ABOUT EAGLES

(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 beak, large, strong and slightly rounded wings, its fourth primary feather being the longest its legs feathered to the toes, their claws are curved and sharp, fitted for tearing their prey.

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

The first and most noted is the Golden eagle, distinguished for its majestic size, great power of vision, strength of wing, rapid flight, indo mitable courage, and almost resistless powers of attack. It is justly sidered 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 brown ish color, the back of the head, the neck and the end of the tail feathers are of a golden hue, whence it derives its name. In flight it is singularly beautiful and imposing, but on land its gait is encumbered by its long talons. Its food usually con sists of sea-birds, and smaller quadrupeds, such as hares, rabbits, etc. 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 begin ning of August.

The parent birds are very solicitous for their young, and provide liberally for the wants of the helpless brood. While they occupy the it is very dangerous to approach, as the eagles are then extremely fierce and daring. As soon as the eaglets 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 author's fertile brain, than authentic facts. Still, when very hungry it has been known to carry off young lambs.

Next to the Golden eagle comes the Imperial one; its figure is com monly 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 nearly the whole northern part of Am erica, 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 eagle forms the national emblem of the States, and is often introduced as an opposite symbol of human royalty in sacred and secular literature On the monuments of Nineveh, the head and wings frequently occur as mode in which this bird obtains its prev is thus graphically described by Audubon. The scene is in Mississip pi, and the eagle is perched on th top of the tallest tree, on the margin of the stream.

"The wild, trumpet-like sound of yet distant but approaching swan is The eagle shakes the whole of his body, and with a few touche of his bill, he arranges his plumage in an instant. The snow-white bird is now in sight; her long neck distretched forward; her eye is on the watch, vigilant as that of her emy; her large wings seem with difficulty to support the weight of he yody, 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 narked 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 terro than the report of the large duck

"Now is the moment to 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 now, in agony and despair, seeks, by various manoeuvres, to elude the grasp of his cruel talons; it mounts, doubles, and willingly would plunge into the stream, were it not prevented by the eagle, which, long pos-sessed of the knowledge that by such a stratagem the swan might escape him, forces it to remain in the air by attempting to strike it with its talons from beneath.

up by the swan. It has already come much weakened, and strength fails at the sight of the courage and strength of its antagonist. Its last grasp is about to escape, when 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 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 eagle, 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. It is of about the same dimensions as th Bald eagle. If taken young it can be 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-

"An American heiress to \$30,000,-000, Miss Goelet, is to marry a titled Englishman. The Duke of Roxeburg is not supposed to be a fortune hunter, but a lover who is well able to marry the heiress of 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 swell the coffers of English 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 Americans. In fact, it may be reasonably oncluded 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, on 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 carto an extreme that is only rendered the more ridiculous when it is 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 to the stranger that they associate with men who bear such titles - a mer vered hankering after distinction. In Europe they are still worse. They use every imaginable means to secure an entry into the very society of the "me luds," and they 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 titles and honors merely accentuates cracy they are utterly subservient in this regard, and the few wno are 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 Mrs. Catherine McCarthy, wife of Mr. D. K. McCarthy of Duluth, Minn., and daughter of the late Mr. John Cantwell, Quebec, is announce The sad event occurred at Duluth July 11th. The funeral was held to St. James Church, where a solemn Father Feehely, wno also, at the conclusion of the Mass made allusion to the many good works in which the deceased had taken part in the parish of which she had been so long a member. The remains were interred in Calvary Cemetery. -R I. P.

PLAIN TALK.

At Calgary the Catholics are about a fourth of the population, which is 6,000. They are not all Catholics of the best type, however! Most 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 compatibility 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 butchers, 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 rather than diminish .- From the 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, there was no church that had made a surer and deeper search into human nature. That Church, the greatest religious organization in the whole world, conducted its worship in a common tongue. The Roman Catholics conducted their worship in the language of worship. Their Church utilized every means for taking people away from everyday terests, and sought to induce them to forget what was outside. The language of commerce and of everyday occupations was thus left side, and the people were taught the language of worship. This showed a shrewd, deep insight into the human mind. The Welsh preserved their language for the hearth and accompanied with protestations of for worship. English would become distataste for titles and detestation the language of commerce, the langof aristocratic principles. No land in the world is as lavish with its "Honorables," its "Generals," its was afraid, but the Welsh language, 'Colonels, its "Captains," its "Pro-dessors," its "Doctors," and all its of the altar.

IN THE NORTHWEST.

Father Cherrier, a parish priest in Winnipeg, and editor of the "Northwest Review " spoke in his church few Sundays ago about the oppression practised upon the Catho lics of Manitoba, in reference 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, the finger of scorn at the hypocrites who, while laying the corner-stones of their own schools with all the tomfoolery insigma of secret societies yet profess to be shocked at tho teachers who prefer to wear a decent uniform rather than to encour 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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AT LOURDES

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

A MEMORIAL CROSS

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

CLERGY AND LAITY.

The reception accorded to the Rev. Arthur Murphy, P.P. of Brosna, by the people of Castleisland and Broshe travelled to the place on a recent Friday for the purpose of taking up the pastoral change left vacant by the death of Neligan affords, says "Cork Examiner," a striking instance of the indissoluble ties of afection, veneration, and abiding love which exist between the priests and people of Ireland. 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 characteristics.

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A LETTER AND LESSON.

Mr. Maurice Murphy writes as folows from the Crown Hotel, Castleisland, to the "Kerry People," etter being dated August 6, 1903:-'Sir,-Miss Leahy gave me enclosed copy of letter from Daniel O'Connell 1902 has just been published. In the which she found recently amongst her father's papers. It appears he of travelling to Dublin by coach from Castleigland and Abbeyfeale, the old mail coach road. I thought it may interest your readers, especially that part Mass. Letters cost 10d. postage in those days, and it was the person who received 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 horse ready for me by two o'clock. Tak 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, Da niel O'Connell." The letter was written on January 15, 1836. Mr.

A CATHOLIC GENTLEMAN

was an innkeeper at Abbeyfeale

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

IRISH FISHERIES

During last year the Irish fis.

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 general summary with which the report opens we are told that the births registered in Ireland during the year numbered 101,863, the marriages 22,949, and the deaths 77, 676. The marriage rate, which stood at 5.18 per 1000 of the estimated receding year, and was 0.27 above the average for the ten years 1892-1901, 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 same en years. The death-rate, 17.5 per 1,000, was 0.3 below the rate for the preceding year, and 0.8 below the age rate for the ten years 1892-The recorded natural increa of population or excess of births ove deaths was 24.187. The loss by em gration amounted to 40,190. The would thus appear to have been decrease of 16,003 in the population during the year, but against this derease there is a small set-off in in migration, of which no official recor has been obtained. The estima population in the middle of the year as 4.432.274.

A SUGGESTION.

The Duke of Norfolk, in subscrib

Lady Blessing

By "CRUX

SATURDAY, SEL

EW Irishwomen than Lady Bless extraordinary prolific mind, he ns to literature, ion with all the lead teurs, politicians and s her time, her patronage letters, her wonderful eceptions, her palace-lik her connection by blood with some of the the great, and the mem tims of persecution in ; tended to make her nan hold word during almos three score years of her attractive life. She 1 sixty years. She was b

tember, 1789, and died ber, 1849. The leading events of life constitute almost a the struggles of Ireland triumphs of literature whole first half of the century. And in all gre-ments she had her part. S friend of Moore and of I her home was the meetin all the celebrities, many have gone down to compa vion, since the advent of a different generation. Lady ton was a Miss Margueri The family of the Powers those of the County Wat played a most important history of Munster, Bish of religious houses-male -landed proprietors, publ men and women of letters been the offspring of this Marguerite was bor said in 1789 at Knockh Clonmel, in the County Clonmel is on the bank of Suir, which divides the c Tipperary and Waterford. Castle, the princely residen Powers, is within a short d the historic old city. H Edmond Power, although lic, was one of the magistr active, in 1798, in hunting prosecuting the rebels. prosecuting the rebels. The was one to which she, in a ver cared to make allusi deep patriotism seems to h to her more fully from her side. Her mother's name Sheehy; she was Edmond who was executed for reb

1766. Her cousin, the lame ther Nicholas Sheehy, was drawn and quarter at Clor 1766, for political offenses, an was spiked on the West gate mel, the face looking out u suburbs called the Irishtow And fame that is attache name of Blessington is due who assumed it on i the Lord to whom it belong it not been for her the nam have figured in "Burke's F but be very little known be nediate horizon of a cert ited class of the aristocracy Blessington had reached the thirty-three before she dawn the world of letters. Up t time she had been famed for eauty, her wit, and her charms. But from that peri ward she became the object most careful literary observa was then, in 1822, that she ed "The Magic Lantern; or, S or Scenes in the Metropolis." followed by "Sketches ar ments," published in 1823. Y works, interesting and delig written as they were, gave idea of the merit that her productions would evidence. ears she was silent, or rath n seemed to have ceased wo n 1833 came forth her first "Grace Cassidy; or the Reape And in the same year she beg any year's editorship of the of Beauty, to which she wa ost industrious contributor. same time, in 1834, she put "Conversations with Lord B This is one of the best works, lass, in English literature. J real biography of Byron, mos gleaned from his own account self. It might be said the friendship and the encouragement well as the advice of Lady Bl ton, helped to bring out all

was best in Byron, and to many a mad folly that would atherwise, choked off some of finest productions. She knew to humor him, and then to him, to awaken the aumor him, and then to awaken the finest of pur

in 1885 appeared her novel