

INDIAN AND WHITE IN THE NORTHWEST

*A HISTORY OF CATHOLICITY IN
MONTANA*

1831 to 1891

By

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

RIGHT REVEREND JOHN B. BRONDEL, D.D.

FIRST BISHOP OF HELENA

WITH PORTRAITS & OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS

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VALLI, S.J.
CHURCH IN MONTANA

just two years before. *The just that walketh in his simplicity shall leave behind him blessed children;** words of Holy Writ, which could well be applied to George and Ellen Nagle and to their sons and daughters.

The last we shall mention is Matilda Galen, whose death occurred also in this city, December 27, 1891. She was born of James Gillogly and Ellen Burke, in the County of Fermanagh, Ireland, September 7, 1837. Having married, in 1860, Hugh Galen, the couple lived for a while in Idaho, whence they came to Montana in the fall of 1866. Matilda Galen was a woman of sterling worth and more than ordinary industry, while her devotedness to the cause of religion, as well as her many deeds of kindness and mercy toward the needy and sorrowing will ever make her memory both revered and gratefully cherished.

And here we may well put on record the following: it is worth while, throwing as it does, no little sidelight on this part of our subject.

Hurriedly summoned to the bedside of a sick person some twenty miles from Helena, the writer and the physician, both having been called out at the same time, were riding in the same conveyance, the doctor's own carriage. The physician was a leading member of the profession, a non-Catholic, and stood high also in Masonic circles. "Father," said he, "I am glad to have your company, as for a good while I have been wishing to meet you." Then he continued: "I must tell you, Father, that I have been for many years a believer in *total depravity*, convinced that there was not, nor could there be among human beings such a thing as honesty and virtue, so-called virtue being nothing more than a matter of environment and expediency. But since I began to practise my profession I have been forced to change my mind on the subject, for I have found true, real virtue among your Catholic women."

His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, has written a most useful and very popular book, *The Faith of Our Fathers*. Yet, candidly, we are under the impression that not in Montana only, but in every other place as well, there would be very little of the faith of our fathers but for the faith of our mothers.

* Prov. xx: 7.



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MRS. ELLEN NAGLE

MRS. MARY LOUISE HANRATTY

MRS. MATILDA GALEN

A TRIO OF CATHOLIC GENTLEWOMEN OF PIONEER DAYS

Annual Report of the Commissioner
1849-1850.

Upper Missouri sub agency Oct 5, 1849,
Wm S. Hutton, U.S. Indian sub agent to
Col D D Mitchell Supt Ind aff. St. Louis
Mo.

1849

p 136

"The Crow, Blackfoot, and Arapaho, which tribes I have not as yet been able to visit on their own territory, are represented as having made no improvement whatever; but as adhering, most tenaciously, to all the barbarous and ferocious customs and ^{practices} practices of savage life. These tribes are treacherous and treacherous, and still continue, particularly the latter two tribes, to cherish a deadly hostility to the white man." 1850 - Hutton to Mitchell p 42.

1850

These tribes of upper Miss. including Blackfoot have enjoyed good health & have abundant game. 100,000 to 110,000 buff robes sold by these tribes (Crow, Arapaho, Gros Ventre (Missouri) Crow, Blackfoot, Arapaho & all) val at \$3 per robe, also furs to val of at least \$50,000 made goods cheap due to competition of new companies.