

As Catholics, as Irishmen, or sons of Irishmen, as members of our societies of Temperance, we would prove false to our faith, our country and the noble cause which we advocate, were we to fail to celebrate this birthday feast, and to keep it a memorial from generation to generation, with an everlasting observance. However warm our devotion to the cause of Temperance, our efforts in this direction (let us humbly make the confession) pale into insignificance in the presence of the untiring, unselfish and successful labors of the great apostle whom we honor on this day.

Born October the 10th, 1790, ordained a priest on Easter Saturday, 1814, it was on April 10th, 1838, that Father Mathew began the special work of his apostolate. From the hour in which he signed the total abstinence pledge till that of his death, he labored night and day for the success of the cause which he had so much at heart. God crowned his labors as He never before nor since has crowned the labors of any one man in the cause of Temperance.

Ireland, England, Scotland and the United States were the successive theatres of the battles which he waged against drink. Like Peter the Hermit, and St. Bernard, preaching the crusades for the deliverance of the Holy Land from the hands of the infidel, Father Mathew, by his earnest, sincere and enthusiastic preaching of the Temperance crusade, gathered around the banner of Total Abstinence legions of men, women, and even children, who by word and example were to deliver their land from the tyrant Intemperance, who had so long held it in abject slavery. His disciples were to be counted not by tens but by hundreds of thousands, and it is his glory, as I hope it is his crown, that not only was his