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# The True Witness



Vol. LIX., No. 39

Senate Reading Room  
Jan. 1 1909.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1910

PRICE, FIVE CENT

## National Feast Royally Honored.

### Spontaneous Enthusiasm, Whole-Hearted Patriotism, Unparalleled Unity Mark Day's Celebration.

### Enormous Crowds at Church, Procession Ranks Largest in Years--Sermon, Banquet, Other Amusements.

The day was truly ideal, if bright sunshine counted for anything. There was frost, too, in the air--sufficient to color the cheek--but everyone was happy, so what mattered the nipping wind as one stood to see the processionists pass along. Before Mass there is little organization. St. Patrick's Church is the objective, the different societies meeting at their respective halls and march along as soon as the ranks are filled, headed by their bands, whose inspiring music caused the blood to flow just a little faster through one's veins.

The church was taxed to its limit to afford seating capacity to the great numbers who sought admission. As many members of societies as could be accommodated were seated in the centre aisle, the Mayor, having the seat of honor just in front of the sanctuary with Mr. H. J. Kavanagh, K.C., President of St.

is the outcome of the gratitude of a noble race for the greatest gift that man can receive from God. To-day the Irish race in their island home, and throughout the world, wherever the hand of God hast cast them as a sower casts the seed, unite, and with one voice and with one heart give glory to God and praise to their apostle, their patron and their father; and, dearly beloved in Christ, children of St. Patrick, in this fair land, assembled to-day in this glorious temple erected to his honor and a standing memorial of your faith and your patriotism; coming from that isle where you or your forefathers received that gift, I hail with you to-day our father in God, Patrick, the glory of our country and the apostle of our race.

For well-nigh fifteen centuries this day has been solemnized with all the fervent ardor of the Irish heart and with all the wealth of Ireland's brain. And is it not justly so? What was the gift that Patrick brought to our land? He came in the spirit of St. Paul, "not with the persuasive words of human wisdom, but by the power of God." Whose ways are not as man's ways, nor His thoughts like theirs. He came to Ireland a slave, of tender years, and friendless, but the hand of God, which led Joseph the son of Jacob as a slave into the land of Egypt, and had raised him up from slavery to be the highest noble in the court of Pharaoh; guarded Patrick amidst obscurity and suffering. Patrick learned to love the Irish race, he longed to Christianize that land which God was yet to make one of the greatest instruments of His grace in the evangelization of the world. It is not my intention to enter into any details as to what may be called the personal history of St. Patrick; for the best history of an apostle of Christ is to be found in the lasting fruits of his labor. This is indeed one of the authentic marks of his power, not the power of man, but that which, coming from above bears down every opposition of the world, "bringing into captivity every understanding into the obedience of Christ." It was to that power, and its enduring results, that the Prophet Isaiah more than seven centuries before St. Paul, referred as having been expressly destined to characterize the gospel ministry. "I will take of the Gentiles priests and levites, saith the Lord, for as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make to stand before me, so shall your seed stand and your name." We find Christ Himself, not less explicitly affirming this pledge, when He tells His Apostles that it is not in any power or strength of their own they should go and bring forth enduring fruit, but in virtue of their election and mission from Him.

Such is the especial characteristic of the Apostleship of Christ. It owes

salvation goes forth to that task, whose enduring fruits are assured to him by the power of God. For the ways of God are not as the ways of men, "and the base things of the world and the things that are contemptible hath God chosen, and the things that are not that he might bring to nought the things that are" or seem to be.

When Patrick had returned to his native land he tells us in his "confessions" that he heard the cries of the youths of Ireland calling him to come back and dwell amongst them and that cry touching the chords of his heart, he began by study and prayer to fit himself for the work to which he felt drawn by Providence. He passed many years in the monasteries of France, and when his hands were anointed with the sacred unction of the priesthood he went to Rome, to Peter in the person of Pope St. Celestine, who, in A.D. 431, a year before Patrick came to Ireland, had convoked the bishops of the Catholic Church at Ephesus in order to condemn the heresy which denied that the Blessed Virgin was the Mother of Our Lord and Saviour. A century before Arius had denied the Divinity of Christ and now Nestorius strikes a blow at the dignity of the Mother of God, and the assembled Fathers of the Church defined the dogma of the Divine Maternity which is embodied in the prayer, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death." Then and there was that prayer composed and uttered for the first time. A year had scarcely elapsed when we behold a wondrous work, we see a nation strong, brave, intelligent and cultured, and gifted with all the qualities needed for success and prosperity, bold and daring, yielding to no stronger or stranger race, acknowledging no sovereign save one of their own choice, yet falling as one man at the feet of Patrick. What is the secret of that wondrous and miraculous conversion? Other nations have demanded as a price for their submission to the Gospel the very blood of the messenger who came to teach them the words of Christ. To be an apostle in the ordinary significance of the word is to be a martyr. The one nation that embraced the Catholic faith spontaneously yet touched not a hair of the head of him who brought it, that faith, that one nation was our Motherland, and if we wish to know the secret of St. Patrick's success, to find some explanation for this bloodless victory of grace and truth, I believe it to have been the result of the direct intervention of the Mother of God, since if, when prayer goes up from earth to heaven, God hears it, when that prayer is the prayer of the Universal Church God will hear it still more, and when that prayer is one which honors the Mother of God, that prayer cannot be refused, and hence the direct act of Christ's power. His gift to the world in answer to the dignity conferred upon His Mother, was the gift of faith to Ireland.

Patrick came to Tara's hill, as we know, on Easter Saturday, when Ireland's kings and Ireland's chiefs and Ireland's bards were assembled to solemnize the rites of their religion. The Irish race were not an idolatrous race or addicted to the vice of paganism, and their religion

through the dark penal days she stood faithful to Patrick, to Peter, to Christ, in spite of the stake, the scaffold and the sword.

And now, fellow-countrymen, Patrick's Canadian children, here amidst others not of your race nor of your creed, what is to be your tribute to the apostle of your race, what is to be the spirit by which your life is to be animated, and by which he is to recognize you as his children? If you are Patrick's children, if you are proud to call yourselves of the Irish race, let Ireland's virtues be yours, let her strong faith be yours, and her purity of life, her disinterestedness and her love of the Church be yours. Be not of the earth--but dearly beloved, remember this, that it is not on bread alone that man lives but on the word of God. Remember again the temptation of our Saviour, "all these things will I give you if falling down thou adorest me," and then the answer of our Lord that God alone shalt thou adore and He only shalt thou serve. Ah! dearly beloved, this lesson is necessary for you, because there is a possibility that the natural ambition of the Irish heart and its instinctive tendency for something high and noble may make you perhaps for the moment forget things that are above earth and think only of the ways of the world, and you may, while succeeding before men, fall off in the virtues and the faith of Patrick.

Yes, beloved, be united in heart and faith, as the Church of which you are members, and let the prayer of Christ on earth for his disciples be the prayer of Patrick in heaven to-day for the Irish race who keep his memory and invoke his patronage: "Holy Father, keep them in Thy Name whom Thou hast given me that they may be one, and that not one of them be lost." St. John, xvii. 12.

this event great and glorious. I know to whom I speak and in whom I have confidence. Prepare then to celebrate on the banks of the St. Lawrence the greatest feast ever held on this continent in honor of Our Lord in the Blessed Eucharist.

Immediately after Mass the processionists formed in line under the direction of Ald. O'Connell, marshal-in-chief, and with bands playing festive airs, banners flung to the breeze and everywhere good humor very evident, the large concourse of patriotic citizens from every Irish parish in the city wended their way through the following streets: Dorchester street to Cathedral, to Chaboulez square, then via Notre Dame, McCord, Wellington, Murray, Ottawa, Colborne, Notre Dame and McGill streets to Victoria square, where they dispersed.

His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi, surrounded by a bodyguard of Hi-

bernian Knights, drove in the procession, and everywhere was greeted by applause. His Worship Mayor Guerin, wearing the insignia of his office, walked with the executive of St. Patrick's Society.

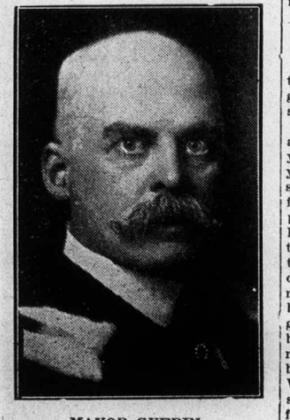
Comment on every side was most flattering, for not for years has such a well-organized, respectable concourse turned out to do honor to the patron saint of Ireland. There was no thinning of the ranks, no straggling effect, but, on the contrary, whole-hearted patriotism had entered into the celebration and made of the 17th of March, 1910, a day of which the Irishmen of Montreal may be justly proud.



HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP BRUCESI.



REV. RAYMOND WALSH, O.P. Preacher of the Day.



MAYOR GUERIN.

#### THE ARCHBISHOP'S ADDRESS.

On the conclusion of the sermon, the Archbishop addressed the congregation from his throne in the sanctuary, in the following words: "I wish to say a few words in answer to the warm welcome of your beloved pastor. For thirteen years it has been my singular pleasure to preside at your national feast. This always affords me great pleasure. Our faith is one, and I have unbounded love and admiration for my Irish people. Your national celebration is essentially one of faith and religion. Unlike other nations, on your feast day you celebrate not a worldly victor, nor a great battle, but your honor your birth in the faith of Christ, and the memory of the great apostle who brought that faith to Erin's shore. We French-Canadians also honor a saint as our national hero, and our feast is a feast of faith and religion.

"Let us then unite to make the coming Eucharistic Congress one worthy of the event. In September next I see before me in this vast

#### THE BANQUET.

As a fitting close to the best St. Patrick's day celebration in years, the banquet left nothing to be desired. An entente cordiale between all creeds and races, whose representatives were legion, round the festive board, was much in evidence, and the burden of every speech was unity and good will. Then, too, a bright vista looms up on the horizon of the little island across the sea; and the sun is now breaking upon its verdant hills, spreading the warmth of its benign rays, and speaking of a hope, we trust, soon to be fulfilled. Was it not meet, then, that the Irishmen on St. Patrick's night should speak with pride of the men who have stood manfully by Ireland in her days of sorrow; should they not feel an impetus to strengthen their hands and an ambition to aid the struggle to the end.

Nearly three hundred attended the banquet at the Windsor Hotel. Mr. H. J. Kavanagh, K.C., president of St. Patrick's Society, presided, assisted by Mr. J. W. Percival, president of the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society, while amongst those at the guest table were Messrs. Jas. Mitchell, president of St. George's Society; Jos. Jenkins, president of St. David's Society; Lieut.-Col. D. Lockery, president of the Caledonian Society; Mgr. Bruchesi, Rev. Father A. M. O'Neill, O.P.; Mr. Justice Purcell, J. C. Beauchamp, president of St. Jean Baptiste Society; Rev. A. A. Gagnier, S.J.; Mr. Justice Guerin, Senator J. Cloran, Canon Gau-



REV. GERALD McSHANE. Pastor of St. Patrick's.

Patrick's Society, and Mr. C. J. Doherty.

As the Chancel Choir stepped from the vestry they broke forth in a national hymn. They led the long procession formed of sanctuary boys and visiting clergy, who were in turn followed by His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi, who pontificated. Very imposing indeed was the solemn passing through the church.

The color scheme--green and white--was effectively carried out in the sanctuary, Boston laurel being artistically draped and innumerable white lights on the altar spoke at once of refinement and exceedingly good taste. On either side of the entrance to the sanctuary were massive brass bowls filled with shamrocks, white carnations and ferns.

At the throne with His Grace were Rev. J. E. Donnelly, pastor of St. Anthony's, assistant priest; Rev. M. L. Shea, and Rev. Peter Heffernan, deacon and sub-deacon of honor. The Rev. J. McGrory and Rev. F. J. Singleton, deacon and subdeacon of office. The following priests had seats in the sanctuary: Rev. Fathers O'Neill, O.P., Brophy, Rioux, C.S.S.R., T. F. Heffernan, Ouellette, Condon, G.S.C., St. Laurent College, Polan, R. E. Callahan, O'Brien, Reid, Pennafort, O.F.M., Ethelbert, O.F.M., and others.

The uniformed Knights of the A.O. H. looked remarkably well and added eclat to the ceremony.

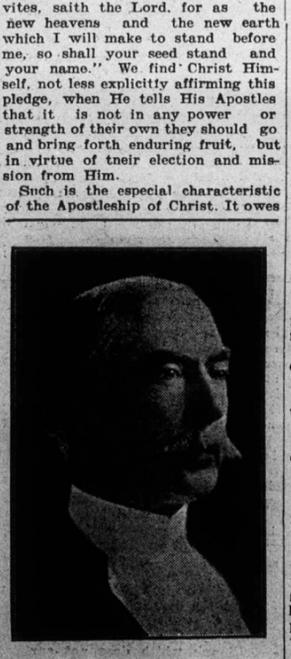
Just before the sermon, the Rev. Gerald McShane, pastor, addressed a few words to His Grace the Archbishop, expressive of his own and his parishioners' gratitude for the presence of His Grace in their midst, and then introduced the Rev. Raymond Walsh, O.P., of St. Saviour's Priory, Dublin, who spoke as follows:

#### THE SERMON.

"And I, brethren, when I came to you, I came not in loftiness of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of Christ, and my speech and my preaching was not in the persuasive words of human wisdom, but in showing of the spirit and the power that your faith might stand on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God." (St. Paul, 1 Cor. 2.)

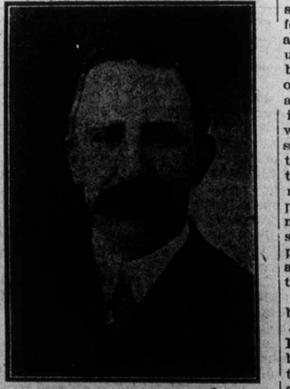
May it please Your Grace: Very Reverend Fathers and dearest brethren in Christ.

The festival of to-day is identified with the holiest and most cherished of our national recollections, since it



H. J. KAVANAGH, K.C. President St. Patrick's Society.

nothing of its efficacy to this world, nor to earthly power or influence. "If you had been of this world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of this world, and I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." Yes, dearest brethren, 'tis amidst circumstances apparently impossible, against difficulties humanly insurmountable, the true messenger of



ALD. T. O'CONNELL. Marshal-in-Chief.

church, the Irish people of Montreal, surrounded by archbishops from all over the world. I see here in this sanctuary the Cardinal Legate representing His Holiness. Prepare, then, my people, for this great event. Let us outdo London and Cologne. In the presence of our honored Mayor, I thank the City Council for their efforts to make

(Continued on Page 5.)