

The Voice

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

Yearly Subscription in Canada and U. States, 25c. ; in Europe, 2 Shilling.

VOL. VI.

CHELSEA, APRIL, 1881.

No. 4.

IRELAND'S MISSION.

A SERMON

PREACHED BY AN ENGLISH PRIEST ;

THE REV. FATHER BAKEWELL,

IN ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, MONTREAL, ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY, 1869.

But I say : Have they not heard ? Yea, verily, their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the whole world.—Romans, ch. 10, v. 18.

DEAR BRETHREN,

When I look around me on this vast multitude, when I reflect, when I cast my eye on this shamrock which I bear so proudly on my breast and which I press with real affection to my heart, think it not egotism if I ask myself, how is it that I who can lay no claim to Irish nationality, am appointed in the decrees of God to preach to you on the festal day of Ireland's patron saint ?

What answer can I give to that which I ask myself ? The only one is this. It is St. Patrick's day. But what response is this to you or me, my brethren ? What right have I, of the nation which has persecuted Ireland, to hold this place ? Brethren, pardon me—I have the two-fold right of duty and of gratitude. I am a Catholic and if in God's mercy such as I am, I am, I have always believed that I as other Catholics of my nationality owed it to St. Patrick.