

# The Chronicle

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**St. Patrick's Day.** The day set apart annually to celebrate the patron saint of Ireland is almost invariably as moist as the climate to which he was accustomed. A more unfit season for processionizing through the streets of this city is not in the calendar. It is open to question whether it would not be more in harmony with St. Patrick's teaching were his memory to be celebrated without the public display which it has become a custom to honour it in intention. It is certainly very questionable whether any real benefit is done to any worthy object by several hundreds of men and youths quitting their several occupations each 17th March in order to walk in procession through the streets, with flags and banners flying, and bands playing, and feasting and jollification generally. The attendance upon a divine service on that day is an appropriate recognition of the work and the memory of the Apostle of Ireland, whose name is held in honour throughout all Christendom. But the later proceedings of a large number of those who have celebrated the day so appropriately are not in harmony with the beginning. Were St. Patrick to "revisit the glimpses of the moon" in this and other Canadian cities, we fear his soul would be grievously distressed at some of the circumstances attendant upon a celebration which is meant to do him honour. He would urge the money spent to be saved and devoted to charitable and Christian works. It is also highly questionable whether it is wise in a country like Canada to emphasize unduly, by public processions, the distinctions in nationality which exist in this Dominion. It is natural and commendable for those of each nationality to maintain a charitable organization with the object of taking special care of their sick and stricken brethren. While human nature remains what it has ever been, there will be more sympathy between those of one race, one national family, than between strangers, in that respect. At the same time, it is desirable for a broader spirit of sympathy to be cultivated, the

spirit, not inspired by nationality but humanity. This spirit would lead men to say: While so many of my neighbours are in want, so many sick, so many in dire need of fuel, of food, of clothes, of domestic comforts, I will not encourage the spending of money on public displays; but, will do all in my power to divert the funds hitherto so expended in alleviating distress. Were this spirit to prevail there would be no fear, as some suppose, of strong national feelings weakening the loyalty to Canada of those of different races, who each bring some element of power for building up a Canadian nationality which will ripen and develop in the future.

### Gold Royalty Reduced.

The Government has decided to reduce the royalty on gold mined in the Yukon from 10 per cent. to 5 per cent. When the 10 per cent. royalty was first imposed, it was during the first outburst of excitement over the discoveries of gold in the Klondike region, before the conditions were fully realized attending the work of prospecting, mining and converting the ore into cash. There was a general impression that the gold was in "pockets," as easily opened as a silo on a farm. The more the labours and privations and risks of the miners became known, the more clearly was it seen that a 10 per cent. royalty was so very onerous an impost on gold secured under such conditions, that it tended to discourage mining operations. Considering that the opening up of the Yukon, its government and administration, have cost the country so large a sum and will continue to be very expensive, the royalty of 5 per cent. on the gold produce of the Yukon must be regarded as not so heavy as to be inequitable. The Government is to be commended for the reduction, as it is also for its evident anxiety to establish law and order in and to provide transport facilities for the settlers in the Klondike region.