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Feasts of the Month.
 (By an Occasional Contributor)
 The month of March is one that contains within its thirty-one days a number of very important religious festivals. As a rule, the greater portion, if not all the month of March, falls in Lent, consequently there is a degree of reserve that attends some of the festive celebrations, that otherwise might not exist. It would be a very long story to tell of all the important saints whose anniversaries come in March; but we will select four festivals of importance and say a word regarding each one.
 The beginning of the month is marked by the feast of the "Angel of the Schools"—St. Thomas Aquinas; the middle of the month brings us the festivals of St. Patrick and St. Joseph; and the close of the month presents us with the grand feast of the Annunciation. In view of all that we publish elsewhere in this issue, and all that we will publish in our next issue, concerning St. Patrick's Day, we may pass over that never-to-be-neglected day, with a mere mention that it is above all a religious feast. Had St. Patrick's life been spent in any other land, and had he evangelized any other country he would still occupy the high rank that is his today, in the Church as the "messenger of the Cross," and his festival would be honored and commemorated as faithfully by the Church Militant. But, when we consider the stupendous significance of his work in Ireland, as an Apostle of Truth, and when we contemplate the marvellous results of that wonderful career of evangelization, there is no question that from no other country, at that period, could such manifold results have sprung. Not only did he convert an entire pagan nation, but he handed it over in its entirety, to the Church for all time to come; he did more, he sowed the seeds that took root in fertile soil, and that, for long generations, furnished a bountiful harvest of instruction to the whole of continental Europe; and, more still, he left a spiritual progeny of saints and martyrs that outnumbered the offspring of Abraham. No wonder, then, that he should be the national saint of Erin, and that his religious festival should be equally one of national and patriotic importance. We started out with the intention of saying nothing about St. Patrick, in this brief article, but the life of that wonderful servant of God is so rich in subject matter for meditation and discourse, that it is almost beyond one's power to skim over, or skip over those profoundly interesting details.

St. Thomas Aquinas has been surnamed the "Angelic Doctor," or, frequently the "Angel of Schools." He is the patron saint of all students of theology. In the sublime science of Catholic theology there is a veritable mountain-range of solid immutability, and lofty thinkers and writers from all of whom the Church sacerdotal has drawn the principles that have proven the strongest safeguard and the most perfect guarantee (apart from the promise of Christ) of her perpetuity and triumph. But, as in all mountain ranges, however vast in proportions, there are always a few summits that rise above the others, and that pierce the empyrean at loftier elevations, and that catch the sun's beams before it falls upon lower levels, so in this Alpine range of Catholic theologians there are peaks that tower above all the others, and of their number St. Augustine and St. Thomas are the St. Gothard and Mount Blanc. This is not the place to enter into any discussion regarding the respective merits of these two mighty doctors of the Church, nor is this the place of tracing any just appreciation of their works. But it is sufficient for us to know that the writings of St. Thomas stand foremost as authority in the ecclesiastical seminaries of the Catholic world; that the profundity of his knowledge, the elevation of his ideas, and exactness of his expression, combine to make the products of his genius transcend the human mind has conceived or conveyed in the wonderful science of theology. So extraordinary are his writings, both in philosophy and dogmatic theology, that they bear the infallible impress of supernatural inspiration. He was the "Doctor," (the teacher), in the fullest and grandest acceptation of the term; yet so deep was his humility that his contemporaries styled him "Angelic," and so marvellous were the tokens of Divine approval that marked his life, death, and very ashes after death, that veneration only affirmed a sanctity that the world recognized and that the Church believed. All the wonderful results of his more than fully occupied life were laid at the feet of Christ and placed as offerings upon

the altar of our Holy Faith. As long as the Church lasts, and she will last until the end of time, the productions of St. Thomas shall constitute the foundation stones of each sacerdotal life that may be built into the general fabric of that Church. He is above all, the patron of the student. From his life the student draws an example for his imitation and a model for his practice; from his works the student learns those immutable principles—old as logic, formal as syllogism, exact as a mathematical demonstration—which constitute the fuel to feed the flame of Faith and the mirror that catches and reflects with precision the dogmatic truths that underlie the creed of Catholicity.
 St. Joseph not only has the honor of a special day during the month of March, but the entire month is known in the Church as the "month of St. Joseph." While every important saint has his or her day, and while the millions of unknown saints are honored on All Saints' Day, there are few creatures of God—no matter how exalted in the domain of sanctity—to whom an entire month is devoted. We have the "month of the Sacred Heart," the "month of the Holy Name of Jesus," the "month of the Holy Rosary," the "month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory," and thus on through the list. But, as far as individuals, outside the individuality of Christ, are concerned, we have only the Blessed Virgin, to whom the entire month of May is dedicated, and St. Joseph, to whom we devote the whole month of March. Thus do we find the Church paying homage to the Foster Father of Christ, as a member of that Holy Family from Nazareth. He is, in this, exalted high above all the other saints of God. And as he was privileged, in a degree only inferior to that of Mary, so he is honored in a like proportion by the universal Church throughout the ages. Saint Theresa said that she could not recall ever having asked any favor—temporal or spiritual—of Saint Joseph that was not at once granted. On his feast day she was in the habit of making one particular request; and invariably that request was accorded. St. Joseph has been prefigured in many ways in the Old Testament, and his life and virtues have been the accomplishment exact of all such prophecies. When Joseph of old was sold into bondage by his brethren, and when he became the Governor of Egypt, and the dispenser of all the treasures of Pharaoh, in the years of famine the people, starving and seeking relief would apply to the king for corn, and he would say to them "It is Joseph"—"Go to Joseph." The same language is used today by the Church of Christ. When the sinner is under the load of his iniquities, or is starving for want of spiritual food, he knocks at the treasure store of the Church, and the Ruler says to him, "go to Joseph." He will exercise his boundless influence with Mary; she in turn will carry the petition to Her Divine Son; He will be unable to refuse to His own Mother, a red to the one who, during thirty years of an earthly pilgrimage, served Him as father. The result is easily foreseen. In Canada, in this Province especially, we are indebted to St. Joseph. Not only is he the universal patron of the Church; but in a special manner he is the patron of our young country. Since it never was known that any one had applied to him in vain, during the whole of this month, advantage should be taken of the exercises going on in every Church of the city, to appeal to Saint Joseph for all that we need.

The Annunciation is the first of the many grand feasts of the year that belong especially to the Mother of God. It was on that occasion that the Angel Gabriel visited the humble "hand maid of the Lord" in her abode at Nazareth, and announced to her the glad tidings that she was to participate, in a most intimate manner, in the mighty work of Redemption. It was, then, for a first time, by a direct messenger of God. All other feasts of the Blessed Virgin—some more important than this one—follow, but this is the first link in the golden chain of events that mark her life on earth. We have the Assumption, the Immaculate Conception, the Nativity of Christ, the Presentation in the Temple, the Purification, the Flight into Egypt the Nativity of Mary, herself, and all the other cardinal events with which she was associated; but, as everything has had a beginning, except God, so in the career of Mary, foundation of a somewhat sen-

as associated in Christ's work of salvation for man, the Annunciation is the first of them all. In our issue that comes within the octave of that great feast we will have occasion to return to the subject. We merely desire, at present, to indicate a few of the important festivals, of a religious character, that sanctify the month March; or rather that should induce us to sanctify that month in a special manner.—True Witness.

Items of Catholic Interest in the Magazines.
 (Sacred Heart Review.)
An Outlook into Space.

The March number of the Century Magazine contains an interesting paper by William H. Pickering, brother of the celebrated astronomer, Professor Edward Pickering, who is at the head of Harvard Observatory, on "An Outlook into Space: being an Account of a Far Search by American Astronomers for an Observatory Site." The writer remarks that many persons have probably wondered why American astronomers should go away from home as far as Chili and Peru to do their work, and explains the problem by telling us that in certain classes of astronomical work peculiar atmospheric conditions are a matter of grave importance and are not to be found in all places. The study of our own immediate family of planets, for instance, needs a "steady atmosphere," that is to say, that shimmering in the air that is to be seen when we look at some of our stars, a hot stove, or along the line of a railroad track upon a summer day. "This is our atmosphere, although we usually can not see it; but when we magnify the image of a planet in a telescope one thousand times, we magnify the atmospheric tremors in the same proportion, and they are then not only conspicuous, but they interfere very seriously with our observation. In some parts of the world the atmosphere is much more steady than in others, and it is evidently a matter of the highest importance for the astronomer interested in planetary research to find where these places are situated. To illustrate the importance of this matter, I may say that two years ago, situated in one of these favored spots, I saw night after night, with a five-inch and even a four-inch lens, planetary markings and details that I have never seen even with the largest telescope in Cambridge." A large sum of money was bequeathed by the late Uriah A. Byden, and was deposited with Harvard College, to find such a place and build an observatory there. After several experiments an expedition was sent to southern Peru, and a site was selected near the city of Arequipa, settled by the Spaniards in 1540. Two Mr. Pickering remained for two years. He found the atmosphere possessed a steadiness that he had never seen surpassed. A station for meteorological purposes was built on Cerro Pichay, one of the Andes mountains, at an elevation of 16,500 feet above the sea, or about 1,000 feet higher than the summit of Mount Ben Bulbin, and later, a higher station yet, on the summit of El Misti; while the observatory was built on a hill about 300 feet above Arequipa, and 8,000 above the sea level.

Mass on El Misti.
 Mr. Pickering gives a description of the quaint old city and its inhabitants, and pays honorable tribute to the treatment which the strangers received from the kindly people, especially to the courtesy of the priests. "After we left," he says, "Professor Baily established a meteorological station upon the very summit of El Misti (a magnificent volcano rising to an altitude of 19,300 feet). Until its abandonment a few years ago, when its work had been accomplished, this was by far the highest meteorological station in the world. It was not occupied permanently, but once a week one of the assistants at the observatory would visit it, take the records, and wind up the self-recording instruments. Although the station had been carefully protected by a cross placed over it, and some of the priests from the cathedral at Arequipa had ascended the mountain, blessed the station, and said a Mass over it, this did not protect it from some irreligious Indian who pried open the door and stole one of the brass instruments, doubtless thinking it was made of gold. The theft was very annoying, as a brass was made in the series of accumulated records which were of quite as much value to us as the instrument itself. This act of violence was the exception of God, so in the career of Mary, foundation of a somewhat sen-

sational newspaper story that the Arequipa station had been attacked by a mob. In point of fact, no trouble from mobs or revolutions has ever been experienced by the observers. Indeed, with this single exception, we have been treated with nothing but courtesy and respect, perhaps a little awe and fear on the part of the natives of the lower classes, but most friendly and cordial on the part of priests and officials. The attitude of the former was shown by the service of invoking a blessing on El Misti station. This service has probably the distinction of being literally the highest Christian service ever held. It was no easy task, even with the aid of mules, to reach the summit with a full set of vestments and all the paraphernalia for the service. As it was, the ordines had to be inclosed in glass cases for protection from the prevailing wind at that height, and the holy water was brought up in a large bottle.

A Lofty Cross.

This service was probably the last, held at El Misti, Mr. Pickering tells us: "for a hundred years before, when Arequipa was suffering terribly from the plague, the priests promised that if the plague abated a cross should be erected on the mountain; and the promise was fulfilled, for on our first ascent we found a heavy cross standing upon the summit, invisible from below to the naked eye, but plainly discernible with a telescope. This cross has now been replaced by a still larger and more pretentious affair. A description recently received from a friend may be of interest in this connection. It says: 'The Bishop of Arequipa has gone today to try El Misti, and tomorrow morning at eight (or perhaps later) they expect to celebrate Mass at the new cross on its summit. Francisco Las arranged for hiring the men and mules and transporting the several hundred pounds of iron of which the cross is composed to the summit, and placing it in position. It stands thirty feet high, is made of iron rails, and was constructed in the railroad shops here. Two rails are placed side by side and bolted together, making a flat surface several inches wide. It is an immense affair, built in sections, and put together on the summit, piece by piece. Tomorrow will be a great day, processions all bearing crosses instead of candles, and Mass in the different churches at the time that Mass is held (celebrated) on the summit. The bishop carried up several pounds of powder, the kind which makes a heavy black smoke, and intends to set fire to it just before beginning his Mass, as a signal. The bells have been ringing for three days, and minor processions, fireworks, etc., have been in progress all the time.' This highly interesting paper has eleven illustrations, among them "the summit of El Misti, showing snow-cap, and cross erected to ward off the plague," and "High Mass on the top of El Misti—the summit cross at the right."

Life Guards.

The Life Guards are two regiments of cavalry forming part of the British household troops. They are gallant soldiers, and every loyal British heart is proud of them. Not only the King's household, but yours, ours, everybody's should have its life guards. The need of them is especially great when the greatest foes of life, diseases, find allies in the very elements, as colds, influenza, catarrh, the grip and pneumonia do in the stormy month of March. The best way that we know of to guard against these diseases is to strengthen the system with Hood's Sarsaparilla—the greatest of all life guards. It removes the conditions in which these diseases make their most successful attack, gives vigor and tone to all the vital organs and functions, and imparts a genial warmth to the blood. Remember the weaker the system the greater the exposure to disease. Hood's Sarsaparilla makes the system strong.

An Ancient Foe

To health and happiness is Scrofula, as ugly as ever since time immemorial. It causes bunches in the neck, distends the skin, inflames the mucous membrane, wastes the muscles, weakens the bones, reduces the power of resistance to disease and the capacity for recovery, and develops into consumption. "Two of my children had scrofula sores which kept growing deeper and kept them from going to school for three months. Ointments and medicines did no good until I began giving them Hood's Sarsaparilla. This medicine caused the sores to heal, and the children have shown no signs of scrofula since." J. W. McGinn, Woodstock, Ont.
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