

## A black and white portrait of a man, likely a historical figure, wearing a dark suit and a light-colored shawl or cape. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the left. The background is dark and textured.

Many, years ago a little band of Irish emigrants sailed for the coast of Newfoundland. They were leaving behind them The Isle of Beauty, the dear old Emerald Isle, and were to settle in a distant land remarkable for its barren cliffs and rock bound coast. No doubt such a scene was far from inviting in those days when all the hardships, labors and sacrifices peculiar to the first settlers of a new region are considered. At this time there were but two principal places at Newfoundland, viz. St. John's and Harbor Grace, at which places a portion of this little band of Irish sons and daughters made their future homes. They had insurmountable difficulties to overcome, especially in religious matters, for we are told there is no colony within the circle of the British Empire where the Catholics have had to struggle against such perverse policy as in this island. The country was discovered by John Cabot in 1497, and although extensive and lucrative fisheries were carried on along the coast, still the British Government passed all kinds of restrictive laws for nearly three hundred years, forbidding anyone, and especially the Irish, from settling in Newfoundland. Irish Catholics were the object of a special proscription up to the year 1784, when at last liberty of worship was proclaimed. A very zealous priest, the Rev. Father O'Donel, set himself to work to build little churches in the different parts and harbors, where the Catholics had established themselves.

The objects of the Society are :

1. The union of Roman Catholic working and mercantile men.
2. The cause of Christian education and charity.
8. The fostering of the national spirit.

4. The due celebration of St. Patrick's day under the direction of His Grace the Archbishop and the clergy.

In 1835 four nuns of the Presentation Order from Ireland arrived at St. John's. They were Sister Bernard Kirwan, first Superioress, who died at Fermeuse on the 27th February, 1857, aged 60 years. Sister Xavier Molony, who afterwards founded the convent at Harbor Main. She died at St. John's, 8th October, 1865, aged 85 years. Sister Xavier Lynch, died at Harbor Grace, 25th November, 1882, and Sister Magdalen O'Shaughnessy, the last of the faithful and intrepid band of pioneers, died at the Presentation Convent, Cathedral Square, St. John's, in 1886, being 95 years old.

When the nuns first arrived there was no convent or school ready to receive them, so they lived for a time at the "Old Palace," and taught school in the back room of a tavern bearing the significant signboard: "The Rising Sun."

As times went on things grew brighter, and a convent was built. It is erected on Cathedral Square, and is a gem. The exterior is of native cut stone. The interior is large and airy, and contains many rooms with relics and pictures of bygone days. At the east of the convent there is attached a large building which is used for school purposes, with a part set aside as a chapel and used for morning services and sodality meetings during the year. Over three hundred children are educated at this convent. The daughters of the saintly Nano Nagle are held in reverence by a grateful people, for they have labored long and well in the educational arena, and their works have borne much fruit.

Some years after the introduction of the Presentation Nuns, the Sisters of Mercy were brought to St. John's. At present they have a large convent in Military Road, an orphanage at Belvedere, a boarding and Normal school at Littledale. Their work has been phenomenal and their successes at public examinations all that could be desired. While many of their pioneer sisters rest from their labors, the work of their devoted founder, Catherine McAuley, is still being scrupulously carried out. Besides teaching and looking after the orphans, the Sisters also visit the sick in different parts of the city. The latest addition to their convent on Military Road was a spacious chapel, which is styled Our Lady of Good Counsel.

About thirty years ago the Irish Christian Brothers', an order founded by Mr. Rice of Dublin, was introduced into St. John's. While the education of the girls was all that could be desired, the same advantages were wanted for the boys. His

Lordship the late Dr. Power, and the Benevolent Irish Society, were successful in obtaining the Christian Brothers, who since their advent to the Ancient Colony have completely revolutionised education. Before their coming, education among the mass portion was a back number; to-day it shines with a brilliancy pleasing to behold as year after year their pupils carry off the laurels at all the Council of Higher Education examinations. From the London Matriculation down to the primary grade, the Brothers' boys carry the palm of victory all along the line. They teach nearly 1400 boys, besides having charge of the Mount Cashel Industrial School. St. Bonaventure's College, St. Patrick's, Holy Cross schools, and St. Vincent's night school are the living monuments which proclaim the zeal, devotedness and sterling worth of the noble educators from the land of the Shamu-

The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, which was commenced in Bishop Fleming's time, continued and built in Bishop Mullock's time, the pride of the late lamented Dr. Power, will be seen in all the glory befitting such a magnificent temple during the regime of Terra Nova's first native Bishop and first Archbishop, Right Rev. Michael Francis Howley. Since his appointment to this diocese he has renovated both towers of the Cathedral, had the main altar moved back so as to allow more room in the sanctuary, the whole interior of the vast edifice completely altered, including plastering, new pews, new floors, new heating apparatus, and electric lighting. During his time as Archbishop, the brush of the artist will adorn the walls and ceiling of the sacred temple, and then the life-work of the beloved prelate, which will be his honor and his glory, and will serve to perpetuate his memory among his people, will be perfected. St. Patrick's Church, in the west end of the city, will have its tower completed next summer. This work will be another monument of the zeal of Archbishop Howley, as well as of Littledale Convent, the O'Donel wing of St. Patrick's Hall, and also numerous churches and halls throughout the archdiocese.

In the city of St. John's alone, containing a Catholic population of nearly 20,000, there are five Catholic societies, viz.: Benevolent Irish Society, Total Abstinence and Benevolent Society, Star of the Sea Association, Mechanics' Society and St. Vincent de Paul Society, with a total membership of over 2000. Quite a respectable showing for a small city like St. John's. But there is another pleasing feature in connection



ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL.  
St. John. Nfld.

tion with the societies, that each society possesses a magnificent hall. The B. I. S., with its extra wing, will cost \$103,000. The St. Patrick's Hall, which is owned by the Irish Society, is one of the best equipped on the continent. Its large and spacious theatre is pronounced by all leading vocalists and actors to be perfect in every respect. The class rooms under the charge of the Irish Christian Brothers, are not surpassed on this side of the Atlantic. The reading-rooms, billiard and music-rooms are in keeping with the rest of the building. This Irish Society has done wonders for the Catholic young men, and a few days ago celebrated the 99th anniversary of its foundation in a becoming manner. The Total Abstinence and Benefit Society possesses a hall which cost \$40,000. Its theatre hall is equal to any of the best opera houses in Canada. All opera companies playing at St. John's hire the temperance hall, which brings in a large income each year to the society. The Star of the Sea Hall cost \$25,000, and the Mechanics' Hall about the same. The St. Vincent's Hall, being the smallest, cost \$2000.

The last annual statement of the financial standing of the Irish Society of St. John's showed it to be



in a flourishing condition. The celebration of St. Patrick's day is a thing worthy of the highest admiration. The parade, music, and above all, the eloquent, instructive and able sermon are noteworthy features of the event. The Irishmen of Newfoundland are true to the traditions of their forefathers, and will at all times act in unison and harmony with other Irish bodies until they make their beloved motherland once again

"Great, glorious and free,  
First flower of the earth,  
And first gem of the sea."

Let us turn our thoughts for a moment to the second city of Newfoundland, Harbor Grace. His Lordship Right Rev. Dr. Dalton was consecrated first Bishop of the Diocese of Harbor Grace. Schools sprang up, and all along the northern coast, religion is making rapid strides. Among the pioneer priests who did so much for the propagation of the true faith in the Diocese of Harbor Grace may be mentioned the Rev. Fathers O'Donnell, O'Connor, Carolan, Ewer, McCormack, Forrestal, Browne, Whelan (who was lost in a dreadful storm on his return from the stations), Hanley, Walsh (both lately deceased), and the present pastor of Bay de Verde, Rev. Jos. V. Donnelly. In the beginning of the year 1817, the Catholics were sufficiently strong to form an Irish organization and the Benevolent Irish Society came into existence. His Lordship Right Rev. Ronald McDonald, the present Bishop of Harbor Grace, has infused new life and energy into his extensive diocese, extending away on the Labrador coast. There is not a parish in the diocese that has not a new church in it since His Lordship has taken charge. Furthermore, magnificent schools, churches and hall adorn every place along the northern coast, proclaiming the arrival of a devoted Bishop, seconded by his faithful band of priests and sent into execution by the energy and good will of a Christian and sacrificing people.

On the west coast, in the newly created diocese of Bay St. George, under the jurisdiction of Bishop McNeill, the same zeal for religion and education is shown, and every place where the cross upon the Catholic Church points heavenward.

The city of St. John's, with its immense Cathedral and St. Patrick's Church, its many educational establishments, and its well equipped halls for an object lesson of unity, goodwill and perseverance of our Catholic people to the world at large, would do honor to a city triple its size, and the whole island of Newfoundland is a model one as regards the cause of religion and education.



CATHEDRAL.  
Nfld.

For the people were made strong in their faith and good works through persecution, and the Irish faith planted by Irish missionaries is still the hearts of a grateful people, and to-day Newfoundland is justly styled "a second Ireland." I beg the indulgence of my readers for this hurried sketch, but as it will be read by many of dear old Terra Nova's sons and daughters in Montreal, and other parts of Canada, as well as in several parts of the United States, their memories will wander back again to their native land, and be brought over scenes once dear to them.

Then hail, the pink, the white, the  
green,  
Our patriot flag! long may it  
stand—  
Our sirelands twine their emblems  
trine  
To form the flag of Newfoundland.”

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## A NOBLE MAGNATE

A visit to New York is a lesson in humility. Every material thing is so big and tall and grand, round Wall street especially, that one seems dwarfed and insignificant. No doubt the dwellers here become used to the environment and grow with it, but the stranger is a pigny and shrinks in his own esteem, no matter how conceded he may be individually. Fortunately for me I had some influential friends and one powerful introduction. So, I managed to escape at least bewilderment. It is very difficult to enter the presence of the captains of industry and ordinarily it is as easy to see a king, but I managed, without much ceremony, to call upon Mr. Thomas F. Ryan, a multi-millionaire and president of the Seaboard Air Line, who could furnish certain information that might be of importance to me later on. Mr. Ryan is a Virginian, and like his father, was a Confederate soldier. He is one of the handsomest and most impressive men I have ever encountered. He is very tall and symmetric, with power and benignity stamped upon his countenance. He is a Catholic and, in association with his devoted wife, gives millions to charity. A magnificent Cathedral at Richmond, Va., is near completion, the gift of this noble couple. Their other magnificent endowments are numerous. It would be to the honor

of Virginia if this gallant, prosperous and generous son were elected to the United States Senate. It may be that he has no political ambition, but, in this epoch, the South needs men like him to illustrate her at the national capital. Under God, he owes his wealth to his own superior intellect, for he had to begin at the bottom of the ladder, after the war, and is now in the front ranks of great capitalists who are developing the land that he courageously fought for. There are not a few ex-Confederates who have won their way marvellously in New York, but I know of none to compare with Thomas F. Ryan.—James R. Randall, in Catholic Columbian.

Ancient Mariner—"Have I ever seen an aurora borealis? Why, I've shot dozens of 'em."

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