need. Therefore the ladies of the food committees request those who will kindly supply additional meats, particularly cold boiled tongue, to notify Mrs. John W. Minto, Phone Main 2227. Those who can provide bread, biscuit and cake call Miss Nannie E. Taylor, A-4453 or Main 257.

At the recent Unitarian anniversary in Boston President Taft was elected honorary president of the newly formed National League of Unitarian Laymen.

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