

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

BY CATHERINE ALBERTSON

Picture portals bearing representations of the shamrock, the Irish harp, and of Paddy himself with his clay pipe and happy-go-lucky grin, have for the past week been displayed in the shop windows, reminding the passers-by that the seventeenth of March St. Patrick's Day is close at hand.

In the United States this day is observed almost as universally as in the Emerald Isle itself. Warmly sympathizing with the Irish in the many wrongs they have suffered at the hands of their English landlords and lawmakers, our country has ever accorded a hearty welcome to the immigrants from her shores. And this latent sympathy and good will finds expression on St. Patrick's Day, in the sprig of green, emblem of Ould Ireland, which men, women and children don on the seventeenth of March.

As for the good Saint himself though hailed for many centuries as the patron Saint of Ireland, he was not a native of that western island. History does not state decidedly whether he was of British, or of Latin origin. He was born in Scotland near the present town of Kirkpatrick, midway between Glasgow and Dumfries, somewhere near the close of the fourth or the beginning of the fifth century, A. D. Scotland then was a Roman province, and Calphurnius, the father of St. Patrick whose original name was Succat, signifying the "strong in war", held the rank of decurion in the Roman army. But whether he was a native of Valentia, as that part of Scotland was then called, or was of Roman birth is uncertain.

But certain it is that the parents of St. Patrick were Christians, his grandfather, Potitus, being an ordained priest, and his father, Calphurnius, a deacon. So from his earliest years, Succat, or Patricius his Roman name by which the Saint is best known, had been instructed in the truths of the Christian faith. Nothing is known of his early youth until the beginning of his sixteenth year, when his history becomes interwoven with that of Ireland. The Scottish coasts were at that time subject to marauding expeditions from the wild Irish chieftains, who landing on its shores scoured the adjacent country, burning and pillaging the homes, and carrying into captivity the inhabitants whom they captured.

On one of these occasions the home of Calphurnius was attacked, and Succat, and two of his sisters and a number of his countrymen were captured and carried to the North of Ireland, where they were sold for slaves. A chieftain named Mithel who dwelt in the country of Antrim purchased the lad from his captor, and set him to watching his flocks and herds. For six years the boy wandered over the bleak moors of Antrim, exposed to rain and sun and frost, faithfully caring for the dumb beasts over whom he was given charge. But one day, opportunity for escaping from his master presented itself. He made his way to the seashore, and finding a ship just about to set sail for Scottish shores, he embarked upon her; and after a stormy voyage, reached home in safety.

Great was the rejoicing in the family of Calphurnius; but the joy was short-lived, for a second band of piratical Irish rovers descended upon the coast, and Succat was again carried off into bondage, to the Irish shores. After a brief captivity he again effected his escape, and returned to his home. But during his stay in Ireland he had seen so much of the degradation and misery of the natives, that his heart was touched with pity for their benighted condition, and filled with a burning desire to dispel the darkness of their heathen state, and carry them the light of the Gospel.

One night shortly after his second return to his father's house, he heard in a dream a voice from over the western sea, calling to him to return

to the people among whom his six years of bondage had been spent, and imploring him to lead them out of their darkness into light.

So, holding the call, which he never doubted was impressed by Heaven, Succat, or Patricius as he was ever afterwards called, bade farewell to home and friends who ridiculed his quixotic resolve, he set out for the south of France, where he intended entering a monastery to prepare himself for the work of preaching the Gospel in the land of his captivity.

After some years of study and preparation he was ordained deacon, then priest, and finally attained to the episcopate. Then feeling competent for the missionary work upon which he had set his heart, at the south-west extremity of Strangford Lough, they advanced into the interior, but had not gone far before they met an Irish chieftain at the head of his clan. The chieftain whose name was Dichu thinking that St. Patrick and his followers were one of the many pirate crews which often descended upon the coast, was about to fall upon the little band and put them to death. But struck by St. Patrick's appearance, and perceiving that the little company was unarmed, he hospitably opened the doors of his home to the invaders. In a short while Dichu and all his household accepted the faith taught by the new comers, and he and his family were baptized. Anxious to aid in the work of spreading the glad tidings brought by St. Patrick, Dichu bestowed upon the missionaries a tract of land, on which the first Christian temple in Ireland was erected. The ruins of this building may still be seen in the little town called Saul, near the village of Donpatrick on the western coast of Ireland.

Having made this encouraging beginning, St. Patrick now determined to seek out his old master, and preach to him the doctrines of Christianity. But Mithel haughtily refused to receive on equal terms one who had been his slave and obstinately clung to the pagan belief of his forefathers. So St. Patrick and his comrades journeyed into the interior of Ireland to the sacred hill of Tara the very stronghold of Druidism where the king of that region, Laoghaire, was about to hold a great religious festival in the presence of his chieftains, bards and Druid priests.

It was Easter Even when St. Patrick and his comrades came in sight of the sacred Hill, where Laoghaire and his court were assembled; and the good Monk resolved that he would celebrate the great festival of the church with fitting ceremonies and preach to the assembled chieftains the doctrine of the Resurrection. So the little company halted and erected their tents, and made ready for the evening meal. As the smoke ascended towards the sky, the Druids in the king's tent saw it, and great was the consternation among them. For deadly sacrifice it was to light a fire before the king had lit the sacred flame in the palace of Tara. The Druids rushed to the king, and pointing out the smoke ascending from the tents of the monks, they warned Laoghaire that unless the strangers' fire was extinguished the sceptre would depart from his hands, and a new king and new gods rule in Ireland.

Laoghaire sent messengers to find out who the daring new comers were, and to order them to appear before him. This was just what St. Patrick and his brethren desired. Appearing before the king, the good Bishop whose years of captivity in Ireland had given him command of the language, told simply but clearly and forcibly the story of the Saviour of the world. The wild Irish chieftains, and even the scowling Druids were struck with admiration for the courage of these unarmed strangers, and listened quietly and attentively to the strange, new tidings. And King Laoghaire though not

accepting at once the new faith gave St. Patrick permission to speak again the next day. For a week the Christian priests remained at Tara, at the end of which time many converts had been made, and the king's younger brother had been baptized.

From that time on, except from the Druids who sought his life and would feign have put the whole band of missionaries to death, St. Patrick and his comrades met with little opposition and the Word preached by them was eagerly received by the warm hearted, impulsive Irish. Soon, so fast had the great truths spread and so quickly had the seeds of Christianity taken root the Bishop and his monks had induced the natives of the island to allow them to destroy the great idol Crom-Cruach, whose image had for untold centuries stood in the county of Cavan. And the kings of Ulster, of Connaught and of all the provinces through which the good monks traveled had accepted the new faith.

At last St. Patrick arrived in the district of Machia, and there he was cordially received by Daire, a wealthy chieftain, who bestowed upon the holy man a pleasant piece of land called "The Hill of the Willows." There the Saint decided to build a church, and by degrees there arose around it the city of Armagh where the good man spent the remainder of his life, leaving it only on brief visits to Saul, the scene of his earliest labors. While on one of his visits to this little town, St. Patrick fell ill and died on the 17th of March, 466 A. D. He was buried at Downpatrick in the province of Ulster.

St. Patrick has justly been chosen as Ireland's patron saint for he was first of the Christian missionaries to bring to the little western island the knowledge of the Christian faith, and to rid the land of the cruel and superstitious practices of the Druid priests. To his earnest zeal in building churches and monasteries in the country is due the fact that for many years while the barbarians from the North were over-running Western Europe, while the Angles, Saxons and Jutes were destroying every vestige of civilization and of Christianity in England, Ireland exempt from these invasions, preserved her religious and educational institutions, and later through her missionary monks scattered the seeds of Christianity and civilization throughout the western world.

ELECTRICITY FOR THE BEDROOM

Very little care and attention is given to the placing of electricity in the bedroom. Apparently the contractor just sticks a wall fixture in wherever it is most convenient and the occupant of the room has to make the best of a bad job. Just as often as not the electric light is located up against the wall where it ought not to be.

Not only is it important that the electric light for the bedroom be located where it is most convenient, and where the entire efficiency of the lamp is available but other outlets should be provided in case an extra lamp is desirable during sickness, or for reading purposes. Now and then auxiliary electric devices, such as the small electric iron, the electric fan, the electric shaving mug, the electric luminous radiator, are desired and where only one outlet is provided the lamp has to be taken out whenever anything else is used. Of course this is a great inconvenience during the hours of darkness.

An electric shaving mug is very serviceable in homes where hot water is not always on tap, and in connection with the shaving mirror it is quite handy to have an electric light that may be adjusted to render its best service. The electric curling iron and the electric hair dryer appeal very strongly to the ladies of the house, the former having distinct advantages over the curling iron which has to be heated by gas with the accompanying soot and danger of excessively high temperature. The electric vibrator is another apparatus which may be used in the bedroom. Fans, ozonators, radiators and other common devices may also be wanted in this part

of the house. To many persons a reading lamp which can be placed in a convenient position at the bedside is also a comfort and convenience. The provision of a number of outlets is just as desirable in the bedroom as in any other portion of a residence, and if the greatest use is to be made of electric current the contractor or designer of an installation should bear all these points in mind when laying out his wiring scheme.

The steam shovel is being replaced by the electric shovel in New York city, where it is desirable to excavate without the dirt and noise of a steam shovel. The city of San Diego, California has an electric fountain in its largest park. The effect is produced with color lights and an automatic flasher placed behind the water jets.

NATURE'S WARNING

Elizabeth City People Must Recognize and Heed it.

Kidney ills come mysteriously. But nature generally warns you.

Notice the kidney secretions. See if the color is unhealthy—If there are settlings and sediment.

Passages frequent, scanty, painful. It's time to fear serious kidney trouble.

It's time to use Doan's Kidney Pills.

Doan's have done great work in Elizabeth City.

J. Forbes, 402 Second street, Elizabeth City, N. C., says: "A few months ago I had a very lame and weak back. When I tried to stoop, sharp twinges passed through my loins. My kidneys did not do their work as they should and the kidney secretions were irregular in passage. As soon as I began taking Doan's Kidney Pills, I was relieved and in a few days the lameness and pain disappeared. I have had no further trouble." For sale by all dealers Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States.

Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

QUICK SERVICE

Means much in every department of Life's work; But it means more in feeding. People do not like to wait when they are hungry.

Here is where we come in, Here where we make the Busy Bee the leading Hotel in Elizabeth City. No wait no delay. Quick meals follow quick orders.

BUSY BEE CAFE

Poindexter St.

Elizabeth City, N. C.

WHEN YOU COME DOWN TOWN DROP IN AT THE NEW FURNITURE STORE

No 15 Water Street and inspect our line of FURNITURE AND HOUSE FURNISHINGS

Everything brand new even the New Home Sewing Machine

J. M. Silverthorn,

Everything in Furniture Phone 148

Better Eating

At Harris' European Hotel all the time

It is our purpose and aim to see how good a meal we can serve for the money. Best meals served in Elizabeth City for the money. Try us and we will prove it.

EUROPEAN HOTEL,

B. T. HARRIS, Prop.



It Wins its way by service

L. C. Smith & Bros. Typewriter

(Ball Bearing—Long Wearing)

In buying a typewriter you want a satisfactory answer to three questions:

What will it do for me?
How well will it do it?
How long will it do it?

By answering these queries with the needs of the typewriter owner and user in mind, the L. C. Smith & Bros. Typewriter Company has attained the front rank in the typewriter field.

Some people think that a typewriter is a typewriter and that is all there is to it. Machines may look alike but there is a lot of difference in efficiency.

The new Model Five is built not only for straight correspondence but for tabulating, billing and in fact for every service needed in the average business.

Its ball bearings at all points where friction develops through action, permit close adjustment and insure correct and accurate typewriting.

We would like the opportunity to tell you more about it. Write for free book of our new Model Five.

L. C. SMITH & BROS. TYPEWRITER CO.

Head Office for Domestic and Foreign Business: SYRACUSE, N. Y., U. S. A. Branches in all Principal Cities

Norfolk Branch 14 Montecello Arcade Norfolk, Va.

