(By J. P. I. Callaghan.)

Of the family of falconidae or birds of prey, the largest, grandest and most powerful is the eagle. It has a large, strong beak, slightly rounded wings, its fourth primary feather being the longest its legs feathered to the toes, claws are curved and fitted for tearing their prey.

The eagle may be divided into three classes, viz. : The Golden, (Aquila chrysaetos); the Imperial of Europe, (A. imperialis); the Bald eagle of America, (Haliaetus leucocephalus); the great Harpy, (Harpyia destructor).

The first and most noted is Golden eagle, distinguished for its majestic size, great power of vision, strength of wing, rapid flight, indomitable courage, and almost resist less powers of attack. It is justly considered the king of birds, and is to be found both in Europe and America. The mountainous parts of Scotland are particularly noted for them It is seldom seen in the Eastern States, but is common in the Northwest. It is of a dark brownish color, the back of the head, the neck and the end of the tail feathers are of a golden hue, whence it de rives its name. In flight it is singularly beautiful and imposing, but on land its gait is encumbered by its long talons. Its food usually consists of sea-birds, and smaller quadrupeds, such as hares, rabbits, etc. Its nest is built of sticks, rushes and grass, on some high cliff or tree, and it lays two small dull white eggs, shaded with brown. The young are fledged about the beginning of August.

The parent birds are very solicitous for their young, and provide lib-erally for the wants of the helpless brood. While they occupy the nest it is very dangerous to approach, as the eagles are then extremely fierce and daring. As soon as the eaglets are able to cater for themselves they are roused to exertion by their natural guardians, constrained to quit the nest, incited to ply their wings, instructed by example how to use them, and aided in their early attempts, till with confidence and courage, they can cleave the air like their parents.

That children have been carried off by this bird is extremely improbable, and some of these pretty stories in which children have thrilling escapes, are more the invention of their au thor's fertile brain, than authentic facts. Still. when very hungry it has been known to carry off young

Next to the Golden eagle come the Imperial one; its figure is commonly used as an heraldic emblem The bicipital or double-headed eagle is now the emblem of the Austrian and Russian empires.

Next in order the white-headed or bald eagle, which spreads over near ly the whole northern part of America, but notably around Niagara This splendid bird is about three feet long, and seven feet from the tip of one wing to the other. The head neck and tail are pure white, the rest of the plumage nearly black. The re presentation of the Bald cagle form the national emblem of the United States, and is often introduced as an opposite symbol of human royal sacred and secular literature On the monuments of Nineveh, the head and wings frequently occur as mode in which this bird obtains its prey is thus graphically described by Audubon. The scene is in Mississir pi, and the eagle is perched on the top of the tallest tree, on the mar

"The wild, trumpet-like sound of yet distant but approaching swan is heard. The eagle shakes the whol of his body, and with a few toucher of his bill, he arranges his plumage in an instant. The snow-white bird is now in sight; her long neck is stretched forward; her eye is on th watch, vigilant as that of her enemy; her large wings seem with diffialty to support the weight of her tiody, although they flap incessantly so irksome do her exertions seem that her legs are spread beneath her tail to aid her flight. She ap-proaches, however. The eagle has arked her for his prey. As the swan is passing, he starts from his perch, in full preparation for the chase, with an awful scream that, to the swan's ear, brings more terror than the report of the large duck-

"Now is the moment to witness the eagle's powers. He glides through the air like a falling star, and like a flash of lightning comes upon the timorous quarry, which sow, in agony and despair, seeks.

ABOUTEAGLES by various manoeuvres, to elude the grasp of his cruel talons; it mounts, doubles, and willingty would plunge into the stream, were it not vented by the eagle, which, long pos sed of the knowledge that by such a stratagem the swan might escape him, forces it to remain in the by attempting to strike it with its

> "The hope of escape is soon given up by the swan. It has already become much weakened, and its strength fails at the sight of the ge and strength of its antagonist. Its last grasp is about to eswhen the ferocious eagle strikes with his talons the under-side of its wing, and with unresisted power, forces the bird to fall in a slanting direction upon the nearest shore. He presses down his powerful feet, and drives his sharp claws deep into the heart of the dying swan. He then, with his mate, gorges himself with the blood of the luckless victim."

The third and last is the Harpy belonging to the South and Central Americas, Mexico, and has been in Texas. Its body is ashygrey and black, head and under-parts dull white, and feet yellowish. of about the same dimensions as the Bald eagle. If taken young it can tamed. The Incas of Peru and the Aztec used to train Harpies to hunt just as falcons were trained in Europe

Millions And

Titles

(By An Occasional Contributor.)

One of our American contemporar ies says:-

"An American heiress to \$30,000,-000, Miss Goelet, is to marry a titled Englishman. The Duke of Roxeburg is not supposed to be fortune hunter, but a lover who is well able to marry the heiress Ogden Goelet. The heiress has been engaged to other nobles at various times, as has been reported, but the winning of the prize fell to the house of Rozeburg. Thus more American millions go out of this country to coffers of English luds.

And it could be added, "the coffers of the titled ones of almost every land in Europe." But who has any right to complain? Surely not the Americans. With all their land vaunted democracy, there is not on earth a people more hungry for titles, for honors, for aristocratic privileges than these same Ameri-In fact, it may be reasonably concluded that the lord, or prince, or whatever else he may be who se cures a wife and millions has the right to feel that he receives only what can be got by any man, while on the American side is received that which cannot be found at home, this side of the Atlantic. Go to New York and you find the most haughty, high-headed, blue-blooded imitation of aristocracy in the upper 400, the select sets, the descendants of the old Dutch settlers. Go to Newport and you have that same spirit ried to an extreme that is only rendered the more ridiculous when it is accompanied with protestations of aristocratic principles. No land in the world is as lavish with its titles of distinction; and in no land do the ordinary people show such a desire to bestow on a person every title possible. Thus they imagine that they demonstrate stranger that they associate with nen who bear such titles - a mere fevered hankering after distinction In Europe they are still worse. They use every imaginable means to cure an entry into the very society of the "me luds," and they cringe and resort to any kind of bemean cringe ing methods in order to attain that very coveted honor. If they would make no fuss about it no would pay any attention; but this perpetual disclaiming all care for titles and honors merely accentuates the fact that with all their democracy they are utterly subservient in this regard, and the few wno not crying out on account of it being, with them, a case of "sour grapes.

Subscribe to the

"True Witness

OBITUARY.

MRS. McCARTHY.-The death of Mrs. Catherine McCarthy, Mr. D. K. McCarthy of Duluth John Cantwell, Quebec, is announced

The sad event occurred at Duluth, July 11th. The funeral was held to St. James Church, where a solemr Requiem Mass was chanted by Rev Father Feehely, wno also, at the conclusion of the Mass made allusion to the many good works which the deceased had taken part in the parish of which she had been so long a member. The remains interred in Calvary Cemetery. -R

PLAIN TALK.

At Calgary the Catholics are about fourth of the population, which is 6,000. They are not all Catholics of the best type, however! Most of speak English.-Missionary Record of O. M. I.

A VICE OF THE VIRTUOUS.

The peculiarity of ill-temper is that it is the vice of the virtuous. It is often the one blot on an otherwise noble character. You know men and women who are all but perfect but for an easily ruffled, quick-tempered or "touchy" disposition. This com-patibility of ill-temper with high moral character is one of the strangest and saddest, problems of ethics .-Henry Drummond.

EDITOR AND HIS CRITICS.

It never occurs to us to call upon any of our customers who are butch ers, bakers, grocers or bootmakers to tell them how they should run their businesses. Everybody, ever, seems to consider himself fit to run a newspaper, and we have seen many efforts by such people come to an ignominious end. We have little hope, however, that these will serve as a warning to others, for the crop of skillful newspaper conductors (in their own opinion) seems to increase than diminish.-From London Monitor and New Era.

A NON-CATHOLIC VIEW.

Speaking the other day at the laying of the foundation stone of a new Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Chapel Mr. Lloyd George, M.P., said that sometimes they criticised the Roman Catholic Church very severely, but there was no church that had made surer and deeper search into hu man nature. That Church, the greatest religious organization whole world, conducted its worship in a common tongue. The Catholics conducted their worship in the language of worship. Church utilized every means for taking people away from everyday interests, and sought to induce to forget what was outside. language of commerce and of everyday occupations was thus left outside, and the people were taught the language of worship. This showed a shrewd, deep insight into the humind. The Welsh preserved their language for the hearth and distataste for titles and detestation the language of commerce, the language of professions, the language of even fo 'Honorables," its "Generals," its was afraid, but the Welsh language "Colonels, its "Captains," its "Professors," its "Doctors," and all its of the altar.

IN THE NORTHWEST.

Father Cherrier, a parish priest in Winnipeg, and editor of the "North spoke in his church west Review," few Sundays ago about the oppression practised upon the Catho lics of Manitoba, in school affairs, by the Protestant set tlers in the province. Referring to the bigotry which will not allow nun's dress to be worn by the teach ers of Catholic children, "he pointed the finger of scorn at the hypocrites who, while laying the corr of their own schools with all tomfoolery insigma of secret societies vet profess to be shocked at those cent uniform rather than to en age the vanity of their pupils by the ostentatious display of their own.'
-Missionary Record, O. M. I.

One hundred years ago there were in the whole United States 25,000 Catholics. To-day there are easily 12,000,000. And yet we occasionally read articles on the leakage in

RAILROADS.

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PATENTS

DATENT PROMPTLY SECURED

AT LOURDES

Mr. Henry Blount, who is one o the Hospitaliers at Lourdes, writing recently, stated that there were over 80,000 pilgrims then at Lourdes.

A MEMORIAL CROSS.

A splendid memorial cross has b erected over the grave of the late Dr. J. E. Kenny in Glasnevin Cemetery. It was unveiled by Mr. John Redmond, M.P., recently.

CLERGY AND LAITY

The reception accorded to the Rev. Arthur Murphy, P.P. of Brosna, by the people of Castleisland and Bro he travelled to the place on a recent Friday for the pur taking up the pastoral charge left vacant by the death Neligan affords, says the "Cork Examiner," a striking instance of the indissoluble ties of affection, veneration, and abiding love which exist between the priests and people of Ireland. When it became people of Iretand. When it became known in Castleisland that the rev. gentleman was to pass through the town on his way to the scene of his future spiritual labors, the people turned out en masse, and accorded him a cead mille failthe of such an inspiriting and enthusiastic character as he will be accorded to the such as the s

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Decorated Tollet Sets, consisting of five pieces. It is an unfrequent occurrence to purchase ware of this character at this price, per set....\$1.25

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A LETTER AND LESSON.

Mr. Maurice Murphy writes as folows from the Crown Hotel, Castleisland, to the "Kerry People," his letter being dated August 6, 1903:-'Sir,-Miss Leahy gave me enclosed opy of letter from Daniel O'Connell which she found recently amongst her father's papers. It appears he was in the habit of travelling by coach from Castleisland and Abbeyfeale, the old mail coach road. I thought it may interest your readers, especially that part where he shows great regard for the Mass. Letters cost 10d. postage those days, and it was the who received the communication had to pay the money." The copy of O'Connell's letter is as follows :-Tralee, 15th January, Friday, Sir, -I will be at your house about two o'clock on Sunday. Have four horses ready for me by two o'clock. Take care the driver hears Mass. I will not arrive until after the last Mass and will not allow any man to drive me who lost Mass.—Truly yours, Daniel O'Connell." The letter written on January 15, 1886. Leahy, to whom it was addre was an innkeeper at Abbeyfeale.

A CATHOLIC GENTLEMAN.

"A Catholic gentleman," said the Rev. Owen H. Hill, S.J., in his bac Nev. Owen H. Hill, S.J., in his bac-calaureate address to the graduates of Fordham College, U.S.A., "is a saint in private life and a public spirited citizen of right principles and sound integrity. He takes a strong hand in the stirring affairs of his time. He is possessed of every true virtue from love of God and re-ligion to love of country and author-ity."

IRISH FISHERIES

iring last year the Irish fisher

IRISH STATISTICS. The thirty-ninth detailed annual report of the Registrar-General for Ireland containing a full abstract of the number of births, marriages and deaths in Ireland during the year 1902 has just been published. In the general summary with which the report opens we are told that the births registered in Ireland during the year numbered 101,863, the mar-22,949, and the deaths 77, riages The marriage rate, which stood 676. at 5.18 per 1000 of the estimated population, showed an increase 0.10 as compared with that for preceding year, and was 0.27 abo the average for the ten years 1893 1901, and higher than the rate for any of those years. The birth-rate, 23.0 per 1,000, was 0.3 above the rate for the preceding year, but 0.1 under the average rate for the sa 1,000, was 0.3 below the rate the preceding year, and 0.8 below the average rate for the ten years 1892 1901. The recorded natural increa of population or excess of births over deaths was 24,187. The loss by em gration amounted to 40,190. The would thus appear to have been crease of 16,003 in the population during the year, but against this decrease there is a small set-off in immigration, of which no official record has been obtained. The estimated population in the middle of the year vas 4,482,274,

A SUGGESTION.

The Duke of Norfolk, in ing £5 5s. to the National Memory, the Venerable Bede, writes to retary:—'May I venture to ss a hope that in any inscript

Lady Blessing

By "CRUX"

SATURDAY, SEP

EW Irishwomen known, half a than Lady Bless extraordinary 1 rolific mind, her outions to literature, all the leadi eurs, politicians and st her time, her patronage etters, her wonderfully eceptions, her palace-like her connection by blood with some of the the great, and the memo tims of persecution in I tended to make her nam hold word during almost three score years of her attractive life. She lisixty years. She was bo . 1789, and died in

ber, 1849. The leading events of t life constitute almost a l he struggles of Ireland a riumphs of literature d whole first half of the entury. And in all grea ents she had her part. Sl riend of Moore and of B her home was the meeting all the celebrities, many have gone down to compar on, since the advent of an different generation. Lady was a Miss Marguerit The family of the Powers, those of the County Water played a most important p history of Munster, Bisho of religious houses-male -landed proprietors, public men and women of letters been the offspring of this g Marguerite was born said in 1789, at Knockbri in the County T Clonmel is on the bank of Suir, which divides the co Tipperary and Waterford. Castle, the princely residen Powers, is within a short di the historic old city. He Edmond Power, although a lic, was one of the magistra ctive, in 1798, in hunting o prosecuting the rebels. The was one to which she, in at never cared to make allusion deep patriotism seems to he to her more fully from her side. Her mother's name w Sheehy; she was Edmond who was executed for rebel 1766. Her cousin, the lamer ther Nicholas Sheehy, was drawn and quarter at Cloni

1766, for political offenses, and was spiked on the West gate mel; the face looking out up suburbs called the Irishtown And fame that is attached name of Blessington is due lady who assumed it on m the Lord to whom it belonge it not been for her the name have figured in "Burke's Pe but be very little known bey immediate horizon of a certa ited class of the aristocracy. Blessington had reached the thirty-three before she dawne the world of letters. Up to time she had been famed for beauty, her wit, and her pe charms. But from that period ward she became the object most careful literary observat most careful literary observations was then, in 1822, that she p ed "The Magic Lantern; or, Si or Scenes in the Metropolis." was followed by "Sketches and ents," published in 1823. Yes interesting and deligi written as they were, gave n idea of the merit that her productions would evidence. F ars she was silent, or rather pen seemed to have ceased work in 1833 came forth her first "Grace Cassidy; or the Reapes And in the same year she bega many year's editorship of the of Beauty, to which she was st industrious contributor. same time, in 1834, she pub "Conversations with Lord By

endship and the encourage riendship and the encouragement well as the advice of Lady Bler ton, helped to bring out all was best in Byron, and to many a mad folly that would herwise, choked off some of lest productions. She knew to humor him, and then to him, to awaken the finest of pur lefty ambition and to quench of ignoble sentiments and cons

This is one of the best works,

real biography of Byron, most

leaned from his own accounts

imself. It might be said that

ss, in English literature. It

with Lord By

ons, all unworthy of the and of his genius.

In 1885 appeared her novel