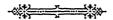
by special oaths of secrecy and fidelity. From that time the "Permanent Council" was relegated to the background and the "Privy Council" became the chief administrative and governing body of the realm.

As the rank of Privy Counsellor was often conferred as an honorary distinction upon men whose opinions were never required in matters of State, the "Privy Council" soon became "too large for despatch and secreey." Long before the Parliamentary wars, the same causes which had caused the formation of the Permanent and Privy Councils again re-asserted themselves and caused the formation of a third "inner circle" called the "cabinet." This "inner circle" of the "Privy Council" received its name from the fact that the members of the "Privy Council" who enjoyed the confidence of the king consulted with him, not in the large council chamber, but in a smaller room, or "cabinet," apart. I will now detail as briefly as possible the successive steps through which the cabinet reached its present position of power and influence.

C. M. O'HALLORAN, 12.

(To be Continued.)



THE FOUR-LEAVED SHAMROCK.

One leaf is for hope, and one is for faith,

And one is for love you know,

But God put another in for luck—

If you search you will find where they grow.

But you must have hope, and you must have faith,
You must love and be strong, and so,
If you work, if you wait, you will find the place
Where the four-leaf Shamrocks grow.