

HON. JOHN F. SCANLAN.
Founder of the C. O. F.
Fondateur de C. O. F.



THE HON. JOHN F. SCANLAN, the founder of the Catholic Order of Foresters, is the youngest son of Mortema and Catharine Roche Scanlan, of Castlemahon, County Limerick, Ireland. He was born in 1840. His father was a large farmer, whose ancestors lived in that country for over a thousand years. The panic of 1848 having reduced the fortune of the family, they, with thousands of others in that exodus that swept out of Ireland at the same time so many of her sons, went and sought a new home in the land of the free. The tearing away from old associations, that, like a mighty oak had become almost a fixture in the country, brought about heart aches that cannot be imagined but by he who has known the sorrows of exile. The scanlan family landed in Boston, Mass., in February, 1849. The subject of our sketch was sent to school in Roxbury, and had been there for two and a half years, when in 1851 the family moved to Chicago, where he entered the school then connected with the church of the Holy Name. But in 1854,—when he was only 14 years of age,—Necessity called him to its harder school. Bravely he went to work. From a lawyer's office to a printing office, and then to a gas-fitting shop, he migrated around, gathering experience everywhere. Finally, in 1856 his tastes led him to become an apprentice in the wood carving business, at which he soon became adept, and would, had he continued at it, have excelled. In 1859 he went to New Orleans, worked at his business and was in a fair way to fortune, but being young and away from home, he turned his steps home-

ward, staying the summer and fall at Memphis, where he left the impress of his genius in the ornamental work of some of the best houses in that city. By a happy circumstance he reached home just in time to avoid the boundary guards of the then newly formed Confederacy that brought such a terrible war on the Union. Arriving in Chicago he left the carving bench and joined his brothers in their wholesale confectionery trade, (then the largest in Chicago). Always loving freedom, the Scanlan brothers joined the then newly established Fenian Brotherhood and in the Cause of Ireland put forth the very best efforts of their lives and what money they had, with the hope of giving to Ireland the freedom that the citizen of the United States enjoyed.

In 1862 John F. Scanlan joined the Union army as captain of Company B., 67, Illinois Volunteers. After his service in the army he returned to the confectionery business and in it continued until 1869. In 1872 he was elected a member of the Illinois Legislature, where he served two terms, with credit to him and benefit to his people.

In 1883 he secured a charter for the Catholic Order of Foresters and the story of his work in our noble Order is told in another part of this paper. At the end of his labours in the Foresters, the High Court presented him with a beautiful testimonial of esteem, in which he was gratefully honoured by being titled "the father of the Order." The testimonial was presented by the Rev. F. D. B. Toomey in an eloquent address, which has been printed in the "C.O.F. Guide" issue of June, 1890, and part of which reads as follows:—

It is then a pleasure to us to obey the orders of the High

Court by tendering you the following resolutions:

WHEREAS: The Fifth Annual Session of the High Court of the Catholic Order of Foresters, did order, that suitable resolutions be presented to you, John F. Scanlan, bearing evidence of our gratitude for your able, arduous and charitable work in establishing this truly benevolent Catholic Order, and,

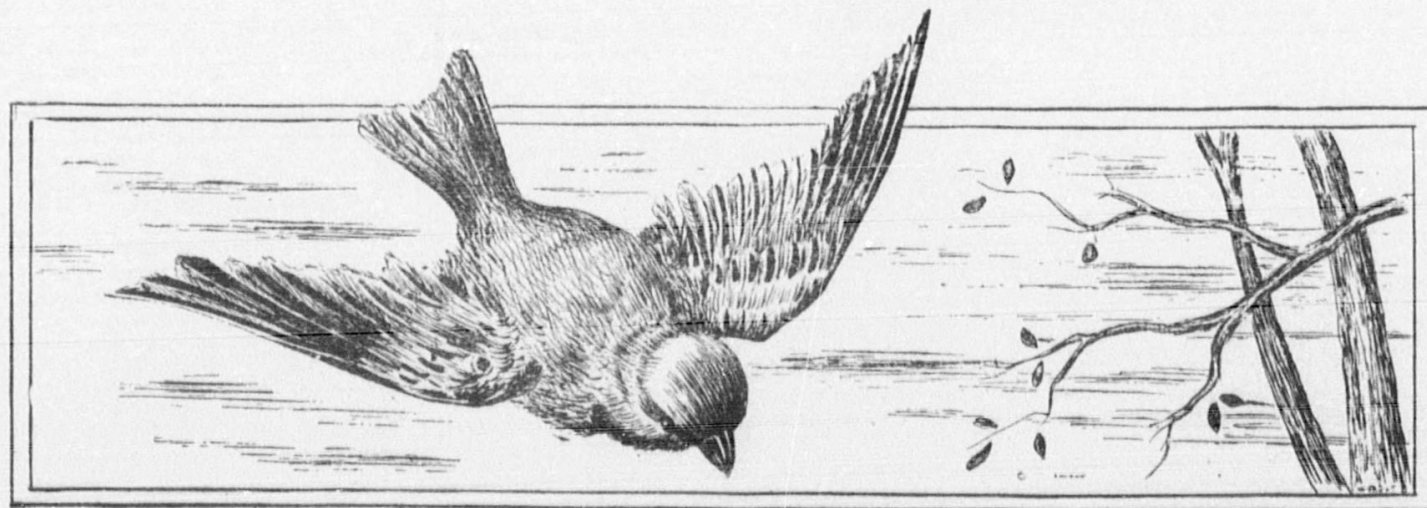
WHEREAS: We deem it a duty we owe to our church, our families and ourselves, that we place on record the evidence of our gratitude to the founder of this Order, and therefore be it

RESOLVED: Appreciating the magnificent results of the good work that, under the providence of heaven you were called upon to perform when you established the Catholic Order of Foresters, and recognizing the great success of your efforts, we hereby officially express our profound gratitude to you for the great and charitable work you done for the Catholic people of this country when you established the Catholic Order of Foresters. For this you have our most heartfelt thanks and our prayers. As a further evidence of our gratitude we hereby proclaim you "Father of the Catholic Order of Foresters," and hereby order that this address shall be printed in the "C.O.F. Guide," our official organ, and be read at a regular meeting of the Subordinate Courts of this Order, and that a copy of these resolutions be suitably engrossed and presented to you, Mr. John F. Scanlan.

J. P. LAUTH,
High Chief Ranger.
J. J. DILLON,
High Secretary.

REV. DANL. B. TOOMEY,
NICHOLAS WALLENBORN,
P. J. CAHILL, } Committee.

Our esteemed brother, John F. Scanlan, now fills the honourable position of special agent of the United States Treasury in Chicago.



parent et pr
l'Assemblée
la Législatur
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Bertrand &
plus tard pa
pédia.

M. Blouin
soif des voy
Chicago.

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