

OUR FIRST MISSIONERS TO CHINA

The advance guard of the American Dominican Foreign Mission band has begun the invasion of China. On the twenty-first of August two friars, Father Paul Curran, O. P., and Brother James Murphy, O. P., bade farewell to San Francisco, outward bound for Foochow. Hence they will proceed up the treacherous Yenpim-fu to Kienning-fu, our first mission station in the land of the bonzes. Under the guidance of a veteran Spanish missionary, preparations will be set on foot for the reception of the five young priests whom the Provincial has promised to send some time later. There is a makeshift church in Kienning-fu, but since it is unsuitably located a new one is to be erected. The parish house must be remodeled to suit the needs of the Fathers; and above all, the two pioneers must delve into the intricacies of the Chinese language. The friars have with them five trunks of American equipment, including a wireless receiving outfit.

Father Curran and Brother James are worthy representatives of the province of St. Joseph. The former, a native of McKeesport, Pa., was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on May 10, 1910. After a year spent in Washington he was assigned for several years to St. Thomas' Church, Zanesville, Ohio, where he made a large circle of friends. A year ago he was sent to St. Vincent Ferrer's in New York City, where he has been identified with the many works of the parish. Last April, the Provincial chose him from an army of volunteers to carry the standard into our new field.

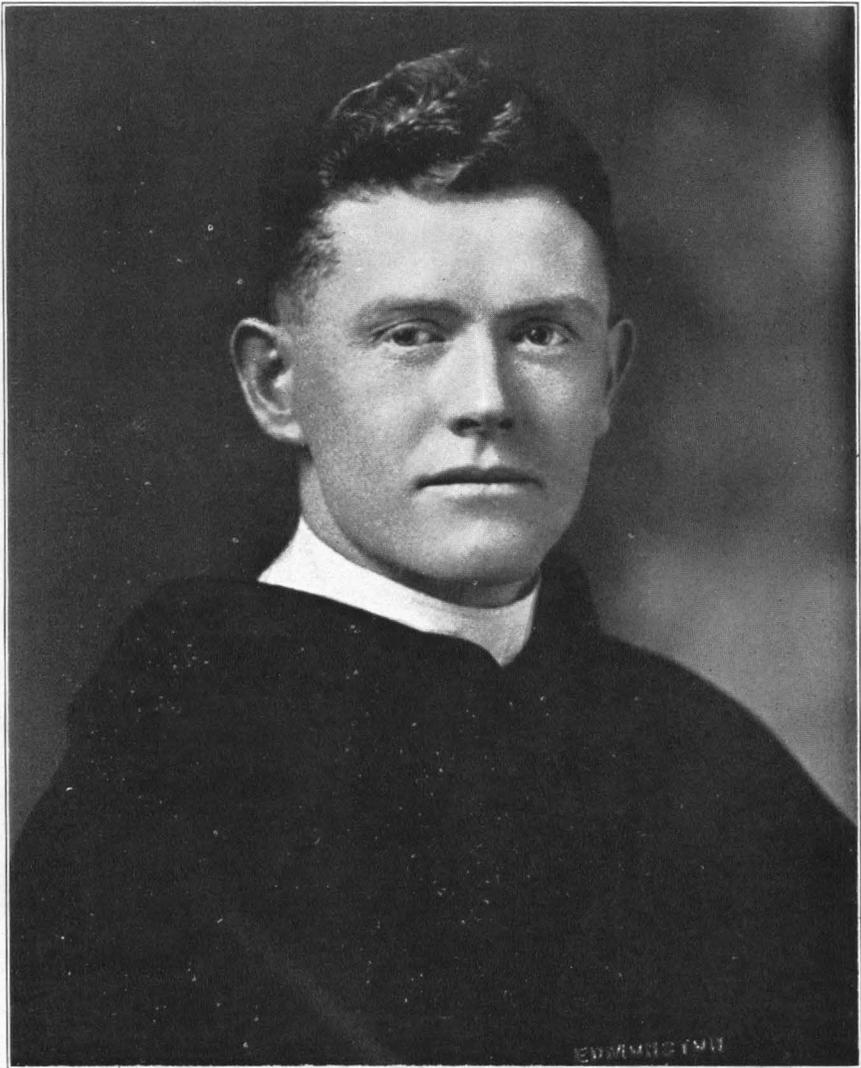
Brother James was born in Omaha, Nebraska. After several years of schooling he engaged in carpentry and soon rose to the position of millwright foreman in the Cudahy plant in his native city. In 1917 he entered the Machine Gun Corps, Co. B, 340 regiment at Camp Funston. Later he was transferred to the Air Service and sailed for France in February, 1918. He was loaned to the French at Epinal, where he was employed in mechanical lines until five months after the armistice. A few months later he entered the Dominican Order as a lay brother and made his first profession on January 17, 1922.

Such are the friars who have been chosen to lead our expedition into the domains of heathenism. Overflowing with the vigor of youth, zealous for the advancement of the glory of God, they will do much to further the success of the American Dominicans in China.

—Bro. Paul Doane, O. P.



Father Paul Curran, O. P.



Brother James Murphy, O. P.