

# The Catholic Journal

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## ST. PATRIK.

The feast of St. Patrik, whom the  
Irish revere above all men, will  
be celebrated on Thursday. It will  
be observed in the vast majority of  
instances just as the Apostle of Ire-  
land would have the descendants of  
those to whom he brought the Gospel  
of Christ observe it—by attending  
religious services; by acts of piety  
and devotion and by listening to that  
same Gospel which he preached on the  
hills of Tara.

St. Patrik's day will be what it  
now is to the Irish people so long as  
they retain the faith he brought to  
their ancestors. If they should ever  
imitate the example of other races and  
wander into schism, heresy and un-  
belief, it will be as meaningless to  
them as Independence day would be to  
a race of American slaves.

Poor Ireland! Despite the ac-  
knowledged genius of her sons, she  
seems fated to remain for an indefinite  
period, in the grasp of her conqueror.  
At various times since she fell a vic-  
tim to the power and treachery of the  
Saxons she has seemed on the eve of  
regaining that independence of which  
they robbed her. But just as her  
hopes seemed about to be realized fate  
has interposed and she has sunk back  
into that hopeless night of slavery.

The Armada, which would have  
humbled her proud enemy, became  
the sport of old ocean's storms.  
The plans of Napoleon for an inva-  
sion of Ireland were changed for some  
trifling cause and the French army  
which it was hoped would assist the  
brave sons of Ireland met death in  
the freezing frosts of that awful Rus-  
sian winter: when the moral force set  
in motion by O'Connell and taken  
up by Parnell had all but won the bat-  
tle for at least home rule, the great  
leader fell a victim to his own sin.  
Since then the cause has been ruined  
by the factional fights of the alleged  
leaders of the Irish people. But now  
the skies are growing brighter, and  
home rule seems probable in the near  
future.

If the Catholics cannot be accorded  
equal privileges with the non-Catholics  
at United States military reserva-  
tions and may not be allowed to build  
there Catholic places of worship at  
their own expense, then the govern-  
ment should order all religious edi-  
fices of whatever description removed  
from these reservations; and cease the  
payment of salaries from the public  
treasury to preachers of non Catholic  
denominations.

## THE HOLY FATHER

Pope Leo XIII. on February 20th  
celebrated the 20th anniversary of his  
election to the highest office in the  
world. Last Thursday he celebrated  
the anniversary of his coronation.

His Holiness is the two hundred  
and fifty eighth successor of St. Peter,  
and in many respects is the most re-  
markable of all the splendid names on  
the roll. When he ascended the  
Papal throne it had been shorn of  
those material resources that made the  
Papacy an independent sovereign  
power among the nations of the world.  
Practically speaking his only heritage  
was a prison that is called a palace  
and the past glories of a dynasty line  
that stretches back into the past far  
beyond all living dynasties. When  
Pope Leo came upon the scene the  
statesmen of Europe were predicting  
the elimination of the Pope from the  
affairs of nations. The passage of  
time has shown these shallow wisacres  
that they knew not whereof they  
spoke. To-day the Sardinian mon-  
archy is fast crumbling to pieces under  
its own weight while the descendant  
of St. Peter upon whose brow rests  
the triple tiara and upon whose hand  
shines the fisherman's ring, is by long  
odds the most interesting figure in the  
world's great statesmen, and his de-  
liverances are of far more influence  
and attract far more attention than  
those of any reigning monarch. In  
short he is the greatest intellectual  
force in the whole world. There is no  
human explanation for the apparent  
paradox. As a contemporary well re-  
marks: "We are beholding in it the  
working of a power beyond human  
ken."

Contrary to expectations there was  
no material change in the Papal policy  
of Leo XIII from that of his illu-  
strious predecessors. The "Catholic  
Standard and Times" has compre-  
hensively sketched in brief compass  
the principal achievements of the Holy  
Father:

"If agurics are anything, the first  
official act of the new Pontiff was aus-  
picious in the extreme. It was the  
issuing of Apostolic letters decreeing  
the restoration of the Scottish hier-  
archy; and this momentous act was  
almost immediately followed by the  
bestowal of the hat upon the first  
American cardinal, Archbishop, Mc-  
Closkey of New York. These signifi-  
cant proofs of the opening up of new  
fields for the church were the prelude  
to a series of encyclicals, bold as the  
clarion notes of a cavalry charge,  
stirring up the champions of the  
church into activity in every field of  
human thought and energy. The  
first was directed against the evils of  
socialism and communism, and the  
next to the importance of studying  
the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas.  
More especially did the Pope di-  
rect his attention to the great conflicts  
of the day between capital and labor,  
and in several recent encyclicals he has  
expatiated upon the method of recon-  
ciling these differences and the re-  
spective duties of employers and work-  
men in a way which proves not only  
his profound sympathy with the work-  
ing classes, but his thorough mastery  
of the truths which underlie the sci-  
ence of political and social economy.

"Nor does the Pope's greatness  
consist merely in a knowledge of and  
sympathy with the troubles of what  
may be called everyday life. The  
higher questions of international policy  
and dynastic considerations have come  
within his purview, and been dealt  
with just as though the claims of the  
Papacy to be the supreme arbiter and  
guide in the highest problems of gov-  
ernments and state policy were still  
recognized as in the Middle Ages.  
Thus he has effected a change in the  
attitude of the French bishops and  
clergy towards the republic and put a  
quietus on the hopes of the monarchi-  
cal party. By his able and concilia-  
tory policy also he has disarmed the  
hostility of Germany and brought about  
a revocation of the odious Falk laws;  
and the same statesmanlike spirit has  
been successful in gaining many re-  
laxations of the terribly repressive  
code under which the Catholics of Pol-  
and groaned ever since their country  
fell under the iron heel of the Musco-  
vite.

Volumes would not suffice to chron-  
icle the results of a pontificate unpar-  
alleled for the ceaselessness and uni-  
versality of its labor. When we con-  
sider the great disparity which exists  
between the apparent age and strength  
of the patriarchal Pontiff and the im-  
mense tasks which he imposes upon  
himself, we are dumbfounded in won-  
der. An intellect sustained in un-  
dimmed brilliancy so long beyond the  
allotted span must surely have some  
more than ordinary sustenance.

Let us pray that Pope Leo may be  
spared to us for still many years.

Patronize our advertisers.

## STOP IT

Under the guise of a needed codifi-  
cation and revision of the school laws  
of the state, Charles R. Skinner, state  
superintendent of public instruction,  
is seeking to put back the Bible in the  
public schools from which it has been  
eliminated for a number of years. It  
is true that the reading of the Bible is  
not made compulsory, but left to the  
discretion of the school authorities—  
but this does not improve the proposi-  
tion or make it more palatable.

We understand that it is Mr. Skin-  
ner's idea to have the state depart-  
ment of public instruction select cer-  
tain passages from the Bible to be  
read at the opening of school each  
day, also certain passages to be recited  
in concert. That sounds very pretty,  
but let us analyze the proposition.  
Who is to make these selections? Who  
is to get up the prayers? From what  
version of the Bible will these selec-  
tions be taken—the King James or  
the Douay? Will the selections be  
confined to the Old or New Testa-  
ments, or taken from both?

We will wager that no Catholic  
priest will be appealed to aid in  
making the selections, while it is  
practically certain that the King  
James version will be used, also that  
selections will be made from New as  
well as Old Testaments.

Then why should such Catholic  
children as are compelled to attend  
public schools be required to take  
part in such religious exercises? Why  
should Jewish children, who do not  
believe in the New Testament, be com-  
pelled to recite the Lord's prayer?

Why should Charles R. Skinner  
seek to set up a state religion? Who  
made him the religious censor and  
guide of the people of the Empire  
state?

If the Bible reading clause is re-  
tained in the bill the entire measure  
should be defeated. If it passes the  
legislature and becomes a law every  
public man who had a hand in placing  
it on the statute books should be re-  
quired to private life at next fall's elec-  
tions.

## WHY AND WHEREFORE

THE JOURNAL does not approve of  
the so-called "liberal Sunday laws"  
introduced in the legislature by As-  
semblyman Julius Harburger, and  
has so declared in its columns. In the  
ordinary course of events we would  
censure Mr. Harburger for the lan-  
guage he used in reply to representa-  
tives of the American Sabbath Union  
who opposed his bill before an assem-  
bly committee one day last week. Ac-  
cording to the press dispatches here is  
what Mr. Harburger said:

"You good American gentlemen  
who are continually prating about  
your ancestry and your religion, who  
are always berating those of foreign  
birth, let me tell you that these peo-  
ple are as good, as loyal, as patriotic  
as those who landed on our soil from  
the Mayflower.

"The other day, before the joint  
excise committee, your great and good  
Bishop Doane of Albany put Senator  
John Raines side by side with God  
Almighty. Isn't that a fine compari-  
son, to place the gentleman who is  
known in the large cities as the  
breeder of immorality by the side of  
the Creator? More disreputable  
places have been in existence since  
the Raines act went into effect than  
was ever before known in the state,  
and this supposedly pious senator is  
mentioned in the same breath with our  
Maker! Imagine, then, this state of  
affairs when a bishop will condescend  
to make such a comparison."

The statement that provoked these  
sharp words was to the effect that only  
those of foreign birth favored Har-  
burger's bills. Why is it that the ques-  
tion of "foreign birth" is lugged in  
everywhere by the very persons who  
are digging and delving and search-  
ing for proof that they have royal  
blood in their veins so that they may  
join the "Orders of the Crown" or  
that they were descended from the old  
bigoted Puritans that they may be ad-  
mitted within the sacred circles of the  
Sons and Daughters of the American  
Revolution? Such inconsistent per-  
formances furnish ample justification  
for outbursts like those attributed to  
Mr. Harburger.

Bishop Doane's fulsome adulation  
of Senator John Raines was in ex-  
ceedingly bad taste, and Mr. Harbur-  
ger's criticism was well taken.

## Continuing THE JOURNAL'S discus-

sion of last week as to the falling off  
in attendance at Protestant churches,  
the following from an esteemed con-  
temporary is pertinent: "While at-  
tendance at Protestant Sunday schools  
is steadily declining, as is proven by  
statistics, it must be admitted that the  
ministers are leaving; no stone un-  
turned to induce people to visit their  
churches. A New York paper re-  
cently published the following adver-  
tisement: 'A great jubilee—Thomas  
Harrison, evangelist. All day re-  
vival; increasing excitement; large  
chorus and cornetist; come, en-  
joy all day jubilee; refreshments  
provided. Second Street Methodist  
church, between avenues C and D.'  
What excuse could the wavering or  
the hungry and thirsty offer for de-  
clining to take advantage of so al-  
luring a programme?"

One of the speakers at the Catholic  
Union banquet in Boston a few days  
ago gave it as his opinion that a good  
many Catholics would get into Para-  
dise on tickets of invincible igno-  
rance. Whereupon an esteemed con-  
temporary is moved to remark: "We  
are afraid that these tickets will not be  
distributed any way largely down in  
Texas if it be true that the Protest-  
ants down there decline to attend  
more than one Catholic sermon, in the  
missions given for non-Catholics, be-  
cause as one of them put it: 'The  
priest makes things so plain that you  
must be a Catholic in belief, even if  
you don't profess it; and as I wouldn't  
be a Catholic under any conditions,  
I shall not go again.'"

They do some things better in  
Great Britain than they do in the  
United States. When the notorious  
Slattery and his equally notorious fe-  
male partner were in Scotland they  
offered some of their filthy publications  
for sale. The judge gave them the  
option of burning their books or going  
to jail. They chose the former alter-  
native. When the same books were  
offered for publication here nothing  
whatever was done by the authorities  
to prevent it.

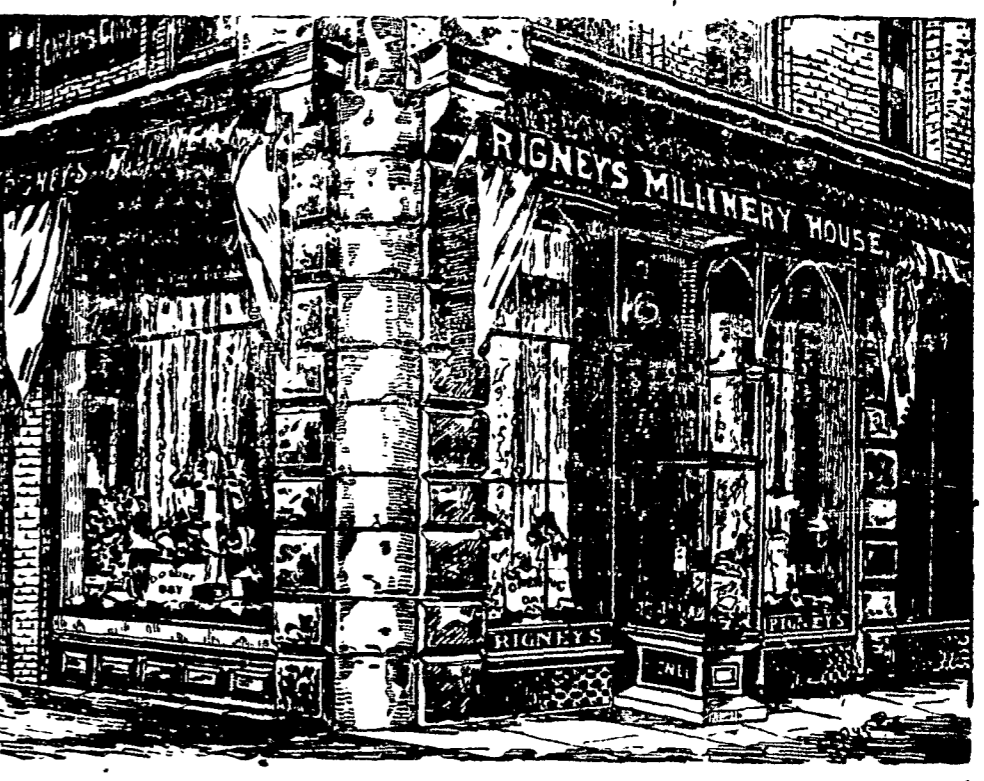
That was a very clever speech that  
James M. E. O'Grady made at the  
Emmet celebration in Albany last  
week on "The Spirit of 1798."

## THE GOSPELS

GOSPEL: St. Luke, xi. 14-28.  
—At that time: "Jesus was casting  
out a devil, and the same was dumb.  
And when He had cast out the devil  
the dumb spoke; and the multitudes  
were in admiration at it. But some  
of them said: He casteth out devils by  
Beelzebub, the prince of devils. And  
others tempting asked of Him a sign  
from heaven. But He seeing their  
thoughts said to them: Every king-  
dom divided against itself shall be  
brought to desolation, and house upon  
house shall fall. And if Satan also  
be divided against himself, how shall  
his kingdom stand? because you say  
that through Beelzebub I cast out  
devils. Now if I cast out devils by  
Beelzebub, by whom do your children  
cast them out? Therefore they shall  
be your judges. But if I by the finger  
of God cast out devils, doubtless the  
kingdom of God is come upon you.  
When a strong man armed keepeth  
his court, those things are in peace  
which he possesseth. But if a stronger  
than he come upon him and overcome  
him, he will take away all his armor  
wherein he trusted, and will distribute  
his spoils. He that is not with me is  
against me; and he that gathered not  
with Me scattereth. When the unclean  
spirit is gone out of a man he walketh  
through places without water, seeking  
rest; and not finding, he saith: I will  
return into my house, whence I came  
out. And when he is come he findeth  
it swept and garnished. Then he  
goeth and taketh with him seven  
other spirits more wicked than him-  
self, and entering in they dwell there.  
And the last state of that man be-  
cometh worse than the first. And it  
came to pass as He spoke these things  
a certain woman from the crowd lift-  
ing up her voice said to Him: Blessed  
is the womb that bore Thee and the  
paps that gave Thee suck. But He  
said: Yea, rather, blessed are they  
who hear the word of God and keep  
it."

By the words related in the Gospel  
Christ proved that it was impossible  
for the demon to contend against him-  
self: that he could not be put to flight  
except by the power of God, and that  
if He, Christ, could cast out devils,  
then the time foretold by the prophets  
had come—the time when God would  
reign in men's hearts by His grace.

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