

ating waters of Baptism be poured upon their heads.

Ireland Christianized

"Paganism from that moment lost its hold. This memorable Easter day may be said to have virtually effected the conversion of the whole island; for the many chieftains who returned to their homes clad in the white baptismal robe, the princely youths and maidens who re-appeared among their kindfolk with shorn locks and wearing the monastic garb, the former priests of Druidism initiated now in holier and sublimer rites,—all multiplied the voice of the Apostle in every remote corner and clan. After sixty years in this glorious Apostolate the aged conqueror from his metropolitan throne in Ar-magh beholds the entire nation subject to his spiritual authority.

"His work is done. Ere he closed his eyes in death he uttered this prophetic prayer: 'Grant me this favor, O Lord, that my people may remain ever true to the faith that I taught them.' On March 17, in the year 493, at the age of 116 years, the pure soul of St. Patrick passed from earth to heaven, to God 'his reward exceeding great.' He passed away, but his spirit remained with his people and through all the vicissitudes of their extraordinary history they have remained 'ever true to the faith.'

"The obedience of this new patriarch, this Christian Abraham, has been amply rewarded. He is in possession of the land which the Lord had shown him. He is become the father of a great nation, which to the end of time will enshrine his blessed name in their hearts with religious enthusiasm. Generations shall come and go, but the memory of St. Patrick shall never fade.

"Happy Ireland! which welcomed so great an Apostle.

"Happy Apostle! whose lot was cast among so affectionate a people.

Ireland's Mission

The second portion of the discourse was devoted to exposing the remarkable similarity of the mission of the Irish nation to the mission of its Apostle. There was evident the same admirable unity of design; in her history were discernible the same distinct periods that marked his,—her youthful period of peace and happiness; her adolescent period of storms and suffering, and that grand period of maturity when she was advanced to the highest station in the Church, that of the Apostolate.

Her Peaceful Preparation

"While darkness and desolation covered the rest of the earth," said the speaker, "while Huns and Saxons, Goths and Lombards, Moors and Saracens, carried despair and death into all corners of Europe, Asia and Africa; while one by one the bright lights of ancient Christendom,—Jerusalem, Antioch, Alexandria, Carthage,—were extinguished, Ireland continued for three centuries to be the unmolested sanctuary of faith, the asylum of learning, the nursery of saints and missionaries. With reason could Montalambert write: 'From the fifth to the eighth centuries Ireland became one of the great centres of Christianity in the world; and not only of Christian holiness and virtue, but also of knowledge, literature and the intellectual life with which the new faith was about to endow Europe.

"Ireland was looked upon by the other nations of Europe as sacred ground. To her sheltering bosom there flocked from all Christendom studious souls thirsting for knowledge, repentant souls longing for seclusion, virtuous souls in quest of refuge and models; and they found knowledge in her schools, discipline in her cloisters, while the humblest peasant in the Island could teach them by precept and example the path to Christian perfection.

"History tells us that between the years 432 and 664 Ireland was the prolific mother of 750 Saints. But how many thousands there were of whom history knows nothing. Dr. Kelly remarks: 'The soil we tread covers the remains of many thousand foreigners who came to Ireland to find learning,—or the greatest learning of all, the science of the Saints,—and lived and

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died in the odor of sanctity in their adopted country.

Her Preparation in Bondage

"But this youthful period of peace, this reign of glory, was not to last. These three centuries of happy tranquillity were intended to be only an introduction to the history of the nation. Like her Apostle she must prepare for her great mission by trials.

"I do not intend to dwell upon the wrongs of Ireland. If you have never looked beyond the physical evils she endured, you have never conceived thoughts worthy of Ireland. You have seen, indeed, the rags and tatters by which the brutality of her foes has sought to humiliate her, but you have not discerned the divine glory which shines through them. You have seen the wretched workmanship of man; but not the all-shaping, merciful hand of God. If Ireland had not suffered, had not gone into captivity, she too might have been a profane nation, with her measure of worldly greatness and worldly aspirations; but she would not have attained that noble station in the Church to which she was predestined and for which a long series of trials was the indispensable preparation.

"Who does not sympathize with St. Patrick under the lash of his captors? Yet Patrick's bondage was necessary for Ireland; and Ireland's bondage was equally necessary for the world. St. Patrick was sent into captivity that he might become familiar with the language and customs of the people whom he was chosen to evangelize. So, too, the Irish, having been selected by the Lord for the important work of evangelizing a great part of the world, were subjected to the sway of that nation whose wonderful commercial enterprise had made her language the most generally spoken by the human species. How little did that nation dream when it was planting its proud banner in every remote corner of the globe, that Providence was making use of its ambition for the advantage of the nation which it despised and of a religion which it detested. Ireland, then, was led into captivity, not only that the world might have a brilliant illustration of the heroism of Christian patience and resignation, but especially, that it might have, what it sorely needed, a nation of Apostles.

Evangelizing the English-speaking World

"After withstanding for ages the open violence and insidious wiles of Satan, after having been tried like Job of old, Ireland was advanced to the highest station in the Church. 'God,' says St. Paul, 'has placed in His Church first of all His Apostles.' It was through sorrows and persecutions that St. Patrick was raised to this dignity. By an unparalleled grace, through the same means, was his beloved Irish nation raised to this sublime office. Other nations have, indeed, given birth to illustrious Apostles. Spain may well be proud of St. Francis Xavier, Britain of St. Boniface and Italy of St. Augustine. But Ireland's glory is infinitely greater: she has not only sent

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Dear Friend:—

Contributions from rich and poor, young and old, received by the Free Hospital for Consumptives, tell of the love and charity toward the great work carried on in Muskoka.

Thousands from all parts of Canada not only sent their "God bless the work" but their money also to help to answer their prayers.

The poor widow out of her hard-earned savings, telling how her own heart was made lonely through the dread scourge, as well as the rich insurance companies, have sent their gifts.

2,000 patients have been cared for since the opening of our Homes in Muskoka. 560 of these were treated in the Free Hospital. 150 patients in these two Homes to-day, show how this life-saving work has grown.

Premier Whitney, replying to a large deputation in the interests of the National Sanitarium Association, stated that "personally he thought \$100,000 would not be too much for the Government to set apart for this work."

Seventy-five patients to be cared for in the Muskoka Free Hospital for

Consumptives means a large weekly outlay. The Trustees accept this obligation, believing the needed money will be forthcoming.

The world is full of good and generous people ready to give. But they want to be sure that their money is wisely spent. In no other place can your money do so much good.

The growing knowledge of the contagious character of the disease has made the lot of the consumptive poor a hard one.

The Muskoka Free Hospital is today the only place where a sufferer in the early stages of consumption is admitted free.

Will you not help to save the life of a sick one to whom all other doors are closed?

What greater blessing could crown your giving, than the knowledge that it helps to snatch a fellow-being from the very jaws of death?

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Faithfully yours,
W. J. GAGE.

Toronto, Can.

forth isolated missionaries; she has gone forth herself to the extreme ends of the earth.

"How often in these latter days has not the stern but salutary voice of God resounded throughout the Island: 'Go forth out of thy country and from thy kindred, and out of thy father's house.' Even though that high decree came disguised in the harsh tones of a bailiff, with what filial acquiescence in the Divine Will have not millions of her children bade a sad farewell to their native land, their humble hearth and their dearest kindred, and gone forth to penetrate the wilds of America, the jungles of India and the sands of Australia. Truly, 'there are no speeches nor languages where their voices are not heard: their sound hath gone forth into all the earth.' With unflinching zeal and superhuman endurance they have planted the Faith under every star of heaven.

Ireland's Destiny

"Oh, Isle of Saints, how sublime is thy destiny! Everything pertaining to thee is extraordinary and supernatural! Thou seemest to belong to a different world from this; thou art so unlike the other nations of the earth. Thou hast been trampled upon by every passer by. Thy haughty invaders have disdainfully called thee a nation. They have wished to sweep thee, with thy language, thy institutions, thy religion, from the face of the globe. Yet, lo! that which was despised and rejected, the same is become the corner-stone of the edifice of God! The more they trampled upon thee, the more deeply didst thou infix thy roots; the more they shook thy aged trunk, the more rapidly didst thou shoot forth thy far-spreading branches.

"Ireland has fulfilled her mission. She has nobly kept the Faith implanted in her soul by her glorious Apostle, St. Patrick. And, as one of her sons beautifully says: 'She may have had to stand aside and let the prizes of the world go by, but Ireland has still one jewel shining in her crown that makes it, crown of thorns though it be, the noblest crown that God and history have ever bound about a nation's brow,—the jewel of unshaken fidelity to the Church of God.'

The Irishman's Mission

"Let me conclude by urging you to be mindful of your exalted mission. Irishmen and the children of Irishmen, ponder well the formidable responsibility which that mission lays upon you. It is well for you to remember that it was for no trivial purpose that you or your fathers were transplanted to fertile regions of America. Divine Providence has placed you on a mountain top, that men may have full scope to observe you, and from the study of your Christian virtues, may be brought to know, to love and to embrace that Christian faith which inspires them.

"You, my friends, are writing another page of the history of the Irish people. Ah, let not that page that you are making now be unworthy to take its place with those that have preceded it."

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