

Not! it is the anniversary of the birth-day of Saint Patrick, who poured the divine light of Christianity upon dear old Ireland.

It is well that this is so, for the anniversary of the great saint is a day of peace and holiness. It is a day devoted to friendly feeling and brotherly love—to harmony, kindly thoughts, and noble patriotic aspirations. It is a day whose blessed associations unite Irishmen of every creed and class by the tie of love for the dear old land. For what man loves the land of his birth as the Irishman does?

Here, in this great city, the day is celebrated with the greatest pomp and splendor. But not here only is the day remembered. The Irish pioneer of civilization in the back woods of the Dominion celebrates it, in his humble fashion, with tender memories of the island home of his race. On that day the exile in far Australia has half sad, half joyous visions of the pleasant vales, the sparkling streams of his native land, and a blessing to the old land is murmured from his lips. Even the poor Irish soldier, amid the jungles of India, thinks tenderly of dear old Ireland on that anniversary, and his heart warms, his pulse beats quicker, as he hears the regimental band strike up the great old anthem of "Patrick's Day."

God forefend that this should ever be otherwise than what it is!—Amen.

The seventeenth of March is eminently a day of peace and reconciliation. Love, burning love, for the Irish people, and for their eternal welfare, was the one absorbing feeling of him to whose sainted name it is dedicated.

Yes, St. Patrick's Day is a day we hope Irishmen will continue to commemorate in kindness and good-fellowship all the world over, however far they may be exiled from the home of their race—till the day comes when it shall be celebrated in its highest splendor in the capital of a noble, free, and independent nation.

IRISH FEDERALISM.

We have received from Mr. Ed. Murphy, President of the Montreal Irish Home Rule League, a pamphlet entitled "Irish Federalism; its meaning, its objects and its hopes," by Isaac Butt, Q.C., M.P. This admirable treatise has now reached its fourth edition, which shows the interest taken in the Irish national movement both in the United Kingdom and in this country. It may be remarked that of course there is no man more capable of writing or speaking on this subject than the father of the

movement; therefore any work coming from under his hand very naturally is read with interest. After all the works that have been written and published on the subject, and all the explanations that have been made through the press and otherwise, it is astonishing to meet people who ask, "What is Home Rule? What do you mean when you agitate for Home Rule?" Such people as these never take the trouble to read what it is, and pretend that they are ignorant of its meaning. The plain fact is that they well understand what it is, but they don't want to read any explanations of the matter, as they are entirely opposed to the movement, and do not sympathize with its promoters in any way. It is just like some persons who go to hear lectures on "Papal Infallibility." They say the lecture was very good, but "they did not believe the lecturer (whoever he may be) explained it clearly," simply because they would not believe it to be "explained," no matter how clear the lecturer could put it. We don't see anyone who can advance an argument that will show Mr. Butt speaks obscurely or does not explain in the fullest manner possible the title of his work. In stating the question, he says: "I do so under a deep conviction that the time is come when it is essential to the interests of both countries that there should be a re-adjustment or modification of the Union arrangements. I believe that a very large proportion of the Irish people are willing to accept such a Federal Union between the countries as would give an Irish Parliament control over all the domestic affairs of Ireland, while an Imperial Parliament still preserved the unity and integrity of the United Kingdom as a great power among the nations of the world. The present state of feeling in Ireland offers to England an opportunity of consulting the Irish people without making concessions which would involve revolutionary changes or endanger the stability of the empire. It may be that these hopes are to be disappointed. That opportunity may be neglected. If it be so, I will not, therefore, despair of the cause of Ireland or Ireland's nationality—a cause as indestructible as the mountains of her land, or as the ocean which surrounds it. But I am persuaded that never again will there be such an opening for the peaceful solution of questions which will one day or other find their settlement, no matter by what means." He then ably reviews the Irish Parliament before the Union; the Constitution and Powers of the Imperial Parliament; and