The Catholic Journal.

—THE LEADING DIOCESAN NEWSPAPER—

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A Legend of Christmas Eve.

St. Bridget's Well

Continued from last week

His orders were only too willingly executed; but a few hours afterwards, when the pale winter sun had risen over the snow clad land, lo! the fields of yesternight were changed to marshy swamps, and his cattle all lay dead in their byres. And the Holy Well which had been consecrated to St. Brigid, dripped, dripped, dripped, on the virgin snow, but at the other side of the highroad, and there it drips to this day.

Years went by, but the squire's pride would not allow him to follow the promptings of his heart to return to his old faith and give up all else.

He had become more lenient to his wife, and allowed her to visit the adopted country of her people, and even consented to his children being educated in Austria. His only son became a monk and his wife and daughters made many pious pilgrimages, and were unceasing in their prayers for his conversion.

In the fullness of time Lady Gerald died, exhorting her children to guard their faith and to return to their father.

Back once more in Ireland, they were pained to notice how miserable the old squire had become. Even the solace of sleep was denied him, and he was utterly wretched.

In the gray dawn of a chill November morning, some time after his wife's death, he heard a noise which he thought proceeded from her room. He rose, went out and stood irresolutely in the corridor with his hand on the door-knob, but dreaded to enter. Conscience held him fast. He had a superstitious fear that her spirit, in some visible form, would meet his gaze if he should open that door. The old courage that he strove to call to his aid had vanished, and he stood afraid to stir, in the shadowy corridor. Suddenly he saw his daughters move noiselessly down the stairs at the farther end, and at once the sense of human companionship broke the spell. He followed them at a safe distance, and from the great window on the landing, saw them hasten across the park, and take a path that led to the beach.

Then he remembered that it was the anniversary of his wife's death, and he shrewdly guessed that his daughters had been secretly attending mass somewhere in the neighborhood. During the following week, though he watched morning after morning, they never left the castle.

But Christmas was approaching and he was convinced that if the opportunity occurred they would attend midnight mass on Christmas eve. So when the night came he slipped unobserved from the castle, and made his way to the beach. The moon had not yet risen and as he had yet some time to wait, he sought shelter in a little cave. Warmly clad as he was, the numbing coldness soon brought on a feeling of drowsiness and the squire fell asleep.

He was awakened from his slumber by the sound of oars, and through the mist he saw numerous coracles gliding across the bay toward Seafield. One was moored near his feet, and casting off the rope, he took up the oars and followed them. Just round the headland he saw a brilliantly lighted cave, and to it all the coracles steered. Leaving their little boats on the beach the people silently entered the cave, and to it all the coracles steered. Leaving their little boats on the beach the people silently entered the cave, and the squire went with them. Within a priest was saying mass, and the squire was impelled to kneel in the rocky floor and join in adoration with his fellow worshippers—a vast, silent crown, seemingly far too numerous for the little chapel. Gradually he became aware that those about him had been long dead. There were the friends of his children and youth; and there in the farthest corner, were his father and mother kneeling absorbed in devotion.

As the Mass proceeded contrition overwhelmed him, and his early piety and faith came back to him. At the domine non sum dignuns he struck his breast with the earnestness of the publican of old, and cried, "O, God, be merciful to me a sinner."

They all received holy communion but him, and then they knelt in reverent thanksgiving. As the priest left the altar Gerald moved across to speak to his parents, when suddenly the light went out, and he was last groping in total darkness. Even the entrance to the cave was invisible to him, though he could hear the noise of the water as it broke in ripples on the strand.

Suddenly his hand touched something warm and soft, that moved. He hastily struck a light and there before him was Lady Gerald's friend, the priest.

"God save you my man; and what brings you here?" said the holy hermit.

"Father," said the squire, "did you not say Mass just now."

"No; for it is not yet the hour for my poor friends to come to welcome the infant Jesus in this humble cave."

"Then, Father," he said, "I have been guided here by the holy spirits."

He then related all he had seen, and made his confession. He was still deep in prayer when his daughters arrived, and after them many of the neighboring people. No one noticed him until the communion, when he arose and knelt beside his children to receive the Holy Eucharistic. They started as if he had been an apparition. They could scarcely believe it was he after all those years of heresy. But their Christmas joy was complete. The peasants' wish: "A Christmas, without sorrow to ye," which would greet them on all sides in a little while would now be realised indeed.

The squire would have been quite prepared to sacrifice land and wealth, if need be, for the faith he had so long forsaken; but the persecution was less keen and the renunciation unnecessary.

He became most devout and was often seen making the rounds on his bare knees at the Well of St. Brigid. He had a Calvary erected there, with seven resting places on each side for the Way of the Cross, and a large crucifix over the well. And his whole life became one of repentance piety and charity.

One morning he was found kneeling at the foot of the cross with his beads in his hands, and the head bent low, as if kissing the crucifix, but his spirit had flown to its maker.

St. Brigid's Well is still one of the most beautiful of the lovely drippping wells in Ireland. It is situated on the wild, majestic west coast, and is a sanctuary of holy peace and devotion for the bush is only broken by the rejoicings of nature—the song of the thrush, the linnet and the blackbird; the drone of the bees, the chirping of the cricket, the musical monotone of the little brown frog that sounds like the D string on a violin; the rustling of the trees, stirred by the breeze from the sea; the echo of the surf as it tumbles on the sands; the scent of the lilac, the woodbine and the briar; and the drip, drip, drip of the crystal water as it falls on its bed of green moss.

And the peasantry far and near declare that Squire Gerald's spirit is seen still praying and still "doing his purgatory" at St. Brigid's Holy Well.—Sydney Catholic Press.

A dispatch from Rome to the "New York World," date of December 12, announces the nomination by Pope Pius X, of Very Rev. Dr. Francis Clement Kelly, of Chicago, as president of the Catholic church Extension Society of the United States, and of Very Rev. A. E. Burke, of Toronto, as president of the Catholic Church Extension Society of Canada. Both are said to have been elevated to the highest grade of Papal Chamberlains.

Around The Globe

Worcester, Mass., Dec. 14.—Right Rev. Mgr. Thomas Griffin, D. D., the oldest priest in point of service in the diocese of Springfield, died in St. Vincent's Hospital, this city, to-day, after an illness of one day. Monsignor Griffin celebrated mass as usual at 8 o'clock.

English exchanges reporting the death of Rev. Mother Mary Gertrude Ledwith, in the convent at Alnwick, Newcastle, at the advanced age of 88 years, say that in the United States she was known as one of the "angels of the battlefield," as she was a nurse in several hospitals during the war between the North and South. Subsequently she went West and became superior of the Convent of Mercy at Eureka, Cal. where she remained for nearly thirty years.

Ferdinand Edmond Duez, of Paris, formerly liquidator for the property of the Congregations, dissolved by the associations law, who confessed last March to the embezzlement of $2,000,000 has been held for trial on charges of breach of trust and forgery.

In Kansas City, Kans., recently, fourteen missions were conducted simultaneously in the fourteen churches of the city. It was a great Catholic revival week for the entire city.

A Prosperous Bank

The attention of the reader is invited to the statement of the National Bank of Commerce, which appears in this issue. This is a progressive one. It evidences alike the general prosperity of our city and its financial institutions. Beginning business March 1, 1906, with a capital of $500,000, it has steadily grown and expanded until now, as per its statement, it has capital, surplus and profits of $1,325,000, deposits of $7,941,652.84 and total resources of $9,777,585.25.

Since its organization the National Bank of Commerce has paid to its shareholders dividends amounting to $180,000 and, in addition, has accumulated the handsome surplus set forth in its statement. This showing is, indeed, a remarkable one and evidences what progress and painstaking effort can accomplish.

About a year ago this bank acquired the store adjoining it on the south and within a few weeks it was remodeled and transformed into the main banking office, thus giving additional room for patrons and large and well-lighted quarters for the book-keepers. In addition, a much needed directors and committee room was added, besides providing quarters for the women's department. This has a separate entrance and the transactions of this department are conducted by lady tellers and clerks. In this connection, it may be said that its entrance for women is the only one exclusively for such purpose among the financial institutions of the city. This feature supplies a long needed demand by women who have business to transact with banks.

Pleasing the Sultan.

Kaid Belfon told the following story, which illustrates exactly the attitude of the sultan of Morocco toward the French:

One day the sultan asked a lady, the wife of his dentist, to play one of the pianos that were in the room of the palace. She played several pieces, one of them at length catching the sultan's fancy, whereupon the following little dialogue took place:

Sultan — That piece is very nice. What is it called?

Dentist—It is the "March on Cadiz." It was written to commemorate the Spaniards driving the French out of Spain.

Sultan—What! Were the French in Spain?

Dentist—Yes.

Sultan—How many of them?

Dentist—About 200,000.

Sultan (in a surprised tone)—And the Spaniards drove them out?

Dentist—Yes, every one of them.

There was a slight pause while the sultan was thinking hard, and then:

Sultan (quietly)—Play it again.

News From Ireland

Cork.

An interesting function took place when Augustine Roche made a presentation to Mrs. Redmond in the Cork School of Art. The presentation took the form of an antique silver bowl, over 100 years old, marked with the old silversmith's hall mark and the initials "J. W.", meaning John Williams, who was a famous Cork artist in the work. The presentation also included a pair of Cork cut glass decanters, manufactured in the old glass factory over a century ago.

Most Rev. Dr. Cotter, the new Bishop of Portsmouth, England, is a native of the town of Cloyne.

Dr. Edward F. Nyhan, Johnstown House, Macroom, has been appointed to the Commission of the Peace for the County Cork.

Donegal.

An interesting ceremony took place at St. Anne's Convent, Birmingham, on Nov. 12, Miss Anastasia Meehan (in religion Sister Mary Raphael) second daughter of Charles Meehan, of Mountcharles Donegal, made her solemn profession as a Sister of Mercy.

In Drumholm, Drimholm, or Drumhome, a parish four miles north from Ballyshannon, St. Ernan, who died about 540, was Abbot of a monastery where Taherlach O'Maldory, King of Tyrconnel, was buried in 1197.

Kerry.

Died.—Nov. 27, Thomas Harty Ballyhiague, aged 36 years.—Recently, Mrs. B. O'Donoghue, Main St., Caherciveen.

Married.—On Nov. 22, at St. Patrick's Church, Cork, by the Rev. Father O'Leary, C. C., Michael son of Robert E. Barrett, Killeen—Devonshmore, Cork, to Dora, fourth daughter of the late Daniel O'Sullivan, Bromoderg, Listowel, Kerry.—On Nov. 24, at St. Mary's Cathedral, Cork, with nuptial mass, by the Rev. Father O'Sullivan, P. P., Fossa, Laurence, second son of the late Michael Inis, cattle exporter, Aghadoe, Killarney, to Mary (May), only daughter of the late John Daly, Aughleesmore, Killarney.

Kildare.

Patrick Farrell, R. D. C., Athy, has purchased the farm at Tullamoy, Queen County, recently held by Mr. Gillespie. The sum paid for the farm was £1,600.

W. Watson, a well-known figure in racing circles, while hunting with the Kildare hounds recently, was thrown from his horse, the animal kicking him in the head. He was removed in a serious condition to his residence, Rosville, Kildare.

Kilkenny.

Died.—At Richmond Hospital, Fergus son the late W. F. Potter, Kilmanagh.—At Parnell street, Kilkenny St. Michael Walsh.—At his residence, Pattick Burke, Kilkenny, Michael Hennessy.

Limerick.

The reception took place at the convent of Mercy, Carysfort Park, Blackrock, Dublin, of Eva (in religion Sister M. Veronica), third daughter (and third in religion) of James L. Frost, Summerhill House, Meelick.

Mayo.

Miss N. McHale of Mayo has been appointed nurse in Baltinglass (Wicklow) Union.

Tipperary.

The death of Sister Mary Ursula White took place at the Presentation Convent, Youghal, on Dec. 2, in the 66th year of her age and the 41st of her religious profession. She was a native of Clonmel, being a daughter of the late James White, Abbey street and Mitchel street, Clonmel.

Waterford.

Died.—Miss Neville, late of Matthew Shea Institution.—At the residence of her aunt, The Cross, Tramore, Lizzie, wife of Laurence Ryan.—At his residence, Passage East, Thomas, only surviving son of Captain William Kennedy, pilot master, Passage East.—At his residence, John's Hill, Waterford, Matthew J. Murphy.

Benedictines In Congo

Writing of the arrival in the Congo of a party of Benedictines who are about to make a foundation there and minister to the white settlers and to natives, the Catholic Magazine of South Africa says:

"Strange to say, the Benedictines have only one other foundation in Africa, the Vicariate of South Zanzibar, founded in 1887. But their civilising work is as old as Christian monasticism itself. When Europe was still almost land of barbarians, they cleared the forests and tilled the land, taught the unruly Vandal and Goth to plough and reap. Often they went to establish themselves where no man's foot had trodden before them. But wherever they pitched their tents, the church and the school and the workshop soon sprang up.

The Congo now calls for the very same missionary work that was so thoroughly performed in England and Germany in the days gone by. There is this difference, that events move more quickly in our days than they did in the days of the early Benedictines. Perhaps some of us may live to see a new Tintern Abbey or a Monte Cassino within the borders of the Congo State."

Emmet Guards

The annual installation of officers was held Tuesday evening last. Newly elected officers were installed by the retiring president, John Cotter, Brother E. O'Connell having charge of taking the [illegible] the entertainment committee. Music was furnished by O'Connell's Own Band. A smoker and entertainment followed the installation. The programme was as follows: Irish Airs by O'Connell's own Band; address, (Our Duties for 1911) President M. F. Ryan; song, Asthore, by Guss Fielding; song, (Ireland Isn't Ireland Anymore) John Cotter; address (Military Discipline) Capt. Maloney; Irish Reel (J. Mackey, S. Mackey, M. Walsh, and T. Maloney); song, (The Rose of Tralee) T. P. Maloney; song, (Skibbereen) M. Morrison; Ireland a Nation Once Again, O'Connell's Own Band; Irish Vaudeville sketch, Guss Fielding and John Cotter; song, (The Dawning of the Day) M. Murphy; song, Dublin Bay, M. Murphy; song, (Believe me if all those Endearing Young Charms) F. Murray; song, (Robert Emmet) W. [illegible] chorus, God Save Ireland and The Star Spangled Banner, accompanied by O'Connell's Band.

Brother Patrick Deasy is ill with typhoid fever at St. Mary's Hospital.

A class of about 35 will be initiated in March.

Congratulations are extended to Capt. and Mrs. Wm. Hayes.

The new monastery of St. Gabriel for the Passionist Fathers is now nearing completion in the city of Boston. The style of architecture is that of the old missions and the building situated on an elevation that commands a view of the surrounding country for miles is an object that attracts attention from far and wide.

The foundation of a new church to be built as a monument of the Eucharistic Congress of London last year has been laid in the garden of the Blessed Thomas More's old house at Chelsea, England.

Senhor Bernardino Machado, Minister of "Justice" in the Provision Government of Portugal, speaking in Lisbon on November 20, said according to "O Mundo," a Government organ: "The triumphant revolution sprang from Freemasonry. It is impossible to forget the important part that Freemasonry played in it. We give a proof of our esteem for the Masonic order by its embracing in the name of the Government the Grand Master, Senhor Magalhaes Lima."

Catholic Chief Justice

Edward Douglass White, associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States (one of the two Catholics), was [illegible] by President Taft as chief justice of that tribunal, to succeed the late Chief Justice Fuller.

Justice White, is a native of Louisiana, a Democrat and a Confederate veteran. Mr. [illegible] White's appointment was unanimously confirmed without reference to the Senate.

During the address [illegible] Justice White [illegible] bench. He has participated in many cases of importance to the nation.

Mr. Justice White was born in the parish of Lafourche, La., Nov., 1845. His early [illegible] Georgetown college (Jesuit university), in the District of Columbia, when the Civil war broke out. Returning to Louisiana, he entered the Confederate service, serving during the siege of Fort Hudson on the Mississippi. He was [illegible] July 9, 1863, at the surrender of the town.

[illegible] he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1868. In 1874 he was elected a state senator, [illegible] years and was president of the senate. Governor Nicholls, in 1878, appointed him associate justice of the state supreme court, [illegible] to succeed Associate Justice [illegible] resigned. He was elected to the same office in 1879 and served until 1880, when he resigned to resume the practice of law. He was appointed by President Cleveland as associate justice of the supreme court of the United States to succeed Justice Lamar, deceased, and took his seat January 19, 1894. He was appointed chief justice by President Taft to succeed the late Chief Justice Fuller.

Mr. White's appointment was unanimously confirmed without reference to the senate committee on judiciary. His knowledge of the law is regarded as the widest possessed by any man who ever sat on the Supreme Court of the United States.

Of late years he has [illegible] especially [illegible] tried in the federal courts.

This [illegible] week is as follows: [illegible] enberry, president; [illegible] with a class of [illegible] and conferring [illegible] International [illegible] the [illegible] a musical [illegible] of Fish on [illegible] class [illegible] dance, [illegible] this day as you will see all [illegible] be in [illegible] Carlos [illegible] assembly [illegible] & Rink. [illegible] be and Carlos [illegible] presidents [illegible] George H. Wood. "The [illegible] different [illegible] Carlos [illegible] Berryman in the title "A [illegible] Flirtation." Charles [illegible] city gymnasium [illegible] light pictures.

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