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THE SWAY OF THE CELT

The Theme of a Masterly Deliverance by Rev. Dr. Conaty, Rector of the Catholic University of Washington.

THE GOLDEN AGE OF IRISH LITERATURE AND ITS TRIUMPHS.

Patriotism and Culture of the Hedge Schoolmasters Pictured in a Graphic Manner

An Outline of the Prowess of the Celt in Literature and Art, in Statesmanship and Legislation, in Europe and America.

A Just Tribute to the Sterling Worth of the Well Known Irish Catholic Writer, Mrs. Sadlier.

THE spacious hall of the Monument Nationale was well filled by an appreciative audience on Monday evening who had assembled to hear an address from the Very Rev. Dr. Conaty, D.D., the new Rector of the Catholic University of Washington, D.C. The Rev. Father Quinlan, S.S., pastor of St. Patrick's, presided; and amongst those present were the Very Rev. Abbe Colin, Superior of the Seminary; Rev. Father O'Donnell, pastor of St. Mary's; Rev. Father Stralbe, C.S.S.R., of St. Ann's; Rev. J. E. Donnelly, pastor of St. Anthony's; Rev. Father Devine, S.J., Rev. Father McCallen, S.S., Rev. Martin Callaghan, S.S.; Rev. Father Klauder, C.S.S.R., of New York; the Rev. Fathers Lussier, Driscoll, Flynn; Hon. Judge Curran, Hon. Judge Loherty; Mr. M. J. F. Quinn, Q.C., M.P.; Bro. Prudent, director of St. Ann's School; Alderman Connaughton, Alderman Kinsella, and others.

Rev. Father Quinlan, in his introductory remarks, spoke as follows: Dr. Conaty is no stranger amongst us. He is an old and valued friend, whose face and eloquent voice have long been familiar. The formality, then, of an introduction to you of the distinguished churchman is not only unnecessary, but would be a sort of ignoring of the past. It is said that promotion to exalted positions makes some people forget their old friends. The presence here to-night of our honored guest proves that he belongs to a very different class. To have others share in one's happiness is one of the prerogatives of true goodness and nobleness of soul; and Dr. Conaty, after receiving from the Holy See one of the highest honors which America could offer, comes here, at such personal inconvenience, to share with his friends the joy which is common to us all. One of his very first visits after his promotion has been to old Montreal, where he has so many such warm friends; and certainly we highly appreciate this new proof of his affectionate friendship. It is especially in the name of the clergy of the different parishes, as pastor of the old mother parish representing the different English-speaking congregations, that I offer these few remarks. All these gentlemen, and many of their clerical brethren of other nationalities, are here this evening to offer their warmest congratulations and a hearty God-speed to Dr. Conaty in the great work that has been entrusted to him. But the laity desire also to be heard, and it is only proper that the expression of their sentiments and of ours should take the form of an address, which the Hon. Judge Curran has kindly consented to present.

The Hon. Justice Curran then read the following address: REVEREND DOCTOR CONATY, Rector of the Catholic University of America: REVEREND AND DEAR DOCTOR.—Thrice happy are the parishioners of the six Irish Catholic parishes of Montreal in being permitted to tender you their affectionate greetings. When the information reached us that it had pleased His Holiness Pope Leo the XIII., the illustrious head of the Church, to confer upon you the exalted and onerous position of Rector of the Catholic University of America it thrilled us with joy, and so many had been your tokens of kindness to our people that we felt as though an honor had been conferred upon ourselves. Montreal is one of the first places to receive a mark of your regard. This proves that while you are the patriotic Rector of the greatest seat of learning in the United States, where the Catholic people have always manifested the warmest devotion to the land that gives them freedom and prosperity, the spirit that animates you is so truly Catholic; that you do not overlook the faithful on this side of the boundary line, who are just as true and devoted to the institutions of their happy Canadian home. With pardonable pride may we not point to the fact that, through you, our

oldest educational establishments, the Montreal College and Grand Seminary of St. Sulpice, are about to take so prominent a part in the work of the Catholic University. That His Holiness, upon the advice of the Episcopacy of the United States, should have selected you to guide the destinies of the Catholic University at this critical juncture, when the enemies of the Faith are everywhere making such desperate efforts to neutralize Christian and Catholic teaching, driving it from the schoolrooms of the young, and endeavoring to crush it out of all higher curricula, is a proof of the confidence of the head of the Church in your ability and prudence. The interests thus confided to you are great beyond expression; but in everything you have undertaken, the zeal and untiring energy of the Apostle has ever been present. The cause of education has always had in you a friend. The Catholic summer school of America is a monument to your labors. The sacred cause of temperance you embraced with the fervor and self-sacrifice of a Theobald Matthew, and, as to the cause of dear old Ireland, can her children, or their descendants at home or abroad, ever forget the years of incessant effort you expended in the great constitutional struggle for the removal of her grievances and the re-establishment of her national parliament in College Green? Pardon the feebleness of our expressions. Tomorrow you leave for the scene of your unremitting labors. If you realize only one-half of all the good we would wish to see you accomplish, if you enjoy but a tinge of the happiness and success we pray God to grant, your record in the Catholic University will indeed be a glorious one and Montreal will have reason to feel still more proud of one to whose early education she had the honor of contributing. J. J. CURRAN, Chairman. Montreal, 21st December, 1896.

The Rev. Dr. Conaty, who was greeted with loud and prolonged applause, said: I appreciate more than words can tell the kindness of the welcome which has been extended to me to-night by my Montreal friends. I come to Montreal as a child would go to his father's house. I feel that before taking upon myself the responsibilities of the office to which I have been appointed it would be good for me to come again to the scene of my early and later instruction; to speak once more to those who had the guidance of much of my priestly career, not to seek their congratulations, but to ask them for their advice and their prayers. Montreal, my parental educational home, has always held, and will always hold a good place in my affections, because it is characteristic of the authorities of the Seminary that they establish between the students and themselves a tie which grows stronger as the years go by. I would be ungrateful if I did not go to what is my father's house in an educational sense, and ask for his blessing before I undertake to discharge the arduous task which lies before me. This meeting and this address which has been read to me have done upon me as a surprise. Had I known that these would await me I think I would have put off my visit until a later time. Judge of my surprise when I learned this morning on arriving here by train that I was expected to deliver a public address. I don't know why this should have been expected of me except on the ground that, being an Irishman, I am supposed to have a speech always ready (laughter and applause). No one knows better than the priests who are present how solemn and difficult are the duties which lie before me. I enter upon them however, in the spirit of a disciple of St. Sulpice, determined as a Christian soldier to do my duty to the best of my ability in the post to which God has called me (applause). I ask you to help me by your prayers to carry out my resolve. Father Conaty then delivered an eloquent lecture on Celtic Influence in English Literature.

graded and ignorant. Was there any Celtic influence in English literature and how could it be traced? No scholar acquainted with the English language could fail to recognize that influence. It was difficult to determine the day in which such influences begin. The great river was but a brook as it neared its source. But following its course from that brook to the ocean, we found that it gained its power and majesty from influences which in its mightiness were lost sight of. The English language, unlike other languages, was built upon the ruins of other tongues, or rather had assimilated other languages, and by their help had become the great world-language which it was to-day. In tracing the influence which the Celt had in the formation of that noble language, we saw that it was the Celt who had first brought religion and civilization to the Saxon. It was the Celtic missionaries who first spoke to the Saxon of God and religion. At that time the home of the Celt was the home of literature. To-day we heard of the ignorance of the Irish. The Irish during these later days, when it was a crime punishable by death to teach him even the rudiments of learning, may have been illiterate; they never were ignorant. (Applause.)

PENAL LAWS HAD MADE THEM ILLITERATE, but they could not drive God and religion from their hearts. Even in pagan times Ireland had a literature, and a deep spirituality pervaded the Irish character, which found its full satisfaction in the story of the Redemption told by St. Patrick. Soon after the conversion of the Irish to Christianity, churches and monasteries and schools sprang up all over the country. Clonmacnoise and Clontarf became world-famed for scholars and scholarship. From the sixth to the ninth century was the golden age of Irish literature. The Danish invasion brought havoc in its train; and it was worthy of a note that a Dane, Dr. Sigerson, was a leading spirit in the revival of Celtic literature which was going on in Ireland. In that age of gold scholars wrote in Celtic and Latin.

Celtic was the cultured tongue of the Brehon law-makers; the tongue of freedom and chivalry; the tongue of barliore. Celtic literature ante-dated Roman civilization and Grecian art. As printing had not been invented in those days it was written in manuscripts, and it now consisted almost wholly of manuscripts. These Celtic manuscripts were more numerous than those of Greece and Rome. This was a fact, and not a mere statement of his. In the libraries of Dublin, Oxford, and London universities there were two thousand of these Celtic manuscripts, not more than one-twentieth of which had yet been printed. Yet this was but a fragment of the literature which the Dane found on his arrival in Ireland—a literature not printed, but written by the unwearied hand of the monk of the school (applause).

NO OTHER LANGUAGE had been the object of such persecution as the Celtic language had been; and yet, driven though it had been to bogs and mountain recesses, it had brought to the language of the oppressors of Ireland the expression of the loves, the joys, the sorrows, the spirituality, the wit, the humor, the religion of the Celt. (Applause) The teachers of the early English scholars were Celts; and in this way the influence of the Celt was strongly marked. Rev. Dr. Conaty quoted from an essay published by Matthew Arnold in 1836, in which that writer showed that a strong Celtic element ran through English life, and found its characteristic expressions in English literature and English literature. English literature, as shown by the works of Shakespeare, Milton and Byron, was indebted to Celtic influence for much of its style, and for nearly all of its wit. Henry Morley had said that "the main current of English literature cannot be disconnected from Irish wit, in which it has one of its sources."

Father Conaty dwelt upon the prowess of the Celt in literature and art, in statesmanship and legislation, in mercy as well as in justice, in Europe, the United States and Australia. Wherever the Celt had gone he had brought with him the element of strength (applause); and now a good many people were scratching themselves to see how much of the Celt was in them (laughter). Some of them would not have to scratch much (laughter). Nothing succeeded like success (laughter and cheers). Speaking of the imaginativeness of the Celt, of the fairies and elves and "little ones," with which his fancy people the woods and the glens, and which testified to his love of the unseen and the spiritual, Father Conaty said that we might trace to these "little people" THE ORIGIN OF THE BROWNIES.

It might be treason to say so; but there were lots of truth in treason (laughter and applause). Then he recited a number of exquisite specimens of Irish poetry, both ancient and modern, illustrating the emotional, the gay, the sorrowful, the martial, and the heroic phases of Celtic literature, winding up by reciting, amid peals of laughter, the famous ballad of "Fataer O'Flynn." There was a passage in the history of Ireland in which he had always taken a deep interest. It was the period of the "hedge" schoolmaster. The "hedge" schoolmaster had frequently been caricatured, but those who caricatured them did not realize that they were generally men of culture, who had earned their degrees in the universities of Europe. Many of them were priests of God. These "hedge" masters, who risked their lives in imparting knowledge to

their persecuted compatriots, were the connecting link between the Celtic age of gold and the present age. (Applause.) They kept alive not only the faith but the patriotic spirit of the people; and if to-day Ireland had won back some of her rights, it was due to the noble efforts of these "hedge" schoolmasters. (Renewed applause.) Having referred to eminent Irish literary men like Burke, Goldsmith and Sheridan and Sterne, the lecturer referred to the habit of claiming these distinguished Irish literati as Englishmen. When an Irishman did anything good he was classed as an Englishman. When he did anything bad he was an Irishman. When Dunraven lost the yacht race, he ceased to be the Englishman he had been described; he became at once an Irishman; he was Mr. Quinn. (Laughter.)

THE REVIVAL OF IRISH LITERATURE by the Young Ireland party, and the Land League and Home Rule movements, were next passed in brilliant review, and the eminence to which Irishmen and Irishwomen had attained in various departments of literature was noted. In this connection Father Conaty paid a high tribute to Mrs. Sadlier of this city for the noble work she had done in portraying in admirable stories the best elements of Celtic life, and expressed the hope that the testimonial which it had been suggested should be presented to her would be worthy of her valuable contributions to English literature. "Notably, indeed," said Father Conaty in conclusion, "are the children of the sea divided God carrying on the work of their great Celtic forefathers. Let us continue that work. Let us be animated by the spirit which actuated those who recently presented \$50,000 to the great Catholic University over which I have been called to preside, for the purpose of endowing in it a chair of Celtic literature. Let us never cease to be proud of the literary work of our scholarly Celtic ancestors." (Loud applause.) Mr. M. J. F. Quinn, M.P., moved a vote of thanks to the eloquent lecturer, which was passed with loud applause.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC.

NAME OF THE PROGRAMME TO BE RENDERED by the Irish Catholic Choirs. There is no feast in the Calendar which awakens the sympathies and arouses greater enthusiasm amongst the members of our church choirs of this city than that of Christmas.

From the days of the organization of the first band of choristers up to the present time, the same deep sentiment of earnestness and joyousness has always prevailed. In no other part of Canada has there been such a corresponding manifestation of that desire to attain a high standard of excellence in sacred music as in Montreal. We publish the programmes of the choirs associated with the different Irish parishes, which they have been zealously preparing for some time past, and which we have every reason to expect will be rendered with that deep feeling of religious fervor which has characterized their endeavors on similar occasions in former years.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH. The following select programme of music has been prepared by St. Patrick's Choir for the Midnight Mass and the different Services of Christmas Day, under the direction of Professor J. A. Fowler, organist, and Mr. G. A. Carpenter, conductor. The "Kyrie," "Gloria," "Sanctus" and "Agnus" of Nini's Mass will be given at Midnight Mass and the ten o'clock Mass. "Luzanne's" "Credo" will also be given at the same services. Before Midnight Mass, and at the Offertory Novello's "Adeste Fideles," Gounod's "Naxareth," Adams' Canticle for Christmas, and other Christmas hymns, will be sung. The soloists will be Messrs. J. J. Rowan, D. McAndrew, O. Brennan, F. Cahill, first tenors. Messrs. G. A. Carpenter, T. Wright, M. Corcoran, baritones. Messrs. C. Smith, J. Murray, W. J. Crowe, basses.

The harmonized chant of the Vespers will be given Christmas afternoon, followed by the Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Novello's "Adeste Fideles," Gounod's "Naxareth," Professor Fowler's "Ave Maria" and Haydn's "Tantum Ergo" will be rendered during Benediction. The Choir numbers over seventy well trained voices.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH. The Christmas services at St. Mary's Church, of which the Rev. Father O'Donnell is Pastor, will be observed with the usual high ceremonial. The Rev. Father Condon, C. S. C., will be celebrant at the Midnight Mass, and the Rev. Fathers Kelly, C. S. C., of Cote-des-Neiges, and Shea, of St. Mary's, as deacon and sub-deacon respectively. The choir, assisted by full orchestra, will execute Van Bree's Mass. Soloists:—1st tenors, Messrs. C. Hamlin, J. B. Paquette and J. Dilon; 2nd tenors, J. Emblem, J. Ranson; basses, T. C. and A. Emblem. At the Offertory, violin solo, "Vision de Jeanne d'Arc," Gounod, by Prof. W. Sullivan. At the Low Mass, Christmas Hymns and Wilson's "Adeste

Fideles," solo, duet and choir. The same programme will be repeated at 10 o'clock Mass on Christmas Day. In the evening at 7.30, with orchestra, harmonized Psalms; Magnificat, (Lambillotte). At Benediction, Concone's "O Salutaris," solo and quartette; soloist, Mr. C. Hamlin; Gounod's "Ave Maria," with violin obligato; soloist, Mr. T. C. Emblem; "Tantum Ergo," Eyckens, solo and choir, and Wilson's "Laudate," leader of orchestra, Prof. Wm. Sullivan; Conductor, Mr. J. B. Paquette; Musical Director and Organist, Prof. James Wilson.

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH. Special preparations have been made to make the musical features of the Christmas Services most imposing. The choir numbers sixty voices and will render the following excellent programme:—Midnight Mass—Novello's "Adeste Fideles," Nicou Choron's Ninth Mass, Offertory—Leprovost's "Fidèle Hominis" string orchestra and organ accompaniment. Soloists—Messrs. A. G. Plamondon, H. P. Benyere, Basses—Messrs. A. Hamilton, J. E. Stanton, B. Bissonette, T. W. Casey and J. Horgan. At the close of the Mass, "O Holy Night," solo by Mr. A. G. Plamondon, with violin obligato by Mr. J. J. Gaudet, will be rendered; organ solos, Christmas carols, Miss M. Donovan. Christmas Day the same programme will be followed. At Vespers and Benediction in the afternoon, Gounod's "O Salutaris," Revox's "Ave Maria," and Singenberger's "Tantum Ergo" will be given. Organist, Miss M. Donovan; Choir Master, Mr. E. F. Casey.

ST. ANN'S CHURCH. St. Ann's Choir will maintain its well known reputation as a musical organization of special merit, judging by the following programme, which will be rendered at the services at Midnight Mass, and on Christmas Day. The Mass chosen is Mercantini's. The soloists will be Messrs. J. M. Ryan, W. Murphy, R. Hiller, J. Quinn, P. Malone, Ed. Quinn and E. Finn. Novello's "Adeste Fideles" will be sung at the Gospel (with flute obligato by Mr. S. O'Donnell), soloists, Messrs. W. Murphy and E. Finn.

At the Offertory, the "Tram-tai," by R. Schum on (arranged for strings), will be performed, with Mr. R. Anderson as solo violinist. At the Communion, Master F. McCrory, the talented young soprano soloist, will sing Adams' "Noel." At the close of the Midnight Service the orchestra will render Prof. P. J. Shea's new march, the "Three Kings." Rev. E. Stralbe will wield the baton. The organist and musical director is Mr. P. J. Shea.

ST. GABRIEL'S CHURCH. St. Gabriel's choir has always occupied a place of prominence in the ranks of choral organizations in this city.

The musical programme for Midnight Mass and Christmas Day will consist of Messe Breve by Gounod, with the "Credo" from the "Messe St. Therese." The choir will also render "Novello's" "Adeste Fideles," Lambillotte's "Pastorale," and a number of other selections. Among those who will take the solo parts will be Messrs. M. McCarty and J. Deegan.

The choir will be under the direction of Mr. J. S. Shea, and Miss M. O'Byrne is the organist.

REV. FATHER O'DONNELL, P.P.

THE PUPILS OF ST. MARY'S SCHOOLS HONOR THEIR PASTOR. Yesterday the young ladies of the Academy of Our Lady of Good Counsel tendered a grand reception to their worthy pastor, Rev. Father O'Donnell. The address and flowers were presented by Miss Nellie Kennedy, and the musical selections were admirably executed by the young ladies. At a later hour in the afternoon the Rev. Father was received at St. Mary's Boys' School, and was made the recipient of an elaborate address and a bouquet of beautiful flowers. On both occasions the Rev. Father replied in feeling terms, expressing his gratefulness for the kindnesses received on his anniversary and also his satisfaction at the manner in which the pupils labored during the past four months.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH.

MISSION FOR THE ENGLISH SPEAKING CATHOLICS A GRAND SUCCESS.

The retreat which opened on the 13th inst., in the Chapel at St. John the Baptist, was brought to a most successful close on Sunday evening last. Each night the Chapel was thronged in every part, and the attendance at the confessional was very large. At the general Communion, Sunday morning, over one thousand ladies and gentlemen approached the Table of Our Lord. Rev. Father Casey, the amiable and energetic Pastor, left nothing undone to make the Mission a success; and the powerful sermons delivered by the Rev. Father Klauder, of Brooklyn, N. Y., left a lasting impression on the minds of his devout hearers. The singing during the Mission was under the supervision of Miss Charlotte Lane.

At a recent preliminary meeting the members of St. Gabriel's Church organized a glee club. Next Sunday evening, another meeting will be held to perfect the organization.

IRISH PARTY UNION.

HON. EDWARD BLAKE DELIVERS AN ABLE SPEECH ON THE SUBJECT.

THE COMING SESSION AND THE ATTITUDE OF IRELAND'S REPRESENTATIVES—THE LESSON OF UNITY.

At a recent meeting of the Central Branch of the Irish National Federation, held in Dublin, Ire., the Hon. Edward Blake delivered a powerful speech regarding the necessity and urgency of unity of action. A ter referring to the results of the Leinster Hall Convention he said:—

"Of the three parties in Parliament, I believe," said Mr. Blake, "that the Irish Party is the most absolutely united in point of opinion upon political topics. I believe that the programme which I have sketched out to you, which I need not say to you is not my programme, but is the programme of the great convention which was held lately—it was the programme embodied in the resolutions of the convention—is a programme upon which, in sentiment in feeling, in determination to give it effect, all Nationalist sentiment, whatever may be our feelings as to men however much they may be divided otherwise, are agreed and I have not observed hostile criticisms with reference to any of these propositions which form the necessary staple of the political action of the Irish Nationalist Party. But while we have the least diffidence of any party upon these questions involving considerations of policy, unfortunately upon questions of tactics and of persons—and mostly of persons—we have the greatest difficulties of all. Now, how are we to deal with these questions?"

WE MUST NOT FORGET that there is a great change in the political situation from that which existed in the old time. We must not forget that new rules have been adopted, and that the power and capacity to attract and maintain the attention of the British Parliament on Irish questions is largely limited compared with what it used to be. We must not forget that the tendency is—and you will see it next session—more and more to take the time of the house for Government questions, and the English Education question will be the excuse and the pretext for taking the time of the house; and the opportunities of individual members of those not on the Government benches to bring up questions will in that way be more limited than ever. We must not forget, therefore, that now, even more than when Mr. Parnell adopted that policy, it may be necessary in order to have our just influence in that house for the benefit of Ireland to intervene in other than purely Irish questions, and bring ourselves in evidence in that way, and I think we ought to take every chance of

KEEPING IRELAND IN EVIDENCE. First of all by pressing on Irish questions; and secondly, when those opportunities do not arise, by evidencing our determination as long as we are retained at Westminster to play our part with reference to British questions. I do not believe there is any difference about that among all sections of Irish Nationalists. What more are we agreed on? We are agreed upon the abstract principle—not of the desirability but of the necessity of unity. I read the speech Mr. Richmond delivered at the annual convention of the Parnellites, and he agreed in effect that Ireland was helpless without unity, and he demanded, as I understand it, as one condition, as the one essential upon the restoration of that unity for which we all pray—he demanded that we should become absolutely independent of the Liberal Party. Well, the Convention has dealt with that also. It has declared that it is the resolution of the Irish Party to be independent of the Liberal Party. They have been heretofore, they will be in the circumstances of the case still more heretofore. Why? Because there was a certain period, when we were maintaining the Home Rule Government in power, when in the interest of Ireland and of Home Rule we had to subordinate our opinions. In order to accomplish the greater we had to give up the less. That condition ceased to exist as soon as the Liberals went into opposition, and although I for one, no matter who may say against it, do not choose to forget—although I believe my Irish fellow-countrymen will not forget

THAT SEVEN YEARS' WAR that they waged in concert with the Liberal Party for the attainment of Home Rule—although I do not choose to forget that even at the last general election, disastrous as its results were, very nearly one half of the whole voting power of the United Kingdom was polled in favor of Home Rule, yet, I hold—and I know that my Parliamentary friends agree with that view—that it always has been, and is now, not merely the right, but the sacred duty of Irish Nationalists to maintain an absolute independence of both British political parties. Shall any one suggest that if we find that the Unionist Government, true to its assurances with reference to Ireland, availing of its great majority in the House of Commons and of its friendly relations with the House of Lords, attempts to redress some of those grievances to which I have referred, they will

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