

For many years it has seemed a settled fact that St. Patrick was a native of France, though many Scotchmen claim the great apostle as a fellow-countryman. But now comes the Rev. Albert Barry, C. SS. R., with an able article in the *Irish Ecclesiastical Record* in which he maintains that St. Patrick was a native of North Wales. The Saint's father, Calphurnus, the gifted writer, attempts to prove, held a high office in the Brito-Roman city of Caer- Legion or Caerleon, on the Dee, the modern Chester. Like the other magistrates and civil rulers of that city, he possessed a country villa, and Father Barry concludes that this villa must have been in the Vale of the Clwyd, where, according to ancient Irish writers, Saint Patrick was born. The Vale of the Clwyd is, it is true, many miles from Chester, but in those days, observes the rev. gentleman, "well-trained steeds bore men to and fro upon the splendid Roman road." Father Barry's contention, whether it be accepted or rejected, must excite wide-spread interest.

The following clipped from the New York *Ledger* will be of interest to all geological students. At a recent meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in Madison, Wisconsin, an interesting paper on "The Age of the Earth" was read by Professor C. D. Walcott, of Washington. He places the age of the earth at about 45,000,000 years, dividing the periods of geological time as follows:

	Years.
Cenozoic (including Pleis- tocene) about.....	2,900,000
Mesozoic.....	7,240,000
Paleozoic.....	17,500,000
Algonkian.....	17,500,000
Total time of sedimentary rocks.....	45,140,000

While this estimate is less than that made by many authorities, it is not so low as that made by several. Winchell placed the age of the world at about 25,000,000 years; Lyell made it 240,000,000; Darwin, in a general way, placed it at 200,000,000; Geikie at 73,000,000. Other estimates range from 100,000,000 to 600,000,000 years. At the rate of the deposit

in the ocean to-day, it would require, he calculates, 1,200,000 years to deposit the 6,000 feet of limestone, which cover an area of 400,000 square miles on the plateau of Utah and Nevada, that were formerly sea-bottom. The sandstones in the same region and shales are 15,000 feet thick, and for their deposit he assigns 16,000,000 years. With these figures as a unit, he reaches the conclusion given in the table cited above.

St George Mivart, in an article in the December number of the *Nineteenth Century*, shows that, both in his written articles and in his submission to the decrees of the Sacred Congregation, he was guided by what he believed to be the dictates of reason and sound judgment. He also shows clearly that the Pope, when teaching *ex-Cathedra*, cannot fall into error either as regards faith or morals. Mivart then gives the various grounds on which a book may be condemned, and concludes his article with the following words: "Whatever may be the fallibility of this or that authority, I have certainly not the least pretension to be infallible myself! Therefore there may be theological errors, quite unknown to me, in my articles, and it is at least certain that in some passages their tone was such that offence might easily have been given. Moreover it cannot surely be supposed, I think myself an unerring judge as to the opportuneness of what I may have advanced. What is lawful is not always expedient. Obviously even the absolute truth must not be used and everywhere proclaimed." This paper proves conclusively that St. George Mivart is a great scientist, but a greater Christian. In Mivart we find an example of the true Christian scientist, who, though placing confidence in the power of man's intellect, still remembers that the human mind is finite and liable to err, and that, consequently, there is a sphere beyond which all is shrouded in mystery that cannot be penetrated by human reason.

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