

The Clansman

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'TIS ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN THE MORNING

To-day, above all others, is the day that is dear to citizens or the descendants of the Emerald Isle. We honor their patron, St. Patrick, on this, the 17th of March. Wherever the sun shines to-day in the English speaking world the thoughts of the Irish race, be they rich or poor, humble or great, turn to the Isle about which so much romance, so much tragedy, so much despair, and, glad to record so much hope, have crowded themselves.

History recognizes their patron Saint as one of the great historical figures. It is not for us to say what should be done to release her from the cloud which apparently rests so heavily on the Isle; suffice to say that her action was a disappointment to Germany at the commencement of the war when, instead of defying the laws of the mother country, both north and south forgot their differences and the brave men went forward in those early days and died side by side. The picture before our side is anything but reassuring; the question which has long remained unsolved stands out in all its awful vividness to-day, but we feel confident that no Irishman, whatever his creed, will waver until our foreign enemies are weeping in sackcloth and ashes. Something must be done, it is certain, and to that statesman who solves the knotty problem of Ireland's untenable political situation will be due the homage of the nation, yea, even the world.

It is a happy coincidence that this week Sir Stanley Maud, a brave Irishman, has captured the mighty stronghold of Bagdad in the far East. In this war the boys of the Emerald Isle have shown a vim and courage second to none. They, with our other comrades and allies, have helped to form part of that "dispicable British army" which in the course of evolution has become the

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MUSKETRY AS A PART OF OUR WORK

There is, I fear, in the minds of the majority of soldiers, a mistaken idea of what "musketry" means. Many of us have got into the way of thinking of musketry only in connection with the elementary work done at headquarters and our visits to the ranges. Many would reply to the question: "When and where do you carry out your musketry training?" that it is done at the range near camp and on the miniature range at headquarters. This is a great mistake. "Musketry" means a great deal more than "shooting." It includes everything connected with the use of the rifle in war and covers such matters as fire tactics, fire direction, control and orders, ranging and others, in addition to the question of individual skill with the rifle; in fact it enters into everything done by the infantryman when in presence of the enemy.

Musketry is the most important branch of the training of the infantry soldier, for it is the principal part of his work in the field and the means upon which he relies to enable him to assault with the bayonet and gain success in battle.

Two years of war experience has brought no appreciable change in the system of musketry training in vogue in peace time. German officers testify to the efficiency of that training, discribing the British musketry, under the test of war, as "marvellous" and admitted that the normal German plan of attack failed time after time because the "British rifle fire was so straight and so quick."

May I urge with all the earnestness I can command, that those entrusted with the musketry training in the battalions will so carry out their work that the same may be said of those who from time to time go to reinforce the expeditious force. The WAR SHOT is not made on the range. Careful instruction must be given away from the rifle range. In this training, may I be allowed