

# **A MISSIONARY'S NOTEBOOK**

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A Missionary's Notebook by Richard W. Alexander

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**RICHARD W. ALEXANDER**

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NOTEBOOK**





"Oh, no, Father, you must first give me the Sacrament of  
Baptism."—Page 10.

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A **M**ISSIONARY'S **N**OTEBOOK

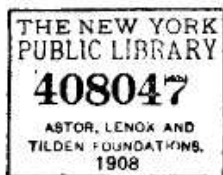
BY

REV. RICHARD W. ALEXANDER



ILLUSTRATED

PHILADELPHIA  
CATHOLIC STANDARD AND TIMES PUBLISHING CO.  
1908



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## Preface

NARRATIVES of human interest are always extremely attractive, especially when they touch the deeper chords of the heart. We love to read of the inner life of others and contrast experiences. This is one of the reasons that have made the life stories of Rev. Richard W. Alexander so very popular. In his missionary experiences he has come in contact with a host of souls, and his "Notebook" must be rich in these treasured tales of the lives of others.

There is, however, another reason for the wonderful vogue these stories have attained; and this reason is their relationship to the non-Catholic mission work. They constitute the first literary fruits of a religious movement that has spread throughout the country and has awakened the interest of the most sincere and devout Catholic souls. Every great movement that has left its impress on its day and generation has produced a literature of its own. The mission movement for non-Catholics is not without this evidence of its intellectual and religious depth.

During the past fifteen years this movement, as it now centres about the Apostolic Mission House in Washington, has turned the attention of the priesthood in a more positive way to the great work of converting, and has awakened a popular interest in the soul stories of the thousands who have sought within the haven of the Church a refuge from the storms of religious discussions and the darkness of doubts and



uncertainties that prevail in the outer religious world. This wave of enthusiasm for converts and convert-making has created the demand for such stories as Rev. Richard W. Alexander has published month by month in *The Missionary*. As they were published they were copied extensively in the religious press, and some of them have been selected for the pages of the graded readers for the children of the schools. They have been read with the keenest interest in the class room and have found their way into the refectories of not a few convents of religious, where they have been read aloud for the edification of all, and in some instances they have been taken into the pulpit and given to the people instead of the Sunday sermon.

All this has created an irresistible demand for their republication in book form. What, too, has added to their charm is the wonderful skill of the story-teller. He has a rich vein of precious ore to mine, but his strong fingers have known how to work the precious metal into most exquisite settings. Many of these stories are so touching, as well as so true, that they have stirred the heart to its depths. I have heard some of them read in a group of not oversensitive souls, and there was not a dry eye at the finish.

Abundant evidences such as these of their supreme merit will give them a larger and more appreciative public as they appear in book form.

REV. A. P. DOYLE, C. S. P.,  
Apostolic Mission House,

April, 1908. Brookland, Washington, D. C.

## Introduction

THE WRITER of these missionary notes tells in some of them certain personal experiences of his own; the others he has learned from missionaries of his acquaintance, the personal form of the narrative being preserved for the sake of a more vivid presentation of the scenes and incidents—and all are vouched for as true.

They are gathered together to be of service in the pulpit, in the Sunday school, in academy and parish libraries, as parochial premiums or as interesting and edifying reading in the home circle, for old and young.

They illustrate God's infinite love for souls, also the fact that in every walk of life there are opportunities of being an apostle.

THE AUTHOR.

