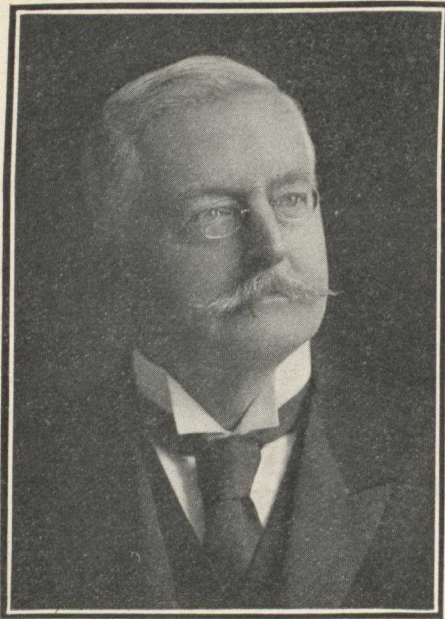


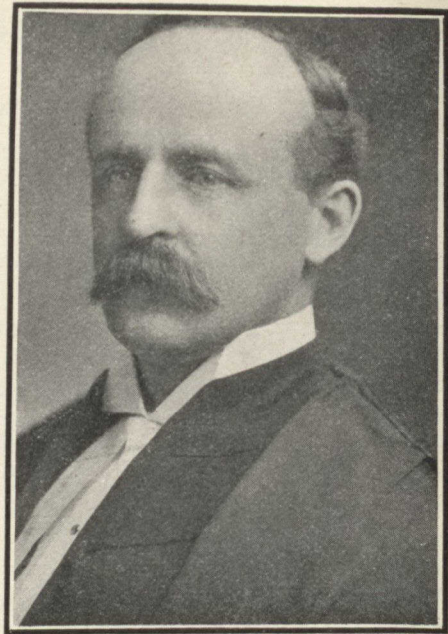
St. Patrick's Day

The Famous 17th

CONCERNING THE ANNIVERSARY WHICH IS OBSERVED BY IRISHMEN THE WORLD OVER IN MEMORY OF THE GREAT PREACHER WHOSE NAME IS YET THE MOST REVERED IN THE GREEN ISLE HE LOVED.



Hon. J. J. Foy.
Attorney-General of Ontario.



Mr. Justice Anglin.
Osgoode Hall, Toronto.

Oh, the Shamrock, the green immortal Shamrock !
Chosen Leaf
Of Bard and Chief,
Old Erin's Native Shamrock.

—Moore.

THE cycle of time brings another year of prosperity, another generation of mankind, another St. Patrick's Day, the day that sends a wireless electric thrill of sympathy through all true and loyal Irish hearts the world over. It brings to the scattered children of the Isle of Gael many dear and tender memories of the old land of raths and round towers and holy wells. Wherever the Irish foregather they will celebrate on St. Patrick's Day the glories and accomplishments of the men of their blood.

In the land of the Irishman's adoption it is a day of rejoicing and mirth, when fiddle and bagpipe once more vie with the harp and the jig and jug hold sway, when every Irish heart throbs anew for the land of its forefathers, and every Irish muscle ceases its battle of life to pledge again its fealty to the cradle-land of St. Patrick and renew its loyalty to the God whose gospel he preached.

The early history of St. Patrick's Day, like that of the saint himself, is very much a matter of conjecture and under dispute. According to the best authorities St. Patrick was born in the village of Memphiturn in the north of England in the year A.D. 386 and came to Ireland about 400 A.D. It is impossible, however, to say just when the 17th of March began to be set apart as St. Patrick's Day and celebrated as the national holiday of Ireland. Suffice it to say that it antedates the Normans and is to-day, wherever an Irish heart beats, looked forward to and cherished as it was in the days of Ireland's glory and supremacy.

Tradition associates the Shamrock with St. Patrick. It was first worn by the early Druids and converts in commemoration of the fact that the Saint, when preaching the doctrine of the trinity, made use of this little plant bearing three leaves upon one stem as a symbol of the great mystery of the Divinity. At first a symbol of religion it soon became a national emblem used by a patriarch to signify a truth, accepted by a nation to unify it, the Shamrock soon became part of Irish life and history and is to-day, as of yore, worn by the sons of Erin on their great day.

St. Patrick's Day in Canada has become an occasion of general celebration, whether the Irishman be of pure Celtic blood or of the Saxon admixture of the North. In Ontario, for instance, members of the Legislature, whether of Ulster or Connaught descent proudly wear the mystic trefoil when St. Patrick's Day comes round.

There was a memorable anniversary of the day in South Africa when seven years ago, by order of Queen Victoria, the Shamrock was worn in honour of the brave Irish soldiers who had fought with such reckless gallantry. On that occasion, Mr. Kipling, who was at Bloemfontein contributing to the columns of "The Friend," published an adaptation of a certain famous song.

"Oh ! Terence dear and did you hear
The news that's going round ?
The Shamrock's Erin's badge by law
Where'er her sons be found.
From Bobsfontein to Ballyhock
'Tis ordered by the Queen—
We've won our right in open fight,
The Wearin' of the Green."

There is a movement on foot to revive the ancient Gaelic customs on St. Patrick's Day. The Ancient Order of Hibernians of Toronto will hold a great revival at Massey Hall, while the I. P. B. S. will also enjoy a banquet that is now regarded as an annual event. In Ottawa under the leadership of that brilliant Irishman, Mr. D'Arcy Scott, Mayor of the city, several gatherings will be held. That oratory and song will adorn these celebrations is a matter of course, for Ireland is the land of the harp and the silvery tongue.

The honouring of St. Patrick, St. Andrew or St. George means no discontent with the land we live in, nor is the maple leaf less significant because we wear the "chosen leaf" one day in the year. From ocean to ocean, in hut and castle, the exiles of Erin will join hands and hearts on another St. Patrick's Day.

An Independent View

IN her famous book, "Legends of The Monastic Orders," Mrs. Jameson gives a summary of the life of St. Patrick. She says :

"St. Patrick, who styles himself 'a Briton and a Roman,' was carried away captive into Ireland when a youth of sixteen, and was set to tend the herds of his master. Being born of Christian parents, he turned his misfortune to good account, making his captivity a school of patience and humility. The benighted condition of the people among whom he dwelt filled him with compassion ; and when afterwards he made his escape and was restored to his parents and his home, he was haunted by visions, in which he beheld the yet unborn children of these Irish pagans stretching forth their little hands and crying to him for salvation. So he returned to Ireland, having first received his mission from Pope Celestine, and preached the Word of God, suffering with patience all indignities, affronting all dangers and fa-