THE BOOK **OF KELLS.**

Gleanings By "Crux.

T this particular time, when the question of the rival of Gaelic tongue, and also of Irish music and literature has taken such a hold on the peo ple, it cannot be but of great interest for us to have an idea of some of the monumental works left by great Irishmen of the past. Leaving aside the almost unsolved mystery of the Round Towers, the Ogham Stones, and the Druid Aftars, there are some marvellous relics, coming from more recent ages, that stand out to attest the talent, the genius of our Celtic ancestors. It was from about the middle of the ninth to the middle of the twelfth centuries that most of the great works, in various branches, performed by the Irish. Ther were came the invasion of the Danes, and from that time, until the day Clontarf, those barbarians of the Norths waged such a fierce war cn Ireland that not only were the works art stopped, but many of those existing then were destroyed. In architecture, sculpture, painting, bronze, or brass work, music and books the Irish of those comparatively remote centuries excelled

In considering their books, it must be remembered that the monks produced nearly all of them. They had be done with pen and ink, by to hand, and the system of illumination that was carried to the highest degree of perfection, was most tireson and lengthy in execution. The following account of that method of beautifying books will prove of interest, and will serve to explain the rare value of the books that have been rescued from oblivion. We take this from an article, from which other quotations will be made.

ILLUMINATION .- "It is chiefly a sort of beautiful interlaced work formed of bands, ribbons and cords which are twisted and interwoven in the most intricate way, mixed up with waves and spirals, and some times you see the faces or forms o dragons, serpents, or other strangelooking animals, their tails or ears, or tongues lengthened out and wov en, till they become mixed up with the general design, and sometimes odd-looking human faces or full figures of men or of angels. The pattern is often so minute as to require the aid of a magnifying glass to examine it. The scribes' usually made the capital letters very large, so as sometimes to fill almost an entire page, and on these they exerted their utmost skill. They also painted the open spaces of the letters and ornaments in brilliant colors, like scribes of other countries, which art was called Illumination.

BOOK OF KELLS .- Dr. West wood, a famous English archaeolo gist. speaking of the Book of Kells. which is now in the Dublin Univer sity. Ireland, pronounced it "the most beautiful book in the world." The great scholars Henri Martin, Wyatt, Waagen, Keller, Zimmer and others, are of the same opinion. Dr Wyatt says :-- "Its delicacy of hand ling and minute but faultless execu tion, the whole range of palaeogra-phy offers nothing comparable to the most marvellous of all is th Book of Kells, some of the ornament of which I attempted to copy, but broke down in despair." Waage 'the ornamental pages, borders and initial letters exhibit such a rich va riety of beautiful and peculiar de signs, so admirable a taste in th arrangement of the colors and such mon perfection and finish that absolutely lost in amaze one is

ing the second half of the seventh. It cannot well be later; the saints in it are represented with a Celtic ton sure, which consisted in shaving the front of the hair from ear to ear As the Roman tonsure, which is en irely different, was universally acepted by the Irish Church several years before the close of the century, it seems a natural conclusion that the saints would have had the Roman tonsure if the manuscript been composed after the year 700."

THE MANUSCRIPT. - The Irish Academy holds the real manuscript of St. Columba. They may never have heard of the law of "copyhave heard of the law of right" in those days, yet we learn that St. Columba requested permission of Bishop Molaise to copy the gospels of St. Finan, which had lateen placed in the Episcopal Cat hedral. Meeting with a refusal, he entered the church night after night, until the whole had been copied When Molaise learned this he appealed to King Diarmid, then at Tara. After hearing both parties, Diarmid sought for precedence in all the braries of Erin, but there never before had been a case in which the rights of an author or transcriber and his works were involved. How. ever, there had been any number of cases, dealing with the ownership of cattle, and on these was the King's judgment based. The "Calf," he said, "belongs to the owner of the cow, and the little book to the owner of the big book.

The text of the Book of Kells is written in the noble semi-unical character adopted by all the Irish scribes of the period, but it is the illustrations, borders, initial letters, and other special ornamentations that render it a perfect house of artistic wealth. No wonder Giraldus Cam brensis, who was sent by Henry III on an embassy to Ireland, in 1185 should have insisted that it could have been written only by angels Fancy what seems a mere colored dot to the eye, becoming, under the microscope, a conventional bunch of foliage, with a conventional bird am ong the branches.

AUTHORITIES SPEAK .- In refer ring to the minuteness and almost miraculous correctness of the drawing Prof. Westwood mentions that:-"With the aid of a powerful lens

he counted within the space of one inch, one hundred and sixty interlace ments of bands or ribands, each riband composed of a strip of white bordered on each side by a black strip!"

Dr. Middleton, professor of Fine Arts in Cambridge University, in his work on illuminated manuscripts says:-"'No words can describe the intricate delicacy of the ornamentation of this book, lavishly decorated as it is with all the different varieties o ingeniously intricate and knotted lines of color, plaited in and out with such complicated interlacement that one cannot look at the page without astonishment at the combined taste patience, unfaltering certainty of touch and imaginative ingenuity o the artists.

"With regard to the intricate interlaced ornaments in which, with the aid of a lens, each line can be followed out in its windings and never found to break off or lead to an impossible loop of knotting, it is evident that the artist must have enjoyed not only an aesthetic pleasure in the invention of his pattern, but nust also have had a distinct intel lectual enjoyment of his work such as a skillful mathematician feels in working out a complicated mathema tical problem. The same writer, from whom th

principal points of this article, or gleanings, have been taken, makes the following interesting statements: "It may be as well to state that the scribes of the Irish manuscripts were evidently much indebted to the roldsmiths' art, which, judging the museum of the Irish Academy must have attained an unapproach able delicacy and beauty in Ireland during the first centuries of th Christian era. Dr. Keller consider the the spirals the most difficult of the atterns. 'They are,' says he, masterpieces which furnish magnifient evidence of the extraordinary firmness of the hand of the artist The beautiful trumpet pattern of which so much has been written is the expansion of the spiral into omething in the form af a trumpet. Some years ago an attempt was ande to issue a series of photogra phic reproductions of the principa pages and most striking initials, but it was found impossible to reproduce by any mechanical process, the colwhich are as fresh and as brilliant to-day as when the artist laid them on twelve centuries ago.

THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

Ferdomnach of Armagh, and is now in Trinity College, Dublin. Another book, scarcely inferior in beauty of execution to the Book of Kells. is preserved in the Archbishop's Library, at Lambeth. It is a copy of the Gospels, now known as the Book of MacDurnan, written in Ireland, some time from 800 to 850. To give a list of the books and manuscript that have been discovered and the or igins of which are traceable Trish monks and scribes would take the proportions of a catalogue; and this revival of Gaelic language and literature will bring forth others yet of priceless value.

The C, M.B.A. of America

The Supreme Council of the Catho lic Mutual Benevolent Association of America held its convention in Pittsburg recently. President Hynes was in the chair. The chief topic for consideration was the preparation of a new assessment rate

The committee appointed to prepare a schedule of new rates wa follows: W. C. Shields, Corry; J. F Keena, Detroit; M. J. Kean, Buffalo; James L. Whalen, Cleveland; M. J McMahon, Pittsburg; Robert Wigger New York; Thomas L. McAvoy, New York; J. B. Fox, Bradford; H. Preus-Cleveland; J. B. Schrembs ser, Grand Rapids: L. H. Hannen, Burlington, Kan.; P. F. McCaffrey, Montreal; Eoward Cadieux, Holyoke, Mass.

That committee advised the adop tion of the following rates:-

112.7			
Age	Amt.	Age.	Amt.
		17	
18	95	19	96
20 .	 97	21	98
22 .	 1.00	23	1.03
		25	
		27	
		29	
		31	
		83	
		35	
		37	
		39	
40		41	
42		13 \	
44	 2.33	15	
46		17	
		19 and over	
			21 - 22 - 24 - 44

The age with the given amount is for new members and affects the present members to this extent, that if a member who is now 50 years of age and scheduled at \$3.09 per \$1,-000 under the new rate, became member at 25 years of age, he would now pay the rate as set forth in the new table of rates; and that would based upon the age of entry, be. \$1.08 per \$1,000 per month; and, again, if that person was initiated at the age of 40 years, he would pay under this new rate \$1.35 per \$1,000 per month. The report was adopted without a

lissenting vote. The report of the Supreme Record-

r, Joseph Cameron, shows the funds for the triennial term to be as follows: Beneficiary, \$3,177,533.12; general, \$91,855.25; reserve, \$1,090,-524.58. Of the latter fund \$650,-128.72 was in reserve three years ago, and the amount accumulated during the term ending was \$440,-395.86. During the triennial period \$3,171,656.14 was paid out in death benefits, and \$74,908.62 for expenses Of the latter \$22,387.28 was for offi cial papers and \$8,469.29 for organizing purposes.

Three years ago the membership was 51,616 and 17,667 new members were added during the term. Th number of deaths was 1.969, and

lapses 5,409, leaving a total membership on October 1 of 61,936. At the closing session of the convention on October 15 Detroit was Our Curbstone Observer BRAINY MEN. ON

I is not exactly on the subject of the "men" that I suppose writing a few lines this week but upon the qualifying word "Brainy." So frequently have I with this expression during the past year or so, and so general is ecoming the use of it, even in what are supposed to be reputable Ameri-can publications, that I cannot help drawing attention to it. Besides I may frankly say that it grates on my nerves to such an extent that I get almost angry every time that I see it in print. It sounds harsh on the ear, it conveys a feeling almost akin to that suggested by the word "bloody," or any other word that gives rise to nasty sensations of the mind. Although I knew it to be slang, and of the worst American character, I took the trouble to look through the best authorities on the English language. I found the word "Brainless" to mean a persoo devoid of intelligence, talent wit. Then the word "Brainish," which Shakespeare used in the sense of hot-headed, or

impetuous. Both of these denote characteristics that are lowering rather than elevating, and that are by no means enviable. But the word "Brainy" is intended to mean an extra amount of intelligence, of talent, of wit, of calculation, of mental vig-Why then use a vuigar and basing word to designate that which is elevating and refined? Whenever I hear a person referred to as "a brainy man," I at once form the impression, in my mind, of a man endowed with cunning and even mental gifts of a more than ordinary character. but devoid of conscience, or fine feelings. One of those individuals of whom a satirist wrote that "he had orains enough to concoct a crime, out not heart enough to feel for its sequences." I must admit that I have an absolute detestation for slang. I cannot bear that strange weakness that drives people to catch up every fresh bit of slang and to weave it into their every-day language. To me it is an eviden great shallowness. The English language is extensive enough to proper expressions for every idea that man can conceive. And when a man especially a young man, or youn girl, finds it necessary to play the maypie, or parrot, and to repeat slangy expressions, I conclude that it is because he, or she, does not

know the English language sufficiently to be able to use it properly. MY OBSERVATIONS. - All this may seem a queer preface. The reader may wonder what has possessed the Curbstone Observer to take upon himself the duties of a language censor. It is just because I have such splendid and exceptional opportunities of observation that I deem it my privilege to dot down whatever I may think can benefit my fellowcitizens. About three weeks ago I was travelling a hundred miles or so by rail, when I met a former acquaintance. We had a short chat over the days that are gone and the friends that we had known. Another gentle man came in and took a seat near us. My former acquaintance bowed to him, and, after a few minutes

said that he would go to the smok-ing car. Before so doing he introd me to the new arrival. For over an hour and a half we two had one of the most delightful conversations I have ever enjoyed. He spoke the purest of English, and his know ledge ranged over vast and varied fields. I rearely ever met a person whose conversation delighted me more than his. And I did not know which to most admire, his immense amount of information, his prodigious memory, or his entire lack of self-praise or vanity. When we reached our destination my former companion joined me in a walk up town. "How did you like Mr. G.M?" he asked. I said exactly what I thought of him. Then my friend remarked, ble on one thing—he is the most these narts." Upon my honor, I felt like knocking him down. You can form no idea of the shock it gave me to hear such a remark. I do not doubt that it , was intended as a great complim the person in question; but I would have thanked him, had he allowed some of the delightful effects of our recent conversation to wear off before giving me such a douche of cold water. Imagine calling a man of that calibre "brainy," and so be told that you might "gamble" upon him. Pos-sibly I am extra sensitive in this

SATURDAY, OCT. 31, 1903 score; it may be that a man who has trod the curbstone as long as I have should not be so particular and should have be should have become accustomed to the language of the street; but what can I do if I am so constituted? No amount of intimacy with vulgarity could ever make me sufficiently accustomed to it to allow it to pass without a feeling of repugnance. And it is the same with slang; I could never become accustomed to it. Even if the word "brainy" were to be accepted into the English language and

to be placed in a dictionary, I would not use it, nor would the use of it by others ever sound agreeably in my ears. My reason for thus speaking out so plainly on this subject is to attract the attention of the young beople of our day-the young boys and girls, young men and women and to beg of them not to commence life with slang and vulgar language They have, with God's help, a long road to travel, and there is ample time in the future for false steps-for false ones will be taken by all, each will feel the shock of being tripped up on the way. An old Quaker once said to me, when I was quite a boy-and imagined myself a man "beware, friend, of a false step; thee take only one, thee may go or staggering through life, and thee may find it hard to recover thy balance if ever thee recover it at all." There are many kinds of false steps: there are those that are taken in the moral path, and in the religious ave nue; there are also others that are not crimes, nor sins, but that to mar the pleasure that otherwise might be enjoyed on the way.

CONCLUSION .- It may be that my observations, as I dot them down, at hap-hazard, and just as the subjects ent themselves to me are what disjointed. But, as a judge of our courts said, on a recent occasion of congratulations, "I have tried to do the work under the eye of God;' by this I mean that I have sought to draw from every evil that I have met with some warning for the young people especially, and from every good trait of character, every virtuous deed, and every worthy motive, another lesson of imitation for those who may happen to read my writ ings. The benefit that they may de--small though it be-is about rivemy only recompense, while the assur ance that no wrong or injury has ever been done by aught that I glean on the curbstone is my chief consolation. Thus has it been for almost five years now that I have been con tributing to this column of the noble old 'True Witness;" and thus shall it be in the future, as long as it is my privilege to continue such contributions, and as long as it may please God to allow me the life and vitality to do so.

The Valet of Leo XIII.

During the past twenty years, or so, and especially during the last illness of the late illustrious Pontiff, Leo XIII., few names were better known, and few men in public positions less known, than Cavalier Centra, who was valet to the Holy Fa ther. Now that his days of office are over Centra will no longer have his name figuring in the press of the great world, and it is not probable that his person will be even thought of outside his own immediate circle of friends. Yet he played an import ant part in his time, and he had his share of public attention.

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An account of him says that he is with a large, clean-shaven face, and "a vigorous and fine-looking man, sparkling eyes. His task was a delicate and responsible one. He rose before the Pope, and only went to bed when everything had been set in ism that it was gotten up as a mofor the night. He helped the nev-making e scher Pope to dress and undress, served Regarding pilgrimages to far-away his meals and many other important shrines involving much physical exercharges. He was never far from the tion, while the Bishop did not disap-Vatican, because he knew he was ver prove of the pious practices incident seful to his venerable master. He is to such devotions, he was of the a cultivated man, with a kindly dis opinion that there are altogether too position and infinite tact. Endless many of these pilgrimages, involving expense, trouble and danger, to be beople knock at his door and som times they are hard to dispose of wholesome or conducive to the real but he is a thorough diplomatist, po worship .of the Blessed Sacram lite and witty as a first secretary of the center of all Catholic devotion. He called attention to the lack of legation. When he used to be asked however, if the alarming news pub reverence, shown by many Catholics in the church in the manner in which lished by the papers was true he would stare in blank amaz they bless themselves and when they flect. He compared their style reassure you at once; to tell him that the Pope was ill was the same of blessing to the performance through in brushing a fly or mo charging him with a crime."

Pen Pictures Of The Laity.

BUSINESS FIRST .- A correspond. ent of the "Catholic Times," of Buffalo, in a timely note, Union and which we give below, touches upon a matter which concerns professional and business men in other cities as well as Buffalo. He says:-I went into a young Catholic professional man's place of business the other day, and while waiting for the y. C. p. m. to appear, glanced over the literary wares scattered about his office table. I found the "Outlook," the "Christian Herald," one two other distinctly Protestant publications, the "Ladies' Home Journal, Youth's Companion," several of the current ten cent magazines. Did I find the "Messenger of the Sacred Heart," "Catholic World Magazine," "Donahoe's," or any other Catholic magazine or periodical? Not the faintest sign. a reason for this absence of Catholic literature and my misguided young friend said he "didn't believe in mixing his business with his reijigion." I am certain he thought himself titled to much credit for his supposed liberality in displaying the Protestant periodicals; this, to him, was a proof of broadmindedness, while to have a Catholic pauer or magazine

about would be mixing religion and business! This young fellow has a considerable Catholic patronage, and while I do not say that he fill his office table with an obtrusive collection of Catholic literature, he might find room for at least one example in the mass of heretical rubbish his poor taste and poorer busijudgment impels him to place before his patrons. Why, for example, does he not have a copy of "My New Curate," "Luke Delmege," or some other good Catholic novel? The occasional reading of a chapter from these books by his non-Catholic customers would undoubtedly give them a knowledge of Catholic fiction whose eneficial results the true inheritor of the faith should ever keep in mind.

I was inclined to "have it out" with my friend then and there, but between pity and indignation I did not feel equal to a calm discussion, so let the matter drop with the remark that if the situation had none other than a business aspect to him, it might be well to banish the non-Catholic periodicals and feed his patrons on the intellectual pabulum to be found in the "Ladies' Home Journal" and stuff of that calibre. I have no doubt that he considers me a narrow-minded bigot for daring to im-

RIGHT KIND OF DEVOTION .- In sermon on "Catholic Devotions" at St. John's Cathedral, Syracuse, recently, Bishop Ludden referred to the alleged apparition or vision at Oswego, which caused a great stir for a few days, and to pilgrimages taken to shrines in places far from home

pugn his judgment.

Referring to the Oswego incident, where the shadow of a cross was said to rest above the bier of a devout Catholic woman, and where the family is said to have charged admission to the room, the Bishop said such things were not to be credited by the people, and that Catholics needed no such evidences, even if true, to enliven their faith. He said that he was of the opinion that the whole affair smacked of commercial-

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Bequests For Mas An Absolute Gift.

SATURDAY, OG

The most sweeping r been made by an Ameri cerning a matter of Ca time was last some down by Surrogate Ge ton, of Rochester, N.Y "Catholic Union and holds that a bequest to Masses for the repose the donor is an absolut the case under consider tutes a claim against t. tate that is collectible of the priest after the latter.

The case is that of J nan, as administrator nexed of the estate of R Kiernan. Through Murr & Keenan, he put in a \$500 willed Father Masses by Daniel Lane died July 3,1897, and I nan May 13, 1900. No j fered by either Mr. Keen Kinney, representing as to whether or not the

Judge Benton says: natural to suppose that making a bequest for suc would so distrust his le insist that the services sl formed before the money Such bequests, he holds, on condition precedent. Th of the decision is that th ance of the Masses by th such a case is a duty la conscience of the clergy and that the legacy ves priest and passes to his sentative who is in a p claim its payment. The exact parallel in the United States courts."

Following is the full tex

Daniel Lane died July 3. his will was admitted t Oct. 25, 1897. In it he m quest "Unto Reverend F nan of the Cathedral, Ro Y., the sum of five hundr (\$500) for Masses for the my soul." This is one of quests to other priests. T of this is challenged. Fa nan died May 13, 1900. He ed as one of the executors of Mr. Lane, but renounced

This bequest creates no loes not attempt to do t therefore not within the p of those cases like Holland (108 N. Y., 312), which de trust provisions invalid for ness in not naming the b It is an absolute gift to th named and is valid. A gif of a certain sum to a price Masses for the testator, outright gift to take effect valid. Sherman, admr. Baker. 40 L. R. A. 717. In McHugh v. McCall, 40 724, the court says: "We kn legal reason why any perso Catholic faith believing in cy of Masses, cannot make gift or bequest to any b niest of any ty for Masses for the report soul or the souls of others, In Holland v. Alcock (sup 822, the court says: "If the had been a sum of money corporated Roman Catholi or churches, duly designated testator, and authorized by receive such bequests for the of solemnizing Masses, a question would arise." A case very similar to the question arose in Kansas. ary bequest was in the nguage: "I give and bequ Reverend James Collins for for his grandmother's and ther's so The court held lows: "The will does not u to create a trust. The gift lute to the person named. T uage in which it is made is persuasive, expressive of desir catory,') as called in the law but the vesting of the gift is ditioned, upon the performan act enjoined, and upon the co of the donee alone is laid the performing the sacred service. The testatrix might have m gitt in the usual terms; coupled with it an injunction form the solemn religious of

ITS PROBABLE DATE .- In regard to the time when the Book of Kells we cannot give exac was made The work must have taken nany years, perhaps half a century The writer (whom we do not know rom whom we first quoted, says:-

The Book of Kells is an illumin ated manuscript of the Four Gospel in Latin; it contains prefaces, planations of the meaning of the Hebrew names, summaries and the ta-bles of the Eusebian Canon. It was rly believed to have been co ed by St. Columba in the second half of the sixth century, Conserva tive archaelogists ary pretty general ly agreed that it was produced dur

It may as well be here added in conclusion that the Book of Ar magh, containing among many othe pieces, a Life of St. Patrick, and a omplete copy of the New Testamen is almost as beautifully Latin written as the Book of Kells. It was ished in 807 by the skillful scribe.

relected as the next meeting place. A cablegram was read from Pope Pius X. authorizing Bishop Phelan to grant the Pontifical Benediction. These officers were elected for the ensuring term: Supreme President, J. Hynes, Buffalo, N.Y., re-John elected by acclamation; Supreme first vice-president, William Muench, Syrause, N.Y.: Supreme second vice-president, M. A. Carmody, Pittsburg Supreme Recorder, Joseph Cameron Hornellsville, N.Y., re-elected; preme treasurer, James M. Weish. Hornellsville, N.Y.; Supreme mar hal, Jeremiah Nehim, Buffalo, N.Y.; Supreme guard, Patrick Flannery, Quebec; Supreme trustees, for six years, Thomas P. Hoban, Scranton Pa.; Frank Randel, Cleveland, Ohio James L. Whalen, Rochester, N. Y. The other two members who remain in office till the next convention are Rev. M. J. Kean, Buffalo, N.Y., and John H. Breen, Detroit, Mich. Legal adviser, J. F. Keena, Detroit, Mich. law committee, M. - J. McMahon, Pittsburg: Herman Preusser, Cleve and, and Warren A. Carter, Luding ton. Mich.; Supreme finance commit tee, J. B. Fox, Bradford, Pa.; F. R. Forster, Massillon, Ohio, and B. Todenbier, Detroit.

quito from the head or face, and their genuffections to the short and These few notes are of interests to udden movement caused by stepping Catholics, for we all hold in deer and lasting veneration the memory o on a match. He said that he had visited many the great and saintly Pope wh holy shrines made sacred by the tra-ditions of our Saviour and that he God called to Himself a few month

ago; and all who were in his confi-dence, who served him weil, and who were beloved by him plac much had never seen an apparition or an thing to suggest the supernatural. He advised his hearers to cultivat were beloved by him also merit our recognition. And though not in the He advised his hearers to cultivate their piety to the greatest of all demost elevated capacity—like a Secre-tary of State, or a Prefect of a Sa-cred College—still Centra was cer-tainly the one nearest to Leo XIII, in the intimacy of the Pontif's life. -and to place little credence in eged visions or making costly edious trips to distant shrines.