

St. Patrick's Anniversary

(Continued from Page 1.)

Epistles of His Wisdom. Instru- ments of His graces and channels of His boundless mercy, he confers on such men those wonderful gifts of talents and virtues that are necessary to qualify them for the execution of His Orders and the accom- plishment of the grand designs of His all-ruling Providence. Thus He qualified Moses, Aaron, the prophets of the Old Law, and the twelve apostles of the new law for the solemn em- bassy and heavenly Com- mission on which He was pleased to send them. Among many other renowned characters and remark- able instances of this truth we may justly rank St. Patrick the glorious Apostle and Patron of Ireland whose feast we celebrate today. The time and place of St. Patrick's birth is a matter of dispute, for as many as three or four nations contend for the honor of having given birth to this great Saint. But this morning we will pass this discus- sion over in silence and also the details of his early life and merely mention that he was born in the middle of the fourth century, and at the age of fourteen while offer- ing fervent prayers to Almighty God in some retired spot situated near the borders of the sea-coast of France, he was suddenly surprised by a set of barbarian pirates who carried him off from his home and his parents, and took him a captive into Ireland the very land which he himself was to deliver from the darkness of infidelity and from the dismal captivity of Sa-

in Egypt, that he might be the means of relieving the Egyptians in the hour of their distress, and supplying both them and his father's household with the necessities of life during the continuance of a disastrous famine, that raged over that country during the space of seven years. By a similar dispensation of Providence, the virtuous and pious Patrick was stolen away from his parents, carried off and sold as a slave to a petty prince in the county of Antrim in order that, by being hured to hardships and well acquainted with the manners and language of the nations of Ire- land, he might be the better en- abled to undertake the great work of their conversion at a future period, and be the means of supplying both them and his own country with zealous clergymen and able mis- sionaries who would teach the heav- enly bread of the word of God, and nourish their souls with the food of eternal life in the day of their spiritual famine and distress. After six years passed in cap- tivity, in watching cattle in the mountains and in the forests, in hunger and nakedness, amidst snow, rain and in the greatest misery and privation, Patrick was admonished in a dream to return to his kinsfolk whence he repaired to France, and there, having acquired a competent stock of sacred learning under the tuition of St. Martin of Tours, he was ordained priest, and received the episcopal consecration from Pope Celestine, 431. His friends made him great offers to detain him amongst them, and endeavored to frighten him by exaggerating the dangers, to which he would be ex- posed amidst their enemies, who did not know God. But the Lord whose will he consulted by earnest prayer, supported and comforted him by a vision, so that he persevered in his resolution. He sacrificed his family and his home; he consecrated his soul to God, to carry His Holy Name to the end of the earth.

then, the head of the bards, seized his harp and said: "Oh! ye men and kings of Erin, this man speaks the glory of the true God, and my harp shall never resound again, un- less it be to praise the God of Pat- rick." Then all that was in Ireland of intelligence, of art, of bravery, of energy, of talent, and of soul rose up, they sprang to Patrick, clasped him to their hearts, and rose to the very height of Catholic and Christian perfec- tion with all the energy and the noble heart of the old Celtic na- tion. In a word, a change took place through his labors, of which we have no other example in the his- tory of the Church. The people came in tribes and clans, and themselves at the feet of our saint and were baptized. The sons and daughters of the Irish clans rushed into the cloisters opened by St. Patrick, and the world saw, that not only under the genial rays of an eastern sun, but in the extreme- ty of western lands, in the bosom of the mist of the ocean, the mon- astic life may bloom. In his own time St. Patrick saw the entire Is- land united in homage to the true cross; the whole island became an island of saints and scholars, mon- asteries and convents crowned ev- ery hill and filled every valley, until, in short, the island became the monastic centre of Europe. Aposto- lic men were not only found to become his assistants, but com- petent to go forth themselves and bear the standard of the cross to other nations, to become the apos- tles to new people, when St. Pat- rick died in the one hundred and twentieth year of his age, about 461.

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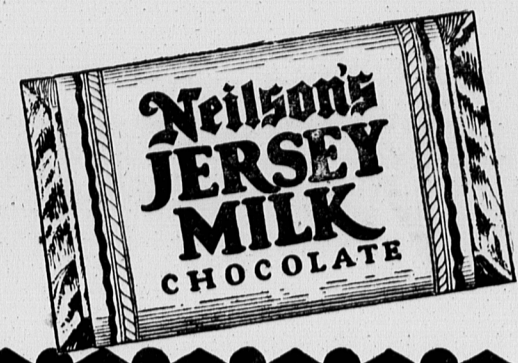
ray Each fragrant will cast a light to the last: And thus Erin, my country, though broken thou art. Their's a lustre within thee that never can decay: A spirit that breaths through each suffering part, And smiles at thy pain on St. Patrick's Day. Every man has a certain mission marked out for him by Almighty God. Some are born prosperous and powerful; others are all born in poverty, suffering and misery; yet each one carries out the designs of Providence, so far as his mission goes; and what is true of individ- uals is also true of nations, for both men and nations are instru- ments in the hands of God. Nations have their respective parts to play in the drama of creation; and the mission assigned to Ireland is truly a great, a glorious, a privileged mis- sion—that of bearing the truth to the most remote corners of the earth.

I shall not here mention the causes of emigration from Ireland; I shall not tell you why we see so many vessels leave the Irish coast laden with their heavy cargo of human life; nor why hearts so stout and brave are obliged to seek a fortune and a home in the land of the stranger. But, little does the Irishman dream, as he takes a long last and lingering look at his beloved country, as it becomes dimmer and dimmer in the dis- tance, little does he dream, I say, that, in thus leaving behind him everything that he holds most dear and dear to him on earth, he is only accomplishing the will of God or the mission allotted to his coun- trymen. Yes, the ship that carries the Irish emigrant bears also in it a precious treasure, the treasure of faith, the flame that they are to light in a foreign shore, never more to be extinguished. And as God will, that St. Patrick should leave his home and his native land to become the apostle of the Irish peo- ple, so would it also seem that he will the same mission to Patrick's faithful children; they are to plant the Church, to nurse it, and to be themselves the germ of that seed- ling tree, which is to take root in the virgin soil of newly-discovered countries and lands.

Thus it happens on this auspicious day, through the mysterious way of Providence, that the Sons of Erin are scattered throughout the world, and breadth of the world. From Donegal in Ireland to Mel- bourne in Australia, from the At- lantic to the Pacific, from the Hud- son Bay to Cape Horn, there is scarce- ly a spot to be found, but some of the children of Erin unite today to offer up a fervent prayer to God and to their great patron Saint, the illustrious St. Patrick. Yes, they unite today in singing the sweet songs of their dear native land; they form as it were a universal brotherhood united by the bands of faith and charity and their great object is to preserve intact that faith which was preached to their forefathers by St. Patrick. The Sac- red Scriptures inform us that the Israelites traversed the desert un-

If you've had it! Had what? That first Taste What then?

You're one of the elect! You know what the most delicious of all bars of solid milk chocolate taste like. Yes, but which one do you mean? Well, here's its picture—



the shadow of the Pillar of Sed on it. When the Mass was ended the Parade reformed ranks in front of the Cathedral and moved off to gathering of men, Irishmen and Catholics all. He referred to the shadow of faith up Gratton to Queen from which it was light to them, while it returned to the Society's Club was a demonstration of the Irish Faith and Spirit. Father Walsh also spoke and hoped that next year's parade would be even greater. Various members of the Society spoke and each one referred to the Parade moved along the streets, thousands of citizens lined the side of eternal rest. Now we too hope to be one day united with them in walks while many hundreds follow- ed it along. The flags of the Socie- ty were carried at the front and the all renewed their promises to aid the Society in becoming larger and more influential in the community. It was proposed and seconded and Rev. Father Sinnott be made an Honor- ary member of the Society and the President in welcoming the priest to the ranks complimented him on the sermon and asked for his sup- port to the Society. Father Sinnott thanked the Society for the honor from Rev. Father St. John and whole hearted support. Several other members then spoke and the parade of St. Patrick were extolled. The Harp, That Once Through the beautiful manner in which regret at their inability to be pres- ent on the occasion. Father Sinnott ex- pressed his pleasure at being privi- leged to be with the Society on this

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