Northwest Review

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SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1904.

Galendar for Next Week.

MARCH.

- nunciation.
- Holy Angels.
- Apostles.
- Joseph.
- Apostle of Ireland.
- Canada more especially.

ST. PATRICK.

Patrick's Day, it may be well to equally certain that before St. Patput down here some of the leading rick's preaching the warlike Irish ideas which this great day sug- were the terror of the Christian gests. A little more than fourteen world, and that after his preachcenturies have elapsed since the ing, for the space of nearly a hundeath of Ireland's apostle. During dred years, they disappeared from that long period more than forty generations of men have enjoyed the fruits of that glorious apostolate, they have treasured up his teaching as their most precious in- fare before, Christianity and doheritance, they have recognized in mestic peace after, followed soon most favored pupils of the late his spiritual conquests the title by the missionary spirit of a whole deeds of a church, the succession of nation going out to convert other whose pastors has never been in- nations. Surely these are striking pupil. Continuing his educational terrupted. Thus the work that evidences of a conversion as Patrick wrought is writ so large thorough as it is rapid; and when ed many distinctions, and in his that all his true children have read we look for an explanation of the several examinations had as candit plain and clear in the subse- fact, it is impossible to conceive idates against him men who today quent history of their beloved one so rational as the miracles occupy prominent positions in art, nation. The word that gave life to wrought by Patrick in the power in law, and in literature. The Macthousands when first he preached of God. at Tara is now the glory and the comfort of millions.

Far otherwise has it fared with the history of his life. His character and his writings have passed through a very fierce ordeal of

writings, the form of the body, the animating principle, in a word, the soul, was absent. The further conclusion then dawns upon the honest searcher's mind, that there must be some objective reality in the wonders to which all St. Patrick's first biographers bear wit-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF. ness. The rationalistic system of evolving myth theories from the writer's inner consciousness is an insult to common sense. "The Rationalists," savs Bacon, and his words were never so true as now, "are like to spiders, they spin all out of their own bowels." This process may be plausible so long as stubborn facts do not stare you in the face; it may throw dust in the gaping public eye when Max Muller applies it to the sacred books of the East, or when Elisee Reclus twists it into so-called ethnology; but in the full light of Europe the trick is a decided failure and ends in the detection of manifest fraud. In the acts of St. Patrick the miraculous element is essential to the narrative; take it away, and at once all reality vanishes, and his history, nay, the subsequent history of Ireland evaporates. Every attempt to strip him of his super-13-Fourth Sunday in Lent. Anti- natural character has ended in the cipated Solemnity of the An- fabrication of a drama without a hero, in which a series of stupen-14-Monday-Votive office of the dous effects is produced without a cause. This ridiculous failure is 15-Tuesday-Votive office of the one of the strongest arguments in favor of the Saint's wonder-work-16-Wednesday-Votive office of St. ing powers. All his early biographers unite in stating that at 17-Thursday-St. Patrick, Bishop, the outset of his apostolate he was brought face to face with extraor-18-Friday-St. Gabriel, Archan, el. dinary manifestations of diabolical 19-Saturday-St. Joseph, Spouse power, and that his victory was so of the Blessed Virgin, Patron convincing to the minds of the of the Universal Church and of pagans as to induce them to abandon all authoritative resistance to his mission. There is no better established event in the history of the fifth century than the fact that when St. Patrick died in 492 the As next Thursday will be St. Irish nation was Christian. It is

the battlefields of Europe, until in the sixth century they returned as apostles of Christianity. Here we have paganism and aggressive war-

AGNOSTICISM ITS OWN RE-FUTATION.

The following ingenious and sub- Tivoiel, Airteach, and Glancuain. criticism. The Anglo-Irish Estab- tile argument against the Spen- This may be found by reference to

its existence, and to imply the existence of a thing is to brink it within the knowable. There is, therefore, no such thing as the Mail Order unknowable. If there were we could not be conscious of it as a knowing subject. Herbert Spencer Catalogue No. 45 in his "Essay on Education," says that in our pursuit of knowledge we meet with barriers in every direction beyond which we cannot go. But a barrier has a 'that' side as well as a 'this' side. It is only by knowing of the existence of another side that we can recognize the existence of the barrier. To give a simple illustration: What constitutes the idea of a prison? It is the knowledge on the part of the prisoner that there is an outside from which he is debarred. If we could conceive of a person confined within four walls having no knowledge of the existence of anything beyond he would be unconscious of being in prison. If the brute were conscious of the Free. limitation of his reason he would have already transcended that limitation and would cease to be a brute. Again, the idea of knowing is only apprehended in opposition, yet 'in relation to, not knowing; and vice versa; When we say we know a thing we mean that we distinguish that and other things that we don't know, though not unknowable. I know that I don't know Russian only because I know that Russian is known. If Russian were not known I cauld neither affirm nor deny anything of it. Thus, the Agnostic "don't know" is selfdestructive. He cannot say he does not know God except by presupposing His existence. So we discover that God-the Absolute Reason-has put it beyond the power of our finite reason to reason Him out of existence."

THE MACDERMOT, K. C.

We borrow from the Dublin 'Irish Daily Independent and Nation" the following sketch of the great Catholic lawyer who died on Feb. 6.

Hugh Hyacinth O'Rourke Mac-Dermot was born in 1834, and was educated in the old Catholic University, where he was one of the Cardinal Newman, who predicted a brilliant future for his talented career in Trinity College he achiev-Dermot was a descendant of the ancient Irish kings, and came of an old Catholic, Celtic and Connaught family, and represented the historic house of Coolavin. Originally the family title was Prince of Moylurg,



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a.m. Vespers, with an occasional ser-

mon, 7.15 p.m. Catechism in the Church, 3 p.m.

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N.B.-Confessions are heard on Saturdays from 3 to 10 p.m., and every, day in the morning before Mass.

C. M. B. A.

Grand Deputy for Manitoba. Rev. A. A. Cherrier, Winnipeg, Man,

Agent of the C.M.B.A. for the Province of Manitoba with power of attorney, Dr. J. K. Barrett, Winnipeg, Man.

The Northwest Review is the official organ for Manitoba and the North-west, of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association.

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St. Patrick, the whole aspect of other, and he is perfectly justified The country Viceregal residence the critical study of the original cative of deep thought. sources, and who combined the erudition of a Benedictine and the accuracy of a German critic with the many-sided collateral culture of a literary artist and the wide-reaching grasp of a Christian philosopher. Within the last few years quite

apart from Father Morris's influence, a remarkable change has taken place in the tone of Patrician literature. The critics are wearied with their internecine conflicts. Observing that men of great learning, like Archbishop Ussher, Sir William Betham, Dr. Todd and the Rev. J. F. Shearman, while using the same materials, have arrived at contradictory results, they conclude that, although there was plenty of good matter in their

ishment for centuries expended its cerian theory of the Unknowable the books of Lecan, Ballymote and strength in alternate attempts to is given in a letter from Mr. J. A. Killionan, also the Annals of capture or to annihilate the na- Mullen to the English "Catholic Lough Key and the works of Dr. tional Apostle. While Ledwick and Times" of February 19. It pro- O'Conor, Buske's "Hibernia Domihis school denied that there had ceeds on the lines of St. Auselm's nicana." The familt history of the ever been such a person as St. famous ontological argument and MacDermot's predecessors is one of Patrick, Ussher and Todd tried to takes for granted that the Un-particular interest, showing how prove that he was either a staunch knowable is supposed to be utter- the chief of the race, having been Protestant or half Protestant half ly unknown. In point of fact Her- driven from the ancient patrimony Catholic. Others, like Miss Cusack, bert Spencer admitted that he during the Cromwellian wars, rewho subsequently apostatized from knew a good deal about the Un- moved to Coolavin, situated near the faith, mixed up legend with knowable when he called it "an in- Lough Gara, in the County of history in a pious, but most un- finite energy from which all things Sligo. The Irish title referred to critical fashion. But when in 1878 proceed," but Mr. Mullen is not has been borne distinctively by the Father William Bullen Morris gave concerned with the illogical ad-chief of the name for more than to the world his scholarly life of missions of the agnostic philos- eight hundred years.

vidences was chang- in taking the Unknowable at its in the west, Rockingham Castle, ed. Here was a real historian who face value. Viewed in this way, was the old seat of The MacDerhad devoted 25 years of his life to the argument is certainly provo- mot's. Tradition ascribes to the

old castle in its lake strange "How do we know that we stories of the family. It was a don't know that God exists? We great stronghold admirably can only know, or not know the adapted by nature for the purpose. knowable. We cannot know or This was the ancient stronghold of not know the Unknowable. We the MacDermots before being driven only know by the faculty of thence to Coolavin, in Sligo. At knowing, and the use of that the beginning of the present cenfaculty is necessarily confined tury Rockingham was in the poswithin and limited to the region session of Lord Lorton. Now it is of the knowable, yet without con- owned by the King-Harmans. The sciousness of the confinement and deceased gentleman, according to sciousness of the conhinement and deceased gentieman, according to schools are full of them. Chances are your own children are weaklings. It's a faculty any more than we have land-owner. He possessed estates shame so many children grow up witha quality of 'not being.' There- in three counties-215 acres in fore, in saying we don't know in Mayo, 185 acres in Roscommon, the Agnostic sense, i.e., that we and 4,340 acres in Sligo. In all ing boys and girls can take. Ferrozone invigorates the whole body, helps di-faculty affirming of itself that it it is right to state that the prince is upplies more nourishment than chiis 'not' a knowing faculty. Now, of Coolavin, which title is proudly dren can get in any other way and soon to affirm or deny anything of in use even today among many Give your children Perrozone and watch anything, we necessarily imply people in the West, was a good and them grow strong. Price 50c. per box,

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