

ANDUJAR, MANUEL

Manuel Andujar died 11/9/29

The following is a brief sketch
of my life and experience.

I was born in Spain, and
brought in the Roman Catho-
lic Church; my parents were
very devout and their children
were brought up in the same
way. When I was ten year old
I used to aid the priest in the
Mass, and performed all that
was required by the Church
cheerfully. When I was 15 years
of age I went to Havana, Cuba,
where I was in business for nearly
nine years. When I was about 17,
I began to reason about many
things practiced in that Church
which seemed to me absurd, and
convinced of their error I would not

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submit myself to them and for
some years I was practically out
of the Church, for while I had the
belief that I had to give an account
of my life to God, and probably
I never went much to bed without
saying my prayers. I could not
believe that the priest would for-
give me my sins, nor that a
rich man had any better chance
of salvation because of the many
masses said for his soul, than
the poor who has nobody to pay
a mass for his soul. Thus I tried
to live a life of self-righteousness, doing
and dealing with my fellowmen
strict and just the best I knew
how. I studied the English
language while in Havana, for
business purposes, and then plan-
ned to go to Spain to see my family

and in my way to stop a few
 months in the U. States and
 go to some school where I could
 practice English and thus try
 to master the language. I went
 to an academy in Delaware Co. N. Y.
 and while there I used to go to a
 Methodist church with the other
 students and I liked the way
 in which they taught the
 people, both in the pulpit and
 S. school, and one thing that im-
 pressed me most was to see the
 president of the school, and the
 other teachers, as well as other
 persons of education and intelli-
 gence, so sincere and earnest in
 religion. One day a teacher asked
 me if I was a Christian; to which
 I answered yes, for I thought that's

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having been baptized was all that
meant to be a Christian; how when
they asked me if I believed in
Jesus as my Saviour then I did
not know what to answer, for I
had never heard such a question
before; they asked me if I would
like to be in the Church, or rather
a Christian, to which I replied
that there were so many errors
in my Church that I did not
like to be in the Church by any
means. When they explained to
me that the Protestant Religion
is based on the Bible and not on
the authority of any man, and
that every body has the right and
privilege to investigate for him-
self and they induced me to read
the N. Testament. I began to read the

book of Matthew and as every thing⁵
was new to me I found it most
interesting, but before I had read
the first six chapters I was convin-
ced that I was a sinner, and
that my righteousness was of no
avail, but rather condemned me
because I did not give God the
praise. For days and weeks I felt
miserable and this burden grew
more upon me as I continued the
reading and looking the meaning
of every word which was new to me.
I did not say anything to anybody
but eagerly pursued to see if I
could find some rest. This came
when I got to Matt. 11: 28-30. Here
I paused and realized that the
invitation was to me and there
in my room decided to give my
life to Jesus whatever my future.

might be. Peace broke on my soul⁶
and a new world dawned upon me,
and since then my faith in God
has been unshaken.

Only three months more I remained
in this country and then I went
to Europe, and staying a few months
with my family I returned to
Havana. While I was in Spain
I had several controversies with
the priests of my parish, and when
at last he saw that he could not
do anything to turn me from
the Bible advised me in a friendly
way not to speak to the people
about my religion; but my family
and friends well perceived the folly
of Catholicism when compared
with the Word of God. After a
short stay in Havana I decided to
come back to the U.S. and find out
more about this religion for I scarcely

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knew any thing outside of what I
gathered from the Bible: I had no
one to tell me any thing about, but
I simply interpreted in the light
of the Spirit with my own under-
standing. After I came to N. York
the first Sunday I was there I
sought for a Protestant Church, for
I knew nothing of denominations,
and all I cared for was that they
read the services in the English
tongue and taught the Bible. It
happened that I came to "Washing-
ton Square" M. E. Church in N. York
and I liked it and joined it in
1886 on probation and within 6 months
in full membership, to which
church I still belong. For some
time my purpose was to continue
in business in N. York and as a
layman to do the best and most I
could, though some friends in the

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church told me that I ought to preach. I did not say anything but I was really holding back from it, until finally I decided that if it was possible for me I would give myself to the ministry; I talked with Doctor Payne and he very kindly told me what I had to do to prepare myself, and that after I was ready I should go to New Mexico where I should labor either among the English or the Spaniards.

After I had come to New, Doctor Butler from Mexico wrote to Doctor Abraham about me and Doctor Abraham asked me if I would like to go to Old Mexico, where I would finish my studies to which I answered him that I had no objection, but I would be glad to go where I would be most useful; and then he told me that Doctor

Bitter wanted me there, and thus⁹
from that time I set my mind
in that country, as I hope will
be my future field of labor.

I do not know if I can say anything
else that will be of interest, except
that I have been greatly favored by
my associations which have been con-
genial and of great help to me; In
my church I had the best religious
training that I should possibly
have, while the spiritual influence
and training of Hackettstown and
Drew Seminary have been stepping
stones for greater usefulness in which
I pray for the help of God.

Sincerely yours.

Manuel Andujar.

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