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## Box 11, Folder 41 - "God of History" (E.M.S.)

Edwin Mortimer Standing

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THE GOD OF HISTORY

One of the most valuable principles which is to be found again and again in the Montessori System is what one might call the principle of rising above your knowledge, and by doing so seeing something new and often quite unexpected. What happens is this: in some form or another we take the knowledge we already have in some department and spread it out in two dimensions. And then we look down upon it so spread out from above; and by doing so discover something new. This happens on various intellectual levels in the Montessori system - in fact it also occurs on the sensorial plane. One could give endless examples. The exercise known as "Odds and Evens" is a good example - for when the child has spread out the knowledge of number that he knows already in a special way suddenly he sees that there are two kinds of number - odds and even. The same thing happens in "The Birds' eye view of the Decimal system", or again later on in studying the differences between the squares of numbers.

Now look at the History chart on page ..... . In that the historian has put down on a time chart what he knows with regard to the history of the different nations both ~~xxxxxx~~ B.C and A.D. And what strikes one at once? One sees all the various nations of the ancient world - Egypt, Persia, Greece, Gaul, Iberia, Cathage Britain - all being swallowed up one after the other by the Roman Empire. You see the Roman Empire as an immense solid bloc extending right across the then known world, and lasting for some three to four centuries. Then - about the year 400 A.D. it breaks up; and once more we see Europe divided into different nations, many of which have lasted down to the present day.

Show this time chart to any intelligent person be he Christian pagan or atheist , and and ask the question "Where in the History of European civilisation ( and the Near East ) where do you think some unique and unparalleled event took place , and they would be bound to point to the period of the Roman Empire , ~~whichxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ And of course this is literally true . That period of History when God Himself -having assumed human nature - came to earth and lived upon it as a mortal like everyone else was just at the time of the Roman Empire - the beginning of the Roman Empire .

One sees the marvellous working of Divine Providence ; for the PAX ROMANA was just a perfect setting for the spread of the Gospel . For it must be remembered that "if all roads lead to Rome " all roads lead away from it . And along those many and splendid roads in the social stability kept in existence by the Roman governors and army , along those roads many of which are still in existence - the Christian missionaries hurried with their Good News to Egypt , Greece , Gaul , Spain , Switzerland , and even to far off Britain . How wonderful and beyond all human planning are the ways of God .

This idea has been beautifully expressed by Abbot Marmion in his book CHRIST AND HIS MYSTERIES .

( here comes the quote )

To show a child of 8-12 a chart like this is a good thing ; but it would be a much better thing if one could - using the chart as one's basis -work out some sort of an activity , which would attach the child's concentration upon it for a longer time .

There was no exaggeration . Simon had deserved the rebuke and he knew it well .

He did not pause there -- went on - to vindicate the woman and RESTORE her to health and happiness Love was the key to unlock the deepest mystery of the soul in its relation to others and to God .. It was the love of God -- for He was God. To restore all things in Christ . In it - implied in it was a new earth , in which everything was restored to its pristine purity in and through Christ . Alpha and Omega.

So far there had been no word between them Now for the first time he speaks to her .Sitting up and leaning forwards

Thy sins are forgiven thee .

The same words as before -- and the same stirring up of opposing ideas and thoughts