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VOL. XII., No. 14

The Catholic Register

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CHRONICLES OF AN OLD-TIMER

The Foot-Prints of the Celts

The Great Indo-European Race That Planted Laws and Letters in the Heart of Europe and Taught the Anglo-Saxons Their Letters—Where They Came From and Where They Settled—Still Migrating and Making Their Mark—They Made the American Revolution and Shed the Light of Liberty on the World. Canada has Derived her People Mostly from Celtic Stock.

Chicago, April 2, 1904.

Editor Register:

Instead of my usual bundle of gossip I send you to-day something that I consider more valuable, of a historical and ethnological character—an article on the Celtic race that I have long been preparing and which I am sure will be acceptable to your readers. It contains facts that ought to be more generally known.

WILLIAM HALLEY.

Who and what are the Celts that their footprints should be of interest in our day and generation? They are members of the human family that claim a very ancient origin and are well evidenced in our day—a division of people without any organized government of their own, yet influencing many governments. The Celts are found in many parts of the world, but principally in the British Isles, France, Germany, Spain and America. They have left their footprints in many lands besides these. They are an Indo-European race, a branch of what is known as the Aryan family. They are a wandering race. They came out of India about four thousand years ago and led the van in the great migration westward in Europe, and are migrating yet, having crossed the Atlantic Ocean to America, and keep still going towards the setting sun, leaving their footprints on every shore and every battle-ground, for they are soldiers as well as immigrants. There are Celts and Celts. Long before the dawn of history the Aryans began to migrate. One branch went south through the passes of the Himalaya Mountains, and these were the progenitors of the Hindoos, Persians and Medes; another branch passed through Western Asia, entered Europe and took possession of the greater portion of the continent. Those were the Celts of whom we are now speaking. A third branch migrated southwest and settled in Asia Minor, in Greece and Southern Italy. These are known as the Graeco-Romans of Latins. Another branch followed the footprints of the elder race and took possession of Central Europe, dislodging the more ancient Celts from that territory. These are known as the Teutonic or Germanic tribes, including the Scandinavians. Then came the Slavs, who took possession of Northeastern Europe, and which include the Russians, Poles, Hungarians, the people of the Balkan provinces and many others.

But the Celts were always in the lead and were often run down. When the curtain of history rises we find the Celts masters of Gaul, Northern Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Belgium and the British Isles. Comparative philology demonstrates that the languages spoken by the people who are believed to be Aryans had a common origin, but in time several forms of Celtic speech or dialect were derived from the original stock. There were two forms of speech known to the inhabitants of Western Europe named Gaelic and Cymric, Gaelic was spoken in Gaul, Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man. The Cymric dialect was spoken in Britain, Wales and Cornwall. There is said to be a close relationship between Sanscrit, Greek, German, Celtic and Slavonic. The Celts, however, were the first to plant the seeds of Asiatic civilization in the heart of Europe. Like other races, history tells us but little of them until they came in contact with Roman power in the course

of its conquests in Western Europe. They fought valiantly, but were overcome. The Romans did not give them a good name because they put up a strong resistance. But the Romans were often mistaken in their Celts, especially in Gaul, confusing them with other and more barbarous people. When the Celts entered Europe they were not savage, but cultivated agriculturists and herdsmen. They sowed, planted, harvested and sheared. They had weavers, tailors and carpenters, and built houses. They possessed most of the domestic animals possessed by us to-day. They had with them implements and weapons of bronze. They worshipped the same gods as are recognized in the Graeco-Roman and Teutonic mythologies. When they entered the British Isles we do not know but the Romans found them there as Britons and Cymri. The Romans never entered Ireland, but the Irish of those days were known as Gaels. At the time of Christ the Irish Celts were unsurpassed by the Greeks and Romans. They were eminent in literature, arts, culture and some of the sciences. Their language was grammatically arranged and was anything but a barbarous jargon, and music had an existence among them.

When the Romans entered on their course of conquest in Western and Northern Europe the tribes they mostly encountered were Celts in Gaul and Britain. Celts inhabit the country between the Alps and the Danube as late as the time of Caesar. It is not clear from the authorities that we have whether the people in the lower basin of the Rhine were Celts or Germans.

The Celts arrived in the British Isles prior to the period of written history. Herodotus and many other ancient authors mention a people called Celts in various parts of Central and Western Europe from the headwaters of the Danube to the Pyrenees, and from the banks of the Po to the shores of the North Sea. The British Isles and part of Germany—indeed the whole northwest of Europe, then as unknown as the heart of Africa to-day—seem to have been called Celtica or the country of the Celts.

The Celts, who neither feared earthquake nor flood, according to a proverb in the days of Aristotle, were probably the ancestors of the Belgians, Dutch or Anglo-Saxons. "The name of Celts," wrote Diodorus Siculus, "belongs to the people who dwell above Marseilles, in the interior." "All Gaul," wrote Julius Caesar, "is divided in three parts, one inhabited by the Belgae, another by the Aquitanians, and the third by the people who gave themselves in their own language the name of Celts." The Celtic position was in the middle between the Garonne and the sea on the west, and the Seine and Marne on the north, and the Alps on the east. Caesar omitted Provincia, the modern province in the lower basin of the Rhone, and hence the southern boundary of the Celts is indeterminate. The Celts were named Galli by the Romans, and when Caesar employs the name he seems sometimes to intend the whole of the population of Gaul. The Celts of ancient history then were the natives of Central Gaul.

Several centuries before Christ the Gauls played an important part in history beyond their own borders. They made incursions to Rome and Delphi, made settlements in Germany, Spain and Italy, along the east coast of the Adriatic and the valley of the Danube, even as far as the Greek colonies of Asia Minor, where they founded Galatia.

Other names for Celts have been Cimberians, Cimbrins, Kymris, Gomerians, Belgae, Gauls, Galats, Breton Britons, Silences, Caledonians, Picts, Scots, Gaels, Firbolgs. The early occupation of middle and Western Europe by the Celts accounts for the Celtic names observed in many parts of the continent and for the wide references to the Celts in some of the classic authors. Before the event of the Romans all the tools and weapons of bone, flint, metal, the "stone circles" or barrows, lake dwellings and other buildings are accredited as the work of the Celts.

England was originally Celtic or British. The ancient Britons were Celts; so were the Welsh, the Irish, Gaels and the Caledonians, the Picts and the Scots. It is claimed that with the advent of the Angles, Jutes and Saxons after the Roman evacuation in the middle of the fifth century England changed her race. Some English historians claim that all the ancient inhabitants who were Celts were killed and that it is a good thing that they were because it left the country in the hands of one race, the Anglo-Saxons; yet there is not a more mixed people in Europe to-day than the English, composed as they are of ancient Britons, Anglo-Saxons, Jutes, Danes, French, Normans, Dutch, Irish, Welsh and Scotch. We learn, however that of every fifty children born in England every day twenty-six have Celtic names. Welsh names like Jones and Davis leading. The race name of the English people if correctly stated, would be Anglo-Celtic instead of Anglo-Saxon. It is admitted that Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall and the Isle of Man are Celtic in their population, and form a Celtic fringe to so-called Anglo-Saxon England.

We have seen the footprints of the Celts in many lands: first in leading the Aryans out of Asia; second, in conquering Europe; third, in facing Rome and Delphi; fourth, in resisting Roman arms in Britain, where they were not successful; but where they were successful was in Scotland and Ireland; in Scotland by warfare, and in Ireland by peace. The foot prints of the Celt in Europe show that they brought it the civilization of the bronze age; domestic life and the arts of peace. But for all this he was a warrior, for the normal condition of life in ancient times was contention by arms.

The sad thing about the Celt in Europe is that, notwithstanding his

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warlike character and his bravery as a soldier, he is a conquered race. "He always went down," as Ombin, the greatest of the Celtic bards, declared. He was great in fighting the battles of other nations, but was left without an empire of his own to defend. He won Fontenoy for King Louis and Waterloo for King George.

Ireland, a poor, conquered nation, strange to say, is the leader of Celtic nations to-day. But she has had a glorious past. Next to Greece and Rome, prior to the Christian era, she was the most civilized land in Europe. She took Christianity to her heart without a struggle. She sent missionaries and scholars all over Europe in the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth centuries that replenished the lamps of faith, education and liberty, everywhere on the verge of extinction and was known as the sanctuary of the west. Her scholars laid the foundations of the great universities of Europe and taught the Anglo-Saxons their letters and their musical notes. John Ergrain, Dun Scotus and Albert Magnus were the lights of the middle ages and were Irish Gaels who went forth to enlighten the world in their day, disguised by the latinity of their names.

The military cohorts that went through Europe under the name of Normans were more Celtic than Teutonic because they were recruited mostly in Brittany and other Celtic provinces of France, when under William they started out for the conquest of England and succeeded. No people in the world have shown such a power of resistance to oppression and conquest as the Celtic Irish. For seven hundred years they have resisted Norman and Anglo-Saxon power and hold a stronger national sentiment to-day than ever before. Wales yielded, Scotland yielded, but Ireland never, and to-day more strongly than ever insists in their own language that she has a right to live and be a nation, vindicating her own destinies for her own benefit; and she is now giving to the world a race of men and women, which for physical strength and dexterous capacity has no equal in its day. In America they are hailed as "the ruling race."

We read a great deal in the magazines and newspapers about the Anglo-Saxon race of England and America. There is no Anglo-Saxon race in England and to talk of it in England is an impudent imposition that it is for a purpose should be made known to the unsuspecting American people. America is neither Anglo-Saxon nor Celtic; it is American. It is a composite race, in which mix Celts, Teutons, Latins, Slavs, Iberians and Negroes. The constant iteration of us as an "Anglo-Saxon people" is a vile heresy as offensive as it is untrue. There are 150 columns of names in the Chicago directors with the prefix of the Celtic sign manual. In those 150 columns you will find the names of men who have led industries, directed commerce and headed armies, and not one of them is an Anglo-Saxon.

The so-called Anglo-Saxons have hugged themselves into the belief that they have stood for liberty and progress. The so-called Anglo-Saxons have always been opposed to national liberty until the American revolution and long afterward. The American revolution was a Celtic product. The men who made it were mostly of Celtic antecedents. Patrick Henry, who defied George the Third and said, "Give me liberty or give me death," was of Celtic extraction; George Washington was of Norman blood; Thomas Jefferson was a Welsh Celt and tried once to learn the Celtic language that he might read Osian's poems; Alexander Hamilton was of French extraction; John Barry, the first commodore of our navy, was Irish; Franklin's remote antecedents were French; Charles Carroll, the signer, and Charles Carroll, the author of the bill of rights, were both Irish Celts; Cyrus Griffin, pre-

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PAPAL ENCYCLICAL

The Centenary of St. Gregory

The Holy Father has issued an Encyclical on the occasion of the thirtieth centenary of St. Gregory. The Encyclical reviews the work done by St. Gregory for the conversion of England to Christianity, and concludes with a mention of his Holiness' "Motu proprio" on the subject of the Gregorian chant, and asks that the paintings, sculpture and architecture of the Catholic Church may be established according to ancient tradition.

After describing in his Encyclical the corrupt state of society at the advent of St. Gregory and the restorative effect of his action on all social life, the Pope declares that he, too, looking on the world from the walls of the Vatican, sees himself surrounded by perils and enemies, but, like St. Gregory, he, too, feels with invincible confidence that he stands firm on the rock of the Church and on the Divine promises made to it. His Holiness calls the people to this church which alone can insure the peace of the world and insist on the necessity of an accord between the two Powers, civil and ecclesiastical, which both exist by the will of God, and are destined to lend each other mutual support.

We will endeavor, the Holy Father continues, to imitate the unshaken firmness of St. Gregory, resolved to defend at all costs the rights and prerogatives of which the Papacy is the trustee and the guardian before God and man. The present times are more difficult than those of Gregory. The peoples are tired of life. It is not now a question of heresy alone, but the axe is being applied to the roots of the tree, which is the Church. Divine intervention in the order of the world and the possibility of miracles is denied, and, in consequence, historical science is falsified. The result is that some, fascinated by a display of scientific technicality, lose their faith, and that others, firm in their faith, impute to critical science a work of demolition of which it is innocent, for it even provides a sure means of investigation, provided it is well employed.

After expatiating at length on the moral consequences of these investigations, his Holiness sets forth his views on the duty of the bishops as regards themselves, the selection and government of the clergy, doctrinal instruction, and social action on behalf of the poor and lowly.

Will Be Blessed on May 1st.

Ottawa, April 1.—The blessing of the corner-stone of the new University of Ottawa will be performed on May 1st by His Grace Archbishop Duhamel. Representatives of the Oblates order from all parts of Canada and the United States will attend the ceremony.

Fire took place on Sunday night in the new wing of Rideau Hall at Ottawa. The Countess of Minto, who is laid up from her recent accident, was carried down stairs, and several of the household escaped in night-dress. The damage was \$40,000 or \$50,000.

president has a strain of Celtic blood coursing through his veins, and I believe his Anglo-Saxon Secretary of State is, too, of Celtic origin, as all the Hays we ever knew were of Highland Scotch or Irish stock.

The blood of the Canadian people is for the most part of Celtic diffusion. Jacques Cartier, the discoverer of your country for France, was born in Celtic Brittany, and many of the first French settlers were from that province, though most of them came from Normandy, which is of more Teutonic antecedents. Most of the early settlers of Ontario came from the "Celtic fringe" of England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Man—and any one can see where the Scotch and Irish predominate in the province. The McKenzies, Macdonalds, McGees, Baldwins, Scotts, etc., were the Dominion builders.

The English did not emigrate. They were too well off at home. They could not endure the hardships of pioneer life, and many of those who came to Canada in the early days, returned. Religion, nor even language, is a mark of race. The British and Irish Celts spread the English language much more diffusely than the English themselves. You Canadians are not Anglo-Saxons.

WILLIAM HALLEY.

ON GOOD FRIDAY

Premier Combes Had Crucifixes and Religious Emblems Removed From French Courts

New York, April 3.—The Tribune has the following from Paris: A renewed religious animosity against the Cabinet is elicited by the decision put into force on Good Friday to remove from the law courts all crucifixes, crucifixes and religious emblems. This drastic celebration of Good Friday arouses the widespread condemnation of the legal fraternity and is regarded as, weakening the chances of the Combes Cabinet to hold its own in the great battles that are to take place after Easter vacation. Hundreds of mediaeval ivory and silver crucifixes, ancient and modern paintings and ceiling decorations are being removed by the order of Premier Combes. All these works of art are turned over en bloc to the Director of Fine Arts, Henri Marcel, who intends to place them in the National Gallery of the Louvre.

Archbishop of Ottawa and Sacred Music

Ottawa, April 2.—His Grace Archbishop Duhamel will probably appoint a commission of clergy and laymen to prepare a list of music for Masses and other religious services to be used in this archdiocese. This is an outcome of the recent Papal encyclical, motu proprio, on Church music and singing, by which all pastors and choir leaders are directed to return to the solemn religious music of the Gregorian or plain chant in all church services. As women's voices are unsuited to the singing of the plain chant, they will be gradually eliminated from the choir. When the new order is established all the men singing in the church will wear soutane and surplice, the same as those in the sanctuary.

Walter J. Boland Appointed

At the meeting of the Separate School Board on Tuesday evening, Mr. W. J. Boland, barrister, was appointed to the vacancy in the Board of Education created by Judge Anglin's retirement. There were no other nominations.

The attendance at the schools during the month of March was registered as 3,919; average, 3,382. Inspector Wm. Prendergast was appointed as the representative of the Board on the High School Board of Examiners for the present year. Accounts totaling \$975 were passed.

OBITUARY

FATHER DE SAUNHAC DEAD.

Cornwall, April 3.—Rev. Paul de Saunhac, for fifteen years pastor of the Church of the Nativity, East Cornwall, died at 2 o'clock on Sunday morning, in the Hotel Dieu here, aged 74 years. The deceased gentleman had been in poor health for a couple of years, and his death was not unexpected. He was born in France. He came to Canada when a young man and was ordained by the late Bishop Guigues in 1858, in St. Joseph's Church, Ottawa, being the first priest ever ordained in that edifice. Rev. De Saunhac was a most energetic clergyman. At Brewer's Mills, besides enlarging the church, he built a fine presbytery. During the fifteen years of his pastorate in Cornwall his congregation, largely composed of working people, built and finished a magnificent church of cathedral proportions, and under this monument to his work his remains will be interred on Wednesday. The funeral service will begin in the Church of the Nativity at 9 o'clock.

DEATH OF A DISTINGUISHED CHRISTIAN BROTHER.

We regret to announce the death, which took place at Cork last week of Rev. Brother James Dominick Burke, one of the most distinguished members of the Christian Brothers' Order. Mr. Burke was knocked down by a hackney car and was severely injured.

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