

PATRIOTIC SPEECHES.



WE print with pleasure the four following speeches delivered in reply to the four Irish toasts that had a place on the programme of the St. Patrick's Day Banquet. Every discourse delivered on that occasion deserved reproduction in the pages of *THE OWL*, but lack of space prevents our doing what, under other circumstances, would have been a pleasant duty. We are persuaded that no one will regard our distinction as invidious. — EDITORS.

THE DAY.

Response by John J. Garland '96.

Mr. Toastmaster, Rev. Fathers and Gentlemen:—

It is not without much hesitation that I arise to respond to this time-honored yet ever-welcome toast. I perceived, but alas too late, that in accepting this honor I had placed a much too heavy burden on my shoulders, for I am entirely incapable of doing the subject justice; yet I am consoled by the thought that even had my pen the magic beauty of a Tennyson and my expression the resistless eloquence of a Cicero, I could hardly expect to do justice to such a noble and inspiring theme.

Every people and nation from time immemorial have had their feast-days; the Romans had their Saturnalia, England has her Sovereign's birth-day, the United States her Fourth of July, Canada her Dominion Day and Ireland her St. Patrick's Day. We might ask "Who was St. Patrick?" and answer with Americans when asked "Who was George Washington?" After God, "First in the hearts of his countrymen." Where is the Celt whose enthusiasm is not aroused at the mention of Erin's patron, and why not? Was it not, as the poet sings, "St. Patrick

who brought to our mountains, the gift of God's faith, the sweet light of his love!" Was it not St. Patrick who left home and country and everything that was dear to him to convert a pagan people, to toil and suffer, aye even to give up his life if necessary to bring them the true word of Christ?

St. Patrick sacrificed everything but he did not labor in vain, for those whom he addressed eagerly accepted the doctrines of the cross and left to the world a people so imbued with the true faith, that, like the rock on which Christ built His church ages have been unable to shake their constancy. He had civilized a people whose descendants have followed in his footsteps, enlightening the world not only in religion, but also in literature, art and science. Ireland has been termed the "Isle of Saints and Scholars," and not unjustly, for she has produced some of the brightest intellects the world has ever known. Ireland herself has been a kind and tender mother to her offspring; but, as is too often the case, the victor has ill-treated and made a wanderer of the defeated, yet unconquered Celt, and Irishmen have been dispersed like chaff in the wind, to the four corners of the earth. But while Ireland and the Gael suffered, other lands and peoples benefited; history relates innumerable instances of Irish heroes bringing the palm of victory to their adopted country; yet, amidst all such glory they have never ceased to remain faithful to the land of their birth. They have also persevered in their religion although subject to most cruel persecutions; on its account their enemies have oft attempted to destroy the Irish priesthood, the members of which have at times been hunted about like beasts of prey. Yet history tells us that the Irish people and Irish priests have never been disunited; "they lived, loved, and died