

TOPICS OF AN OLD-TIMER

How St. Patrick's Day was Celebrated in some American and Canadian Cities.

It may be said I am making too much of St. Patrick's Day; no, for this is the day on which all classes of Irishmen agree; and St. Patrick is too grand a figure to be minimized. It is not in the religious aspect alone that the great apostle of the Irish is to be viewed. He is in reality the great father of a nation, though not himself an Irishman. He was not only a religious and moral teacher but also the forerunner of a race of teachers that planted laws and letters in the footprints of the vandals and replenished the lamps of faith and learning everywhere on the verge of extinction throughout Western Europe. Toehin succeeded Columba or Columbanus the Apostle of the Picts in Scotland; Aidan at Holy Island or Lindisfarne in England; Cedd, the Apostle of the East Saxons; and St. Gaul, who carried a knowledge of the true faith to the Canton of St. Gaul, in Switzerland, which is named after him. But we Irish are not alone in honoring the patron saint of our country, for the English have the anniversary of St. George, the Scotch St. Andrew, and the Welsh St. David. I saw last year a book printed in England, that was altogether devoted to a description of the celebration of St. George's day throughout the world, and I don't think that we have yet gone so far as that, although it is commendable. But I may ask what were the achievements of St. George compared with those of St. Patrick?

I will now allude to some of the features of the celebrations held in various American and Canadian cities. I suppose the first place of distinction must be given to New York with its turnout of 30,000 paraders; its many men of official distinction, its orators, judges, poets, politicians and military men and ecclesiastics. New York is the home of the Emmets and many other men noted for their devotion to the Irish cause and Irish aspirations. At the banquet of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick that peerless orator, Burke Cockran, passed a high eulogium on Commodore Barry, the father of the American Navy, to whose memory the United States Congress is at last about to erect a monument in Washington. A monument is also about to be erected to the memory of an O'Brien, who made the first capture at sea of an English ship at the breaking out of the revolution and secured the powder with which was fought the Battle of Bunker Hill by the colonists.

San Francisco has had the advantage of its fine weather, its numerous and effective organizations and the presence of that present-day apostle for the restoration of the Irish language—Douglas Hyde—and the Irish and the scholars of the "coast" have given him a grand reception. He has lectured in the halls of the populace and the halls of the learned—at Berkeley, Santa Clara and Stanford's—and the people there have poured into his lap the gold that encircled the world, more profusely than New York, Philadelphia, Boston or Chicago, and thereby has enriched the Gaelic League of Ireland of which he is the President and oracle. At Berkeley he told professors and students something that was sensational. It was that the Irish were the first to put poetry into verse and taught the art of versifying to Europe. "Take not my word for this," he said, "for I was told it by German and Italian scholars." Dr. Hyde has written to a friend in New York, that he expected

to receive \$30,000 for the League in San Francisco alone and there were many other places that he had yet to visit.

The old city of Quebec, the ancient capital of our own Dominion, is entitled to a note of distinction on this occasion, for we learn that there on the late St. Patrick's Day, Irish Catholics and Irish Protestants marched together in procession in honor of St. Patrick, thereby showing a tendency towards brotherly love. And why not? St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, where the Saint for some time labored, is a Protestant place of worship. Downpatrick, in the North, where he is buried, is as much a Protestant as a Catholic city, and another thing, the Protestants have nowhere else an Irish saint of their own, and Patrick is eminently respectable. Quebec has other reasons why Irish Protestants and Irish Catholics should unite on St. Patrick's Day. They have many associations in common. Some Irishmen have made great reputations there. Sir Guy Carleton, afterwards Lord Dorchester, who administered the government of Canada for England from there first, for many a year, was an Irishman. So was General Richard Montgomery, who died there fighting for the infant Republic, an Irishman. It is said that Carleton and Montgomery, who fought on opposite sides, were school fellows in Ireland. All the Irish immigrants to Canada have had Quebec in view before any other place. All must remember Grosse Ile and the sad scenes of 1847, when many were sufferers, and it would be an unhappy thing to have aught else but national unity on such an occasion, hallowed by common sufferings.

In Montreal, with its Griffintown, its Saint Anne's Ward, and its stalwart and resolute citizens, one would expect the day to be highly honored. Montreal is the only city in the United States or Canada that the writer has any knowledge of, to build a St. Patrick's Hall, and a noble structure it was. But, like its distinguished promoter, it had an unfortunate history. It was undertaken at the suggestion of Thos. D'Arcy McGee. It was erected in the years 1866-67, and stood at the corner of Victoria Square and Craig street. It was there that royalty held its reception when on a visit to that city. It was opened on March 18, 1867. For years it was the popular concert hall of that city, like the Music Hall of Toronto, which, too, long since, outlived its usefulness. After holding a large audience on an auspicious occasion, the roof gave way, but no one was injured. The damage was repaired, but a few years later it was the prey of a fire that started in a neighboring building and was never rebuilt. There was a brass plate on a corner of the building that was saved, which is now in the possession of Mr. B. Tansey, and contains engraven thereon the following:
"This plate commemorates the laying of the corner stone of St. Patrick's Hall, Montreal, by the Rev. P. Dowd, chief pastor of St. Patrick's Church, on 18th March, 1867, in the 30th year of the reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria. The Right Hon. Charles Stanley, Viscount Monck, Baron Monck of Ballytramon, Governor-General of British America; Lieut-Gen. Sir I. Michel, Bart., K.C.B., commander of the forces, Administrator of the Government of Canada; Henry Starns, Esq., Mayor of Montreal; Directors: Bernard Devlin, Hon. T. D. McGee, Hon. Thos. Ryan, W. H. Hingston, M.D., M. P. Ryan, Edward Murphy, J. W. McGauvran, Luke Moore, C. J. Cusack, Neil Shannon. J. W. Hopkins, architect; Howley & Sheridan, builders; E. E. Gilbert, iron builder. 'Praise to the Holiest in the highest, and in the depths be praised.'" Of all the persons whose names appear on the plate but two are living to-day—Sir William Hingston and Mr. Tansey, in whose possession the plate rests.

Montreal held some distinguished Sons of St. Patrick when that grand building was dedicated. The Governor-General, Lord Monck, was an Irishman; the Mayor, Henry Starns, was an Irishman; and Father Dowd,

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ENCYCLICAL LETTER.

Of Our Holy Father Pope Pius X., to the French Archbishops, Bishops, Clergy and People.

(Concluded from last issue.)
As for us, following the example of our predecessor and as the heir of his special predilection for your nation, we have, without doubt, sought to uphold the religion of your ancestors in the integral possession of all its rights amongst you; at the same time and always keeping before our mind that
FRATERNAL PEACE
whose closest bond is unquestionably religion. We have sought to give you strength in union. We cannot therefore, without deep pain see the French Government performing an act which, stirring up within the religious sphere passions already too painfully excited, appears to be of a character to throw the whole country into confusion. Wherefore, bearing in mind our Apostolic charge, and conscious of the imperativeness of the duty incumbent on us of defending the inviolable and sacred rights of the Church from all attack and maintaining them in their absolute integrity, in virtue of the supreme authority that God has bestowed on us we reprove and condemn for the above-mentioned reasons the law passed in France for the separation of Church and State as deeply offensive to God, Whom it officially denied by laying it down as a principle that the Republic does not recognize any form of worship. We reprove and condemn it as violating natural law, the law of nations, and the public fidelity due to treaties; as contrary to the divine constitution of the Church to its essential rights and liberty; as overwhelming justice and

I am not informed with regard to other cities and towns in Canada as
(Continued on page 8.)

Morgan Sees the Pope

The private audience with the Pope granted to J. Pierpont Morgan last week, took place in the private study of His Holiness, and lasted ten minutes. The Pope inquired about the health of President Roosevelt, for whom he expressed unfeeling admiration as a promoter of peace.
The Pontiff referred gratefully to Mr. Morgan's restitution of the Ascot cope, which he bought in ignorance of it having been stolen.
"I hope that you will be content in the future to admire Italian art without coveting possession of it," remarked His Holiness, jokingly.
Mr. Morgan rejoined in the same vein that he would not buy any more treasures which he might have to restore.
The conversation was entirely general and conducted through an interpreter. The Pope inquired interestedly about Mr. Morgan's motoring trips and expressed fear that he, too, if he could leave the Vatican, would fall a victim to those "wonderful machines which annihilate space."
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Leaving the Pope's presence, Mr. Morgan was conducted to the cabinet office of Merry del Val, papal secretary of state, with whom he had a long conversation in English.
Mr. Morgan said, after the audience, that the Pope is one of the finest and saintliest men he had ever met. He gave a handsome donation to Peter's Pence. It was reported after the great financier's visit that he had offered again to reorganize the finances of the Vatican and to advise on their investment. But high officials of the Vatican deride the suggestion.
Are you not moved to some sinful passion? Cut yourself from it in the Sacrament of penance.

they are always wisely brogated in

the end when the harm they cause to States becomes manifest. Would to God that those who are now in power in France may soon follow on this point the example of the men who preceded them there. Would to God that, amidst the applause of all good men, they may hasten to restore due dignity and freedom to religion, the source of civilization and of the prosperity of nations. Meantime, and as long as an oppressive persecution will last, the children of the Church having "put on the armour of light" (Romans xiii, 13), ought to strive with all their energy for truth and justice. This is always their duty; it is their duty to-day more than ever. In these sacred struggles you, venerable brethren, who should be the masters and guides of all the others, will employ all the vigilant, indefatigable and ardent zeal of which at all times the French Episcopate has to its credit given proofs well known to all. But above everything we desire—for it is a matter of extreme importance—that in all the schemes which you will take in hand for the defence of the Church you will try to bring about the most perfect

UNION OF HEART AND WILL.
We are firmly resolved to address to you at suitable times practical instructions which will be for you a sure rule of conduct amidst the great difficulties of the present hour. And we are certain beforehand that you will follow them faithfully. Meanwhile keep on at the salutary work in which you are engaged; revive as much as possible piety and popularise more and more the teaching of Christian doctrine; preserve all the souls confided to your care from the

ERRORS AND SEDUCTIONS, which they meet with to-day on so many sides; instruct, caution, encourage, console your flock, acquit yourselves in their regard of all the duties that your pastoral charge imposes on you. In this work you will without doubt have the unwearied assistance of your clergy. Their ranks are fertile in men remarkable for their piety, knowledge and attachment to the Apostolic See, and we know that they are always ready to devote themselves without counting the cost, under your direction, for the triumph of the Church and the eternal salvation of their neighbors.

The members of the French clergy will, we may be sure, also understand that at this time of trial they should have at heart the sentiments formerly entertained by the Apostles, and they will rejoice to have been judged worthy to suffer opprobrium for the name of Jesus, "rejoicing that they were accounted worthy to suffer reproach for the name of Jesus" (Acts v, 41). They will then bravely

VINDICATE THE RIGHTS AND LIBERTY OF THE CHURCH, but without offending anyone; nay, careful to observe charity as becomes above all ministers of Jesus Christ, they will reply to iniquity with justice, to outrages with mildness, and to evil treatment with beneficence. And now it is to you Catholics of France we address ourselves, let our word be received by all as a testimony of the tender benevolence with which we continue to love your country, and as a comfort amidst the formidable calamities you have to face. You know the object that the impious sects who bend your heads under their yoke have set before themselves, for they have themselves proclaimed it with audacious cynicism—to "de-catholicise" France. They wish to force out of your hearts every trace of the Faith that crowned your fathers with glory, that made your country prosperous and great among the nations, that sustained you in trouble, that maintains tranquility and peace at your hearth, and that opens for you

THE WAY TO ETERNAL HAPPINESS.
You feel that you must defend that Faith with your whole soul. But let there be no misunderstanding; unless you are strongly united all labor and efforts to repel the attacks which will be made upon you will be useless. Cast aside then all the germs of disunion and do what is necessary to ensure that in thought, as in action, your union shall be as firm as it should be amongst men who fight for the same cause, especially when the cause is one of those for whose triumph each ought to voluntarily sacrifice something of his own opinions. If you wish within the limits of your power, and as it is your imperative duty to do, to save the religion of your ancestors from the dangers that

FRENCH CATHOLICS MAY FORM A PARTY

Voters in France Awaken to Her Situation—Party will be Formed Similar to Centre Party in Germany.

The Catholic voters have got together in the country districts all over France and are planning to elect pronounced Catholic sympathizers. The Bishop of Nancy, Mgr. Turiney, will be one of the candidates, and other bishops are expected to follow suit. If this movement should succeed, the new French Ministry is sure to meet with defeat at the assembling of the new Parliament, and for this reason it is thought at the Vatican the new Cabinet will just now do all in its power to make some concessions to Catholics and perhaps suspend the taking of the inventories till after the elections have taken place. It is the general opinion that now that the French clergy have nothing to fear from their government, because they are no longer paid a salary, which the government might have suspended in case of disloyal conduct on their part, many parish priests in France will take an active part in politics. As near to the city of Paris as Neuilly, the parish priest, M. Bourgeat, has been very active during the past few days in organizing the Catholic electors. Nearly every parish in France has been flooded by the priests in charge with electoral manifestoes, which exhort the Catholics to rally and send to the new Parliament representatives who will protect Church interests.

The new instructions which are to be issued to the French Catholics by the Holy See regarding the present situation in France will be about the same as those that were given to the German Catholics at the time the Kulturkampf was adopted under the late Prince Bismarck. The German Catholics then succeeded in organizing their Centre Party in the Reichstag and compelled the German chancellor to withdraw all the laws he had adopted against the Church.

It is believed in Vatican circles that if the French Catholics will now follow the example set by their German brethren they will in the end succeed in having the present law of separation repealed and in forming a powerful opposition against the Anti-Clerical members of the government, just as this happened in Germany.

That generosity you will, we feel sure, exhibit, and by thus proving yourselves charitable towards His ministers, you will incline God to be more and more charitable towards you. As for the defence of religion, if you desire to undertake it in a manner worthy of the Faith, and to carry it out without interruption and efficaciously, two things are above all necessary; you should in the first place model yourselves so faithfully, according to the precepts of the Christian law, that your acts and your whole life will honor the Faith you profess, and you should then remain most closely united to those whose special vocation it is to watch over religion here below—to your priests, your bishops, and especially this Apostolic See, which is the pivot of the Catholic Faith and of all that can be done for it. Thus

ARMED FOR THE STRUGGLE, advance without fear to the defence of the Church; but take good care that your confidence be entirely founded upon God, Whose cause you sustain, and pray to Him continually that He may help you. For us, as long as the struggle against danger lasts, we shall be heart and soul with you; troubles, trials, sufferings—we shall share all with you; and at the same time addressing God, Who has founded and preserves the Church, we shall beg of Him to cast upon France a look of mercy, to rescue it from the waves beating around it, and to give it soon calm and peace through the intercession of Mary Immaculate. As an augury of these heavenly blessings and a sign of our special affection, we grant the Apostolic Benediction with all our heart to you, venerable brethren, to your clergy, and to the entire French people.

Given at St. Peter's, Rome, the 11th February, 1906, the third year of our Pontificate PIOUS X., POPE.

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