

Edited by
St. Michael's
College Boys

College Column

Thanksgiving Day is essentially an American holiday. But familiar as its celebration is to everyone of the present day, few know the circumstances of its origin. This day, the apotheosis of fullness and plenty, was first celebrated in a hardy and barren country, by stern, ascetic people, the Puritans of Massachusetts. If we go back to their time and read their story, we will better appreciate the spirit in which Thanksgiving Day was conceived.

Three centuries have passed since the Pilgrim Fathers left England for the sake of their religious privileges. First they went to Holland, but being unwilling to forget their national existence, they determined to go to America. They returned to England, formed a company, and started in two ships, the "Speedwell" and the famous "Mayflower," for the New World. On the voyage the "Speedwell" leaked, and both had to return to port. Here their difficulties increased, and some of the band remained in England. The rest, just one hundred and two men, women and children, crowded on board the "Mayflower" and once more started for America.

After a stormy voyage the Pilgrims finally came in sight of land, and after reconnoitering the coast, Capt. Miles Standish effected a landing in December, 1620, on what has since been famous as Plymouth Rock. On Christmas morning they began the construction of their first dwelling-house. The sufferings of the Pilgrims during this first winter were terrible. Before spring half of them died, but the rest were steadfast, and under the leadership of two or three strong men, the colony survived all the perils of the wilderness. The following summer the men planted corn, barley, and wheat, under the tuition of the Indians. The latter showed the Pilgrims the best places to fish, and taught them to hunt and trap.

So, when the first frosts arrived, the Pilgrims had gathered a bountiful harvest. Their hearts were filled with gratitude, for they knew they would not again suffer as they had in the previous winter. They resolved to set aside a day to thank God, who had blessed their labors and nourished their crops with sunshine and rain. But a day did not seem long enough, and they decided to keep a week of thanksgiving. Their Indian friends were invited to the feast. It was Indian summer; a soft veil hung over the landscape, and the air was balmy with fragrance, a fire was built, and a long table spread in the open air. But before they permitted themselves to eat anything, the Pilgrims had several hours of sermons, hymns and general thanksgiving. When they finally sat down to dinner they had an appetite, more than that, they had sides of venison and head meat, great browned turkeys stuffed with beechnuts, baked oysters, pumpkin pies, and in the centre of all a monstrous stew of small game, partridge, and quail. The Indian Chief had brought as his gift a basket full of popped corn, an Indian delicacy, unknown to the white men. But as he compared his offering with the many fruits of the white men's toil, he was dissatisfied, and grumbled "Ugh! The Great Spirit loves his white children best!"

We know that this was not true. The earth's riches were there for anyone to gather, the sun shone on red man and white, the forests and the deep sea were open to his exploiting.

Blue laws and bigotry have read of in history, Massachusetts and Maryland compared in point of toleration, and the Catholic attitude has always been fair. Catholics have their Thanksgiving Day every day. The Mass makes it so. Greater solemnity is added for the special feasts, commemorating the lives of our Lord, His Blessed Mother and His loving saints. Yet the Church, that never changes her heaven-sent belief, does often change her disciples and extend her practices to meet the legitimate outpourings of her people's emotions. On Thanksgiving Day, then, all should join alike in giving special thanks for the fruits of our labors during the year, not only in the fields, but elsewhere as our vocation directs.

F. B.

In none of her graduates does the College take more affectionate interest than in the Hon. J. J. Foy, the present Attorney-General of this province, for in none has she encountered a kinder, filial feeling. It is more than forty years ago since he was here, a boy, and the interval has been a busy one for him. For years he was a successful lawyer, and then political life cast its spell upon him. At the outset he was in opposition, but so helpful were his efforts that when the Conservatives came into power they offered him the portfolio of Attorney-General. In discharging the duties of that office he has given such satisfaction that he holds the same distinction in a second term.

The Hon. Mr. Foy's talent is not of the noisy, declamatory kind. His gift is painstaking labor and clear statement, coupled with a graceful humor which robs the dry bones of law of their grimness, and qualifies the asperities of political debate. In College matters he always takes a kindly interest. For years he was president of the Alumni Association, and is still an active member of the executive committee of that body.

Mr. Foy is at present in Europe on a pleasant trip, which his energetic disposition has well earned.

J. J. Cassidy, M.D., was for many years the College physician, and the memory of his skill endures, even yet in our midst. He was present at the Alumni dinner a few weeks ago, and his speech, grave, wise and witty, was a reminder to the boys of to-day that of old, as well as now, boys learned to think clearly and express their thoughts gracefully.

Of late years the Doctor has withdrawn from practice to cultivate the literary side of his profession. Questions of hygiene had always an interest for him, and we are glad to learn that the Doctor's real talent is as successful in this new field, as it was in that of applied medicine. Every-

thing he has acquired by the active and energetic use of his faculties. It is characteristic of him, that he is always ready to learn, and that he is always approachable to those who always approach him. He is frank and outspoken and exercises a large influence over all with whom he comes in contact.

R. P. D.

On Thursday evening Rev. Father Minehan delivered a lecture to the students on "Rome and St. Peter's." Mr. John Bennett, in a few well-chosen words, introduced the speaker. Rev. Father Minehan was greeted with great applause as he came forward. In his first remarks he spoke about St. Peter's in general, and then described the minute details, dwelling on the description of the dome, piazza and facade. When we enter this mighty edifice a feeling almost supernatural thrills us, seeing for the first time the object of our dreams. Everything is in harmony; the tombs, mosaic walls, and pillars, skilfully adorned by the greatest of sculptors. In conclusion the reverend speaker described St. Peter's tomb, where lies the rock on which Christ built His Church. A vote of thanks was tendered by Messrs. M. Mulligan, '10, and Mr. James Walsh, '10, who in very natty speeches voiced the sentiments of the assembly.

The second regular meeting of St. Michael's Literary Society was held Friday evening, when the discussion of the constitution, tabled at the last special meeting, was taken up. During the progress of the meeting Mr. John Bennett, '09, read an essay on Shakespeare, giving a sketch of the great author's life and the circumstances which brought into play his wonderful genius in various tragedies and comedies. It was an excellent work and was very well received. Mr. Harry Bellisle, '10, also read an essay on "Civilization in England," dealing with the vicissitudes of English life, and the various influences, which affected the people. The reading was enjoyed by all and showed careful preparation on the part of the reader. A letter was read from Brother Rogation, formerly of De La Salle Institute, but now of Cuba, in which the writer paid a high tribute to St. Michael's boys for their excellent work in College Column.

The Alumni Executive are hard at work on some new and very progressive scheme which will soon be set on foot. Dr. Amyot, Messrs. J. P. Menway, Thos. Mulvy, E. V. O'Sullivan, have manifested much zeal of late in seeking to solve successfully the problems set before them.

The St. Patrick's Club of Hamilton, an organization under the guidance of Rev. Father Coty, an alumnus of the house, sent a football team to visit us last Saturday. The boys were well pleased with their outing and made many friends in the house during their short stay. They were entertained at supper, after which an impromptu programme was run off in the club room. Speeches were made by Messrs. Lahey and Brown of Hamilton and Murray and Powers of the College.

The first open meeting of the Glee Club was held Wednesday evening. An interesting programme was run off and was very well received by the boys.

The graduates of the past few years who are at present in the Seminary at Montreal, have without exception been successful in their work, thus far, as is evidenced by the fact that each has received the call to orders for which he was eligible. We are pleased to note that our sister institution, Assumption College, at Sandwich, has a similar record.

B. P. F.

Handball has been in the foreground with the students lately.

The feature which aroused their interest was the winning of the silverware which is attached to the Inter-Collegiate Handball Championship. The final game between St. Michael's and Dental College was played on the "Victorias" alleys on Saturday last, St. Michael's winning by a score of 21-17.

The season has been very interesting. Losing their first two games, the boys fought a hard, up-hill proposition, finally landing the cup. Mr. Heffron, in charge, is an indefatigable worker and his opponents speak of his hand drives with awe. J. O'Connor, V. Quarry and C. Coughlin earnestly seconded his efforts, and to them belongs the credit of securing the first athletic trophy of the year. Each club had two teams in the League, one in each series, and the winners played off for the championship. Series A team was made up of Mr. J. Casey, D. O'Connor, P. Kelley, B. Power and W. Clark. Series B team consisted of C. Coughlin, W. Heffron, J. O'Connor and V. Quarry. A team lost its series to the Dental College A Team by one game. B team won all the games of its series and finally defeated the Dental's A team by the score of 21-17, thus winning the cup.

St. Patrick's Rugby Club of Hamilton visited us on Saturday last, with Reg. Brown in charge. The game took place on the College grounds and proved to be one of the best of the season. Both teams were about evenly balanced in weight, and this made the issue of the game more dependent upon the headwork of the back divisions. At half-time the score stood 2-0 in favor of the mountaineers, but in the last half the students kicked twice to the dead line, thus evening up. At the end of the first five minutes' of overtime the score still remained a tie. In the second period, while the play was in mid-field, Captain Johnny Powers caught what was intended for an on-side kick, and carried the ball to the Hamilton ten-yard line. It was carried over for a try just as time expired, and St. Michael's were victorious.

The Third Team played the final game of the City League Series against the Capitals at Jesse Ketchum Park. The score was 17-0 in favor of Capitals. St. Michael's line was much lighter than their opponents and this gave the Caps a decided advantage. However, the hors-mad-

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League of the Sacred Heart Notes.

In the current Messenger of the Sacred Heart, Bishop O'Connor of Newark, N.J., writes on this month's intention—"devotion to the Saints." It is not surprising, he said, that the Holy Father has asked the members of the League of the Sacred Heart to pray fervently for a widespread increase of devotion to the Saints. No one who has followed attentively the course of his pontificate can fail to observe the zeal and energy with which he has endeavored to enkindle in all hearts that fire of divine love which burned so ardently in the souls of the saints. He would have us understand that what is most needed in order to restore all things in Christ is not profound learning or skill in controversy or even zeal for souls, but rather true and sincere holiness of life. He wishes us all first to reform our own souls and to adorn them with sanctity before we proceed to convert others.

Charity, he would remind us, begins at home. If each and every Catholic would take up in earnest the work of sanctifying his own soul and making it more and more pleasing to God, the task of converting mankind to the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ would with the help of God's grace become comparatively easy. We cannot blame men for judging us by the standard mentioned by our Lord Himself: "By their fruits ye shall know them." Whether we like it or not, men will estimate the value and excellence of our religion by the lives of those who profess our faith. The bad or lukewarm Catholic not only injures his own soul but retards the progress of the Church of which he is an unworthy member.

This whole-souled consecration of ourselves to God's service may seem to us beyond our strength, but let us never lose sight of the fact that the saints were only human beings like ourselves, a subject to the same difficulties, trials, and temptations. If they succeeded as well, what is to prevent us from attaining the same success? Opportunities are open to us no less than to them. They did not reach the heights of sanctity suddenly, but by slow and often painful process. Each grace faithfully responded with became a source of new strength. So, too, we may become saints by sanctifying each act of our daily lives. It is well for us to remember that there have been great saints in every walk of life from the highest to the lowest. Often they were not recognized as saints during their early pilgrimage, but God, Who reads the secrets of the heart, knew and loved them as His own chosen friends.

Their lives remind us that we, too, however weak and frail we may be when relying on our own strength, can, with the all-powerful help of God's grace, make our lives sublime as they did by the practice of humility, self-denial, patience and the many other supernatural virtues which have their root and source in true, sincere, and fervent love in God. Such is assuredly the aim which the Holy Father had in view when he calls upon the members of the League of the Sacred Heart to join their prayers with his that all the faithful may cultivate a deeper and more fervent devotion to the saints.

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer Thee my prayers, works and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of Thy Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacri-

face of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all our Associates and in particular for the spread of Devotion to the Saints.

All our lives long we might talk of Jesus, and yet we should never come to an end of the sweet things that are to be said about Him. Eternity will not be long enough to learn all He is, or to praise Him for all He has done; but then that matters not, for we shall always be with Him, and we desire nothing more.—Father Faber.

The New St. Paul Cathedral

Up to the present time the total cost of the crypt or basement, of the new million-dollar cathedral of St. Paul, Minn., amounts to \$233,407.46, and the last range of granite, forming the water-table, has been put in place, making this portion of the new structure complete. All of the concrete footings for the foundation have been laid, and the outer walls have been finished to the water-table, which is twenty-four feet six inches above the concrete footings.

The concrete varies in thickness from two to nine feet, according to the load to be carried. The largest concrete slabs are those under the piers that will support the dome. These are eight feet thick and over fifty-three feet on a side and are heavily reinforced with nine-inch steel rods.

The inner retaining walls have been brought up seventeen feet eight inches in height. These walls are ten feet thick at the bottom. The outer walls vary in thickness from two feet eight inches (under the center chapel at the west end) to twenty feet ten inches (under the two towers flanking the main entrance).

The eight piers that are to support the dome, four of Kettle river stone and four of brick, have been brought as high as they can go before the main floor is laid. The granite work is completed to the water-table—the water-table itself included.

A general summary of the work shows a total excavation of 65,000 yards; concrete footings, 5,810, 1,000,000 bricks, making 231,283 cubic yards; Kettle River stone, 39,692 cubic feet; granite from the Rockville quarries, 13,403 superficial feet. The three-quarter-inch steel rods which have been used in the construction thus far would be over six miles in length if placed end to end.

"He's for ever prating about what his conscience tells him. What does his conscience tell him, anyway?" "Apparently it usually tells him what awful sinners his neighbors are."

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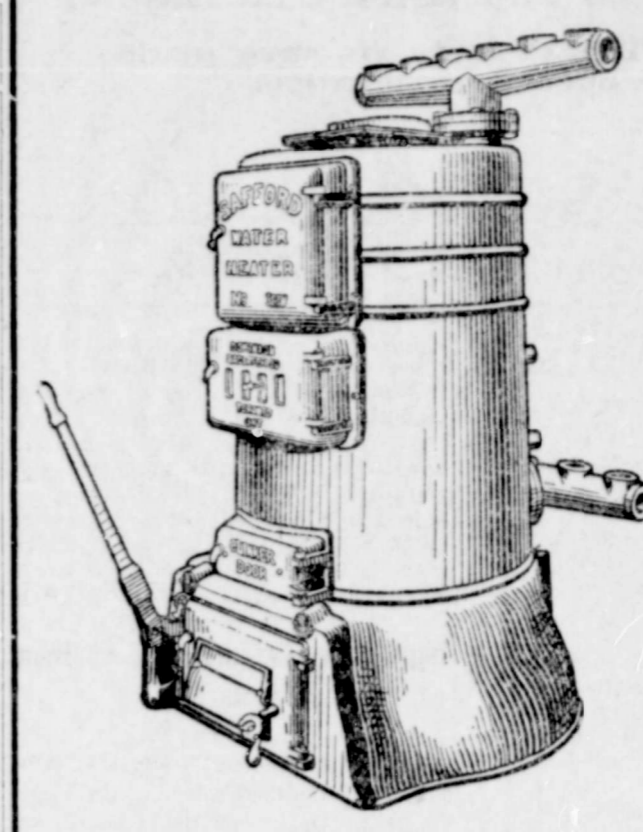
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