distressing maladies known to man.

I told Tim Hart he could not do lived and toiled as a slave. No and heart of man, are still unsolved. perhaps, his life might be lengthened. The man naturally said:

he murmured. But he took the precase in the letter.

Hart was given the same wages as grace. men and records their time. At the Hart's wife and pays to her \$17.50, the weekly wages of Tim Hart.

Twice, three times, in some weeks with a terrible pain, a pain like a his left chest and seems to strike into God's his very heart. He turns deadly pale | souls of others. he staggers with his hand against his He feels the shadow of death murs, a faint prayer. And, after five to twenty minutes of intense agony, during which he would have welcomed death, the pain passes this spirit, viz., love of prayer and gradually, the death pall lifts and he love and practice of penance. hour or minute when this attack will with deadly cold hands, take the breath from his body, make him cold, almost pulseness, slip him to the door of the great beyond, then slowly allow him to come back to life-and

Tim Hart's family is not suffering. His boys are working. His wages are given to his wife. Day by day Tim Hart drags on. Day by day he waits the hour of the summons. He goes to the pier, knowing that at any moment he may be stricken with death or the near death that he dreads worse than death. A hundred times Tim Hart has suffered and almost died. A hundred times Tim Hart has come back, gasping and suffering from the doors of death. And still he

Tim Hart broke the vow he made in the moment of supreme despair, when he appealed to the Sacred rescue. And now, not Tim Hart's family, not any one else, Tim Hart alone, suffers the penalties for the broken resolution. That is the punishment of Hart.— Dr. S. Macoill in Catholic News.

A SERMON ON SAINT PATRICK

PRAYER THE SECRET OF HIS STRENGTH

Far back, almost in the dawn of our era, when Theodosius ruled in night the pious youth sought and imperial Rome, and St. Siricus sat found help, light-and comfort in this in the chair of Peter, a Christian holy practice. Prayer was his sole youth of Roman parentage, was resource, even spiritually. There routh of Roman parentage, was resource, even spiritually. There and Horeb. eized by a band of Irish raiders, who was no church, no Mass, no sacra divine Maste seized by a band of Irish raiders, who had swept down on the coasts of Gaul, and sold by them as a slave to a chieftain in Ulster, Milcho by name.

The leaven of the Gosnel had not scoffers and idolaters. But he felt vet purged even Europe of slavery, much less of war. For six weary years he suffered and toiled, but his trust, and love, and deep reverence for God never flinched. He became a saint, and it is in his honor that we meet here today. The very existence of America was unknown in his day, yet, on its soil, from the St. Lawrence to the Rio Plata, wherever a knot of Irishmen can be brought together, the name of St. Patrick is revered and blessed, in song and speech and prayer today. For no saint has left a deeper trace in the memory of the race he influenced than the apostle of Ire-David in Wales, Andrew in Scotland, Augustin in England, are now mere shadows of a shade; whereas the name and fame of Patrick live, on Irish lips, and in Irish hearts, all the world over. The shamrock we wear in his honor to-day is an emblem of our love and the fatherland he may be said to fear grew in me, and the spirit was prove. Old age was his sole malady. the fatherland he may be said to have thereby founded and united. race, like an individual, is judged by its ideals, i. e., practically speaking, by its creed. The Irish are said to be moody and fickle as their everchanging skies; yet for more than fourteen centuries they have clung with unshaken tenacity to the standard of belief and duty preached by Patrick. And what nobler or higher was ever put before a people? His name (Latin for nobleman, as

he truly was) and fidelity to his teaching are often flung in contempt at his children. But it is their glory, not their shame. To the Jew and Greek the world owes its highest form of religion and civilization; yet, on account of the oppression to which they were subjected, those grand old names are now often synonymous with usurers and chief; whereas, the worst reproach that can

Whence, it may be asked the fluence of St. Patrick? How influence of St. Patrick? How comes it that a Roman stranger is so is as dense as in his day. The There can be no doubt that conjugal

ful death. It is one of the most lovingly enshrined in the hearts of mysterious problems suggested by any more rough or strong work, that doubt it was partly due to his own it might kill him. Sudden death character, and partly to that of the prayer we seek to get it. Apart from might follow violent exertion. The people he turned to Christ. The this a soul without prayer is a soul most that medical treatment could do laborer and the soil were matched. for him was to alleviate the pain of The reaper was strong and the the attacks somewhat, and, if he had harvest was ripe. Saints are God's organ of the Holy Spirit," because he freedom from exertion and anxiety, agents in doing God's work, but the was "a man of prayer." When message they carry must be freely received. On both sides we see "the "If I received. can't work, I'll lose my job. What finger of God," and "it is wonderful will my family do?"

What finger of God," and "it is wonderful in our eyes." No philosophy, no Well, you did not think much of form of human wisdom, or merely, the case of your family during your human religion, produced a saint or years of drunkenness," I said, rather converted a race, in the true sense coldly, "and you thought mighty of the word. Saints grow on one little of the family when you broke soil only, and nations are gathered by their influence into one fold only, your vow and began to drink again." by their influence into one fold only Hart grew pale. "I'll lose my job," that of the true Church. God equip the saints, His messengers, seriptions and went out. I wrote to gifts and graces and similarly fits his employers to tell them that if the people to receive them. But they could give him lighter work it both must respond to God's call. would benefit him. I explained the Both may fall away. Lucifer and Adam were holy, but lapsed from grace. Now, the duty of a saint, as before, but he no longer had to do of all, is to cultivate personal holihard work. He supervises the other ness first, ere attempting to raise others to their own height. This is end of the week the cashier sends for what St. Patrick did. He first, and indeed all through life, perfected himself, and next, he tried to lift up the Irish race toward his own moral and even oftener Tim Hart is seized level; and succeeded in doing so; in other words, we have to see God's burning needle, that shoots through work in his own soul, and next, work, through him, in the

I do not in the first place, mean to catalogue his virtues, natural or upon him. He gasps for air, he mur- otherwise; but rather touch briefly on the spirit of St. Patrick that made these virtues grow and expand. Two leading characteristics marked is relieved. He does not know the They are more needed today than ever. For want of them holiness is come. It strikes him in the street, on the pier, in his house. Again and man. Grace abounds, it is true; again he has felt death grasp him opportunities for piety lie in abundance at every one's door; yet few approach God in fervent prayer, and many try to forget, doubt or disbelieve in Him. bodily comfort and gross material pleasures is "extinguishing the spirit: spirit." Selfishness in its worst to cult spirit.' form often rules us lesson of St. Patrick's life.

He first comes into view in the year 387, when, with "thousands of others," he was taken captive and sold as a slave. The iron grip of imperial Rome was relaxing and in the border provinces ordered life appeared doomed. Raiding bands, by sea and land, had it all their own Human life, property and honor lay at their mercy. Patrick's parents were both probably slain, his two sisters made prisoners and himself a helpless victim in the hands of pirates. Nowadays anyone may lead a holy

and virtuous life, if he chooses; then it seemed impossible, humanly speaking. It was a time to try one's faith in God. He seemed to have forsaken the world and given it over to evil fiends. God appeared to be far away in the heavens. The devil was free. But Patrick's piety was neither selfish nor superficial. It was deep and solid. He had lost his father on earth, poor youth, but he clung all the more hopefully to his Father in heaven. Earnestly and heartily his soul rose to God in prayer. Day and scoffers and idolaters. But he felt occasion he obtained from God the in his "Confessions:" "Wherefore that God was near, and in mind, and single grace that the lamp of faith in Ireland they who hitherto had no at scoffers and idolaters. But he felt heart, and voice, he "rose up and went to his Father." On the cheer-less slopes of Slemish, or the dismal and blessed the land, and said, Praise have lately become the people of the swamps and miry bogs around, in foul weather or in fair, by day or by prayer " (De Vere)

nave lately become the people of the Lord, and are styled the sons of God.

The sons of the Scots and the daugh had no rights, masters no duties. lifelong practice of prayer and pen-His work was hard and unceasing, ance? lot would have driven most souls to despair, or brutalized and degraded thus acquired that made his work so them. But it only served to urge St. fruitful. Where is the life of such a Patrick to pray and have recourse to God all the more fervently. "To whom else could he go?" "On whom else could he cast all his care" whom else could he cast all his care of all?" Hear how he describes his daily life on the horwer melands of Slemich. on the barren uplands of Slemish. of the saints—personal holiness and throughout the world Ireland was "On coming to Ireland I was daily unselfish service. tending sheep, and many times in the day I prayed, and more and more strengthened, so that in a single day on the mountain, and before the

burning within me."
Prayer ever is and must be a marked feature in all souls that the laborer. A word next on his "walk with God," but it was specially work and the field in which it was characteristic of St. Patrick. Nay, it carried on. Be it remarked that the is a gift that he seems to have ground in which he was called to handed down to his children, as anyone can testify who has heard them pour forth their souls to God in withal for the seed of God's word. pour forth their souls to God in withal for the seed of God's word." In nature not all grounds are fitted when sickness or sorrow fall in their | for all growths; no more is every

families. Prayer made our saint a giant in whereas, the worst reproach that can be made against Ireland as a nation is her lack of worldly goods and worldly wisdom, to both of which for centuries she was denied access.

Whence, it may be asked the spirit world spirit world spirit world spirit world with the source of his success as short, is a necessity. "Nihil per saltum" in grace or in nature. Rough human virtues prevailed in the island, and predisposed to ready acceptance of St. Patrick's message.

Light must come from above and in this a soul without prayer is a soul without God. St. Patrick was a man of God" "fistula Spiritus Sancti," "an was "a man of prayer." When thwarted, or sorely tried, or puzzled at God's strange ways, he did not rush, as so many nowadays, into unbelief or despair, but cast himself on God, and in prayer, "cried all the more." Prayer was to him life, and in death, as it should be to all, an "opening of the heavens and drawing down into the troubled soul the peaceful dove of the Holy Spirit." The next great feature in his char-

acter was his spirit of penance. Self-

denial is the very basis of piety, but in St. Patrick it rose to the highest pitch of asceticism. Man is a blend of matter and spirit, body and soul. Both are from God, and one would think they should act in harmony, each with its rights and claims, duly ordered. But we live in an anomal There is ous world. between pleasure and virtue. Ease, indulgence, comfort mostly go with sin and luxury; whereas virtue is often left out in the cold. Nay, pain and grief and sorrow and self-restraint are usually the condition of its prac-Life does not always bring the tice. good a pleasant saunter 'through the real," but a hard and weary exile. We know, it is true that vir tue will one day have its reward; but meanwhile "the kingdom of but meanwhile heaven suffereth violence and the violent only bear it away." "Unless you do penance," says Our Lord, "you shall all likewise perish." The world is out of joint with its Maker, as we may see in ourselves and observed in the sin-tossed world outside of us, where "every creature travaileth" in pain. Man revolted from God, and our own bodies revolted from their guide in reason. We can only make our way back to get, doubt or dis-The craving for ance interiorly, and keeping the revolving flesh in subjection to the We have all in some measure Hence the tee.

The its worst to cultivate "a spirit of compunction," and so create "a new and clean heart within." In the case of St. Patrick, as I observed, the prac tice of penance, inward and outward rose to a heroic degree. Indeed, measured by our standard of sorrow for sin and bodily austerity, it was carried to the verge of folly. His cheeks were furrowed by tears shed for what we should deem the indis cretions of youth. He was reckless, we should say, in his austerities. Night, that usually brings to the toiler, rest and refreshing sleep, was, in his case, harder than the day. Part of it he spent in prayer, immersed in water to the chin. The little he gave of it to the body was spent on a bare rock, with a stone for a pillow, often exposed to the fury of the elements. A rough haircloth, worn next his skin, added to his bodily discomfort.

All this no doubt is meant more for admiration than imitation; but shame on us if it does not urge us to practice at least the self denial involved in a virtuous life and in keeping the commandments of God and of Holy

Church. Slemish in the north was his hill prayer during slavery. Patrick in the west his favorite resort when free. It was the scene of visions and austerities, his Alverno divine Master's example, he fasted in the words of Isaias.

contrary, it was the personal holiness Even bodily St. Patrick was no

loser by his austere and prayerful

prove. Old age was his sole malady. He was hale in body and sound in mind to the end: "He who loses I have said as many as a hundred prayers, and in the night nearly the same. And I dwelt in the woods and spite of worldly wisdom. His spirit still haunts the land. For well nigh dawn I was summoned to prayer by fifteen centuries pilgrim's feet have the snow and the ice and the rain, and I did not suffer from them, nor Patrick and the rocky shores of was there any sloth in me as I see now, because then the spirit was Lough Derg, showing that prayer and rigid austerities are not a dead letter in the land that St. Patrick converted So much for the character of labor was neither stony, nor thorny race fitted for gospel teaching. certain tone or elevation of charac

fidelity, maiden modesty, respect for women, and a fairly well-ordered social life were the rule and not the exception. The Brehon laws, lately unearthed and published, show that justice prevailed between man and man, and had already taken concrete shape in a code. The ornaments and weapons so numerous in Irish and other museums, show a good knowledge of the arts. War, and slavery, and piracy no doubt existed as in the rest of Europe but less common and not so ruthless. This existence of bards -a class devoted to the cultivation of music and poetry, softened the rude, warlike manners of the race. The country, too, under the predominant tribes of the "Scott" was rapidly advancing to political unity.

word and St. Patrick's triumphant He might also have said, best proof that the field was ready priests, monks, and nuns that he first year of his mission, showing, to use Christian." The difficulty, or rather his voice is still heard and his work moral impossibility, of training a still goes on in her midst. moral impossibility, of training a native clergy in newly converted lands is well known; yet in Ireland, within a very brief period of St. Patrick's death, we find her missionaries and scholars the teachers not only of Ireland, but of Europe.

The crowning glory of St. Patrick is to have been God's instrument in raising the ideals of Celtic Ireland up to the standard of the gospel; and the spirit he infused still broods over his love of prayer, his utter carelessness of wealth and bodily comfort are still marked features of the race. He prayed that "gold and silver might never fail in Ireland," and it was in this shape God answered his wealth can be com-Christian standpoint, surely, in the words of St. Vincent of Paul, "Man is never so rich as when be in 1th."

A lesson and a warning to us all in this trite truth, "Qualis vita, finis ita," i. e., "as our life. Jesus Christ," or as the poet expresses it :

" If thou art rich, thou art poor ;

For, like an ass whose back with ingots bows, Thou bear'st thy heavy riches but a journey,

And death unloads thee." Though St. Patrick's work was rapid, it was thorough. After the lapse of fifteen centuries of storm and flood, and with a hostile garrison en-trenched in her midst, and enriched from her spoils, the Church in Ireland, the building reared by St. Patrick, shows no signs of decay. The light of the faith he planted burns as brightly as ever. There has been no wilful apostasy. He still holds his people in the hollow of his hand.

Though dead, he yet speaketh. Few apostles live to see the full results of their labors. They plow and sow, while others reap the harvest. In faith and love, tread their lonely furrows, trusting to God to "give the increase" in His own good time. Not so with St. Patrick. Under his magic hand Ireland grew up in his one lifetime into an island of saints. On reaching Ireland he found the land "in darkness and the shadow of death.' There, following his Long before his death he could say, ir's example, he fasted in the words of Isaias, "The earth should never burn low in the land he knowledge of God, and up to this Then Patrick knelt time only worshipped impure idols, night, his trustful spirit communed with God. In those cruel days labor others suffer in consequence of his and virgins of Christ" (ch. iv. sec. 8.) Toward the close of his life he saw ance? Were the long hours thus in a vision "the whole land, as it spent taken away from any useful were, like a great furnace, whose his fare the coarsest, his garb torn, spent taken away from any useful were, like a great furnace, whose thin and scanty. His sad and cruel service to his fellow man? On the flames reached to the sky, and he clearly heard the voice of an ange saying: 'Such is now the state Ireland in the sight of the Lord 'Such is now the state of

> jus ly distinguished, by the extra ordinary title of the Island of Saints. Such was the influence of meek, gentle, holy man of God that he became an uncrowned king as

well as chief prelate of the Irish people, "a very Moses in Israel His word was law, and he spoke out fearlessly to princes and people alike.

In the year 455 he resigned the See of Armagh, yet outlived its four succeeding occupants, and died in a monastery at Saul, in Ulster, on the 17th of March, 492, in the words of St. Erin, "a just man indeed; with purity of nature, like the patriarchs; a true pilgrim, like Abraham; gentle and forgiving, like Moses; a praiseworthy psalmist, like David; in like Solomon; a chosen wisdom, vessel, like the Apostle Paul; a man full of grace and knowledge, like the beloved John," etc.
Since St Patrick breathed his last,

some fifteen centuries ago few coun Hence the glad acceptance of the tries were subject to so many vicissi-yord and St. Patrick's triumphant tudes as Ireland; but his work remarch through the land as herald of mains. All else has gone, yet, the Church of Christ is still there, fresh with Cæsar, "Veni, vidi, vici." The and young as ever. Wave after wave of invaders, Danes, and Norfor the sower is the number of holy mans, and Saxons, have swept over the land, destroying or changing all, consecrated to God even after the but the fabric reared by St. Patrick abides. Every vestige of her promis ise Tertillian's phrase, that the sing institutions have disappeared—soul" of the country was "naturally laws, languages, political hopes; ye

Let us hope that this influence and prayer will keep Ireland one in nationhood as it made her one in religion. In life he welded her war ring clans into one united spiritual commonwealth, that grew into, as it has ever since remained, one of the fairest provinces of God's kingdom on earth. Peacefully, and unitedly and tolerantly it has managed eccles iastical affairs. Is there any reason the island. His deep faith in the living God, his keen sense of justice, or less justly in civil? Let us pray God that all this may come about peacefully, harmoniously, speedily And while praying that the nation may be restored to its God-born rights, let us not fail to take to heart individually the lessons taught by St. Patrick's holy life.

He died a saint because he lived a good, pure, holy; therefore, was his work for others blessed and power-He sanctified his own soul, therefore did Go'd through him sanctify others. We are not meant to live for self alone. Whether we wish or no. we profoundly influence others, or many, for good or for evil. We are all "sowers of seed." We are all moral magnets. "Virtue" or "vice" goeth forth from us. Let us, then like St. Patrick, do God's work and not the devil's. Let us build up the Church in our own souls-sanctify ourselves by use of means at our disposal. By prayer and self denial St. Patrick kept the grace of God talive in his soul, even in a pagan land. Let us do so in a Christian manner, and thus live and die worthy children of St. Patrick.—Rev. n Graham, in the Homiletic Monthly.

Truth is always veiled in a kind of mystery.—Henri Fabre.



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