

St. Patrick's Day at the College of St. Laurent

The 17th of March at the College of St. Laurent is a day of days on which the different nationalities lay aside their party-colored emblems, to fly the green and gold of Erin, unfurled by the breath of patriotism and mutual sympathies.

There are several reasons why we should celebrate the forthcoming Feast of St. Patrick with special fervor. I know that very little exhortation is needed to stir up in the hearts of Irish Catholics feelings of rejoicing in the glories of the great Apostle, of confidence in his aid and gratitude for his protection. The name Patrick acts like a spell on every true son of Ireland, wherever his lot may be cast. It awakens the echoes of a past not less glorious in its sufferings than in its triumphs, calls up hallowed memories and traditions, sheds a beam of light on the chequered history of our race, which makes one fact stand forth resplendent even amid the shadows of trials, weakness, and defeat, fidelity to the faith which we have received from God through the ministry of St. Patrick. While this fidelity endures, and the value of the priceless gift is duly appreciated, the memory of the great Saint through whom the gift has been conveyed to us must hold a leading place in our affections. Nor have the children of St. Patrick failed to cherish that hallowed memory. Wherever they have been scattered over the face of the earth we can trace them in their wanderings, alike through great cities and rising communities, by the temples they have dedicated to the Patron Saint of Ireland.

I have said that there are several reasons why we should celebrate the forthcoming feast with special fervor. I shall briefly point out some of those reasons. We have material interests to strive for, spiritual needs to be supplied, and spiritual dangers to be guarded against. Even in striving for the improvement of our material condition we should not forget that, though no human means which prudence dictates and Christian principle justifies, should be neglected, our efforts will be more secure of success if we have the blessings of God upon them. This blessing we may hope to obtain through the advocacy of the saints of our country, especially through the aid and protection of that great Saint who holds the first place as the leader, the model, and the inspirer of that glorious band.

Then we feel deeply the exclusion of Irish Catholics from every position.

We could find no better antidote than to call up before our minds the majestic figure of St. Patrick; to renew our allegiance to the faith which he has inculcated by word and example. That faith is the most precious inheritance which has come down to us through the ages; those virtues constitute the chief glories of our race. In early days the faith sanctity and learning of our countrymen shed a radiance over the greater part of Europe. In latter times they dignified and sanctified the sub-

We should also seek the aid of St. Patrick in combating the evil which has long been the blot on the fair fame of our country—the evil of drink. I have lately said so much about this vice that there is no need to dwell on it at present. I merely refer to it for the purpose of reminding the clergy and people that, as for the past two years, whenever a novena is held in preparation for the Feast of St. Patrick, the chief intention should be to obtain from Almighty God, through the intercession of our Patron Saint, the eradication of this vice from our midst.

Bourke Cockran On Future of Erin

Not as a warrior clad in armor, but as a priest in the vestments of religion, did St. Patrick effect the change, which remained as pure as when St. Patrick landed, which was based the civilization to which the liberties of to-day were largely attributable. The story of the Christ and Him crucified had been told with an eloquence characteristic of the Irish race and by the devotion of its missionaries and to the effects of their influence, the charters granted religious institutions by savages converted to the

When one looked back into the past, considered the changes of race and dynasty, the invasion, the revolutions, it was seen that the Irish remained as ours as when St. Patrick expounded to them the doctrine of the cross. Every means that ingenuity could employ, the speaker said, had been used to wash them off the face of the earth, when the wholesale slaughter by the soldier stopped the hangman came into action, there were burning fields and wasted industry, but under the ashes the embers still smouldered, and no sooner were the forces away than the flames burst forth anew, testifying to the world the indestructibility of the race. The remarkable thing about the Irish, denied a voice in the control of Government, was the tenacity with which they had clung to an ideal as embodied in the Catholic religion.

The speaker alluded to the imitations in religious beliefs in Europe, how the faith often changed with successive monarchs, but Ireland through all stood by its religious belief. Though churches were seized and priests exiled or forbidden to exercise their religious office, they crouched in garrets or in the mountain glens, there offering up the holy sacrifice of worship to God with a fervor known only to Irish hearts. The day of persecution had passed. The old churches were gone but new ones had sprung up in their places, that fidelity and fervor that adversity hadn't interfered with was not to be changed in this day of prosperity.

The speaker then drew some economic deductions from St. Patrick's mission. He said the religion of Christ taught democracy, the divine injunction of loving one's neighbor as one's self, setting forth the ideal of spiritual equality which carried out further meant political equality. The militant commercialism and material progress of the day was touched on, and the speaker said that the advanced civilization, the conquering of elements by man, were the fruits of Christianity emancipating labor. How to fix the share to which free labor was entitled was then a problem of the age with which mankind must grapple. To say that it was impossible of solution would be admitting that mankind was moving in a vicious circle. As the doctrine of the spiritual brotherhood of man resulted in the establishment of political equality it would, he believed,

nership of man in industry and when this was done the problem would be solved. When the employee no longer regarded his employer as an enemy, and when by increasing the productivity and widening the scope of industry, capital became more profitable and labor more prosperous as the result of harmonious partnership, then there would disappear many of the troubles and evils of the present. The solution of this problem, the speaker declared, opened up a new field for Christian civilization in which the Irish could play an important part.

Present conditions in the old land were then spoken of. Mr. Cockran said that Ireland to-day was without industrial development but in the scope of the twentieth century he believed there would be discovered those conditions essential to her prosperity. With the encouraging settlement of the land question, the people would get possession of their own soil and wherever he got a fair show the Irishman made the best of it. He didn't look forward so much to farming as to an industrial revival, the development of her commercialism, and the countries of the world anxious to solve the problem of transportation, availing themselves of the great natural harbors on the west coast of Erin as terminal points in the world's commerce. Ha looked forward to the day when the Straits of Dover would be tunneled by railways, and when Ireland would be the great continental port., regaining her monopoly of transportation, and prosperity. Cities would spring up and the country's industrial renaissance be assured. He believed the time had come for an instructible race to assume the primacy of civilization, and for Ireland to become the theatre of a mighty revival of prosperity, of peace and contentment, and in the twentieth century shedding the noble light of her civilization and progress upon all the world.

Long before the sound of music was mingled with the cheers of Ireland's faithful sons, as they lined the streets of Montreal, the College band had roused the students from their slumbers by a masterly rendering of "The Wearing of the Green," followed by the soft, refreshing strains of "Come Back to Erin." As the members of St. Patrick's Society listened to Ireland's call, their hearts went back at once to Erin winged by that appealing melody. They understood that this was a day of prayer and thanksgiving; that every true Irishman and adherent to the Faith brought to Ireland by St. Patrick should, while celebrating the glories of Patrick's name, return fervent thanks to his Creator for the protection He has extended to the martyr exiles of Erin, and humbly beseech Him to allay the sufferings of those who are yearning for the return of dear ones forced to seek a livelihood in foreign lands.

To begin this day of joy and prayer in a becoming manner, the members of St. Patrick's Literary Association received Holy Communion in a body. As the words of that beautiful hymn, "O Lord I am not Worthy," sung in a charming way by Mr. John Dineen, mingled with the "Corpus Domini" of the celebrant, the hearts of St. Patrick's laymen were filled with a glow that was manifest during the whole day. Mr. McGarry, in a powerful, pleasing voice, appealed to the patron of the day, "Hibernia's Champion Saint." The other soloists were Messrs. Fitzgerald, Fillion and Gelineau.

At 8.30 solemn High Mass was sung in the Collega Chapel. The decorations showed much taste and skill. The shamrock brightened up the large niche where a life-size statue of St. Patrick, draped in green and gold, rested. The Reverend Dr. M. A. McGarry officiated, with Rev. Fathers Tessier and Fitzhenry as deacon and sub-deacon. In the Sanctuary were Rev. Fathers Moehan, Crevier, Barry, Chauvin and Laurin. The sermon was preached by Rev. W. H. Condon. His text was "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; the people whom He hath chosen for His inheritance."

The Holy Rosary Mass, by Father Sorin, under the direction of Rev. Father Clement, was rendered in a very creditable manner. The soloists were Messrs. A. McGarry, John Donegan, Joseph Kennedy, John Maxwell, Charles Sullivan and Horace Gelineau. To praise one is to praise all; the gentlemen acquitted themselves equally well.

After the Mass the members of St. Patrick's Society retired to the College gymnasium, where with song and story telling they spent the forenoon hours.

At 2 o'clock p.m. the Association held its annual banquet. Among the guests present were the Rev. Dr. McGarry, Reverend Fathers Meanhan, Condon, Tessier, Fitzhenry. The toasts were: "Irish Heroes," Mr. Francis Hinchey, President of the Society; "Our Society," Mr. Francis Sullivan; "Our Alma Mater," Mr. Joseph Kennedy; "Our Canadian Members," Horace Gellineau; "The Future of St. Patrick's Society," Mr. James McCarthy; "The Land Across the Sea," Mr. Timothy McCarthy; "Our Sister Societies," Mr. Michael Doherty; "Rhetoric Class," John Maxwell; "The Day we Celebrate," John L. Cooney; "Our American Members," Mr. John Dinien.

Mr. E. Trudeau, representing St. Jean Baptiste Society, assured the members of St. Patrick's Society that he took the honor and pleasure of being in their midst, not for himself, but for the society he represented. Mr. Lagace, President of the Musical Society, extended the good wishes of his fellow members for the success of the confraternity whose hearty guest he was pleased to call himself. Mr. Hinchey, after expressing regret at his inability to do justice to his toast, gave a glowing eulogy on "Ireland's Heroes." Mr. Joseph Kennedy, toasting "Our Alma Mater," concluded the banquet.

that on this day of thanksgiving there was one who, forging the iron of their youth into the steel of manhood, should be remembered in their prayers and rejoicings. As a tribute to "Our Canadian Members," Horace Gelineau endeavored to show the good work accomplished and the high standing reached by these gentlemen. He spoke of the mutual sympathies which should always exist between the Canadian and American members, expressing the hope that the Society would always foster such sentiments. "The Future of St. Patrick's Society," was proven to be most encouraging by Mr. James McCarthy, who brought forth in the clearest light the promising talents budding among the younger members; he deserves much credit for his thorough treatment of the subject. The true patriotism which burns in the hearts of Ireland's exiled sons was most feelingly illustrated in Mr. Timothy McCarthy's toast "The Land Across the Sea." Mr. Dorothy, the Society's ex-president and most loyal member, after pleasantly introducing his toast, gave a most creditable account of himself in his acknowledgments to the "Sister Societies." No better choice than that of Mr. John Maxwell could have been made for the toast "Members of the Rhetoric Class of 1904"; the pleasant way in which he acquitted himself of his part is to his highest credit; from what he had read he saw a most honorable calling for each and every one in the class. As Mr. John Cooney rose to the toast "The Day We Celebrate," his cool, clear cut delivery told his fellow members how and why they should rejoice on St. Patrick's day, and congratulated the Committee on the successful turn of the celebration. Mr. John Dineen, replying to the toast "Our American Members," received well merited applause. He spoke of a chain linking Canada and the United States as no other can; that chain, said Mr. Dineen, is formed of sons of Erin who, during that woeful famine, were forced to beg the aid of their Canadian and American brothers. The last speaker, but by no means the least, was Mr. Francis Fullam. As toastmaster this young man received applause equalled only by that which followed as he toasted "Our Society." Mr. Fullam needs no greater praise than that of upholding his long-established reputation as a ready speaker.

After hearing the last speaker, all returned to the tastefully decorated gymnasium, where a pleasant afternoon was spent. In the evening the College band gave a concert; the programme was made up principally of Irish and American airs, and contributed much towards heightening the eclat of the celebration.

The committee on arrangements was composed of Mr. Hinchey, chairman; Messrs. Francis Fullam, Charles Rohr, John Maxwell, George Kane, James Dolan, Henry Cunningham. These gentlemen deserve much credit for their tasty menu, and for their attention to the preparation of an unsurpassed and perhaps unequalled celebration of Ireland's festal day.

If I may speak for the students, and if I voice the sentiments of those who leave St. Laurent College this year, perhaps never to return, I can say from the bottom of my heart that the souvenirs of St. Patrick's day, 1904, at St. Laurent, the impressive sermon, the interchange of mutual sympathy, the patriotic after-dinner speeches, the smile of happiness that reigned on every countenance, will ever brighten the gloom which one day may bring; and my own fond hope is that when on each recurring St. Patrick's Day, a son of St. Laurent comes back to nestle at "Alma Mater's knee," he may find this time-honored celebration keeping the pace set by the students of 1904.

The officers of St. Patrick's Literary Association for the year 1904 are :

President—J. Francis Hinchey.

Vice-President—Joseph L. Kennedy
Rec. Sec.—Francis Fullam.

Treasurer—Horace A. Gelineau.

Librarian—Timothy McCarthy.

H. A. G.

THE SESSION is on, and so far accomplished has seemed as if the marking time until the Bill would be over. The House returned on Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock, and on the Tuesday after Easter only four bills have been introduced, and one of them, the Millers' Bill, has occupied most of this week. The Minister-General's report was brought down on Tuesday, and until that is considered a speech is delivered, no business can be done with the Estimates. However, that seems to be the programme of the session. The Minister-General returned up the Estimates and Grand Trunk Pacific amendments, and the contract and bill of lading amendments. It best these cannot occur within two months—probably less. The members are anxious to get their \$1500 of session money, and to clear off with the Treasury as much expense as possible. Still, the Minister-General forward to a pretty good extent, and when it comes to the Grand Trunk Pacific Bill, There is so much to be said about the session that so very little is done, that the parliament is a good deal more content has but poor material to work upon.

A LECTURE—For this will have to turn to another one that cannot fail to interest many of the readers of "The Witness." I refer to the lecture before the Académie de la Sorbonne, at the Rideau Station, on Monday last, by Francis Waters, M.A., of the interesting and historic subject, "The First." Needless to say, that a very large and select audience listened to what, in my opinion, was a wonderfully interesting and delightfully literary lecture. I am sorry that I cannot say any further comment except to urge you to attempt to give a brief summary of the address — and it will be most constructive for many Catholics.

At the very outset Mr. ... informed his audience that ... intention of approaching ... from the standpoint of re ... controversy, nor did he desig ... upon the perpetual strugg ... he claims of the Anglican ... the Catholic Churches, ... period in which Mary T ... ed. He simply wished to ... terrible calumny—that am ... of calling Mary “Bloody Mary,” and of ... her deeds and charact ... her opposite of the tru ... ended the life of Queen M ... distinct, but very une ... from her birth until her t ... year, when she became ... Queen; and from thence ... x years later when she c ... of ex and exemplary dea ... those first thirty-seven y ... as a child of happeni ... and general worship on t ... who had to do with ... period of exceeding pe ... favorable child, girl and ... an. During the last si ... as the victim of enviro ... circumstances, of jealous ... religious hatred, cruel de ... he was racked from wit ... tures that amounted ... and from without by the ... combination of adver ... that, in all the annals ... ever centered upon ... tectum. Treachery, dece ... scription, a father's cru ... raser of crime; a murder ... in illegitimate sister's ha ... neglect and cruelty of a h ... the constant plotting of ... ters, combined to make ... in a perfect life in the ... crimes countless commit ... mance, when all the st ...

Father Young's On Plain

A representative of the Sun had an interview with Father Young, who has charge of St. Francis Xavier parish in that city, in regard to the Encyclical Letter of Pope Pius X. on the subject of Modernism. Father Young said: "I am only awaiting the publication of the encyclical to make Farley's decision before."