



WORTHILY RANKS AMONG SAINTS

Patrick's Useful Life and Good Works Entitle Him to Position of Eminence.

PLACE OF BIRTH NO MATTER

Certain He Was a True Irishman and Accomplished Much for the Welfare of the Race During His Sojourn on the Island.

ONE of the reasons why St. Patrick is such a favorite the world over is that he was so very human. He hadn't much of a chance when a boy, but he made the best of what he had. If he had not he would have been a hougher all the days of his life. He was a slave, in very truth, being bound to a pagan hog raiser in Britain.

But you can't keep a good man down, and that's a fact.

If all the legends be true, which can hardly be possible, Patrick was a favorite among the ladies, even making an impression on the good St. Bridget. Maybe this was before they became saints—of course it was, for how could they be saints and be alive at the same time?

However, there is quite a lot of writings, whether genuine or not, that go to show that he was a real human lover, and that dear Bridget was exceedingly fond of him, and would have married him could he have procured the consent of the church.

His Life and Works.

From all that can be learned concerning the life and works of St. Patrick, he was a good man, and spent his life going about doing good for his fellows.

As you know, a good man is more highly respected, more beloved and exerts a greater influence for good in the community in which he is known than even the wealthiest, the most powerful or most favored. He may not wear purple and fine linen, nor fare sumptuously, but he is making the world better and is, therefore, truly, and in the highest sense, a son of God.

There are numerous stories and legends concerning St. Patrick, some of which may be true. But it matters little whether he was a Milesian born in Spain, or a son of a poor swineherd of the green isle.

The history of the world shows that the mere circumstances of birth cuts very small figure in the matter of real greatness. From earliest times the men who have figured most prominently in world movements for the betterment of mankind have been of humble origin.

In order to rise from the lowly birth station of Lincoln or of Moses, a man must have the true spirit of manliness in him. If he survive the severe

trying-out process his will be a masterful, leading, helpful spirit which the spirits of all must acknowledge, respect and submit to.

In His Day.

We of the present day can hardly conceive of the conditions existing in the British Islands in his day.

The native Celts were heathen and brutish, and had no higher ambition than to exist, unless it was to rob neighboring tribes of their cattle, hogs and fair women. Physically they were strong, vigorous and emotional, and possessed of good nature, wit and social feeling in a marked degree as compared with the inhabitants of other islands.

Noting this, St. Patrick must have concluded there was something here to work on, something good; and seeing this he took it as his command to assist in the development of the social disposition and good feelings of these people.

He therefore became one of them, lived with them, won their confidence and commanded their respect. In order that he might be an efficient leader he occasionally went abroad and studied under the fathers of the church, for religion is most powerful to control the feelings and change the aspirations of men.

No matter what he may have been born, he was a true Irishman.

A Real Man.

There are those who regard St. Patrick as a fakir more or less, because of the miracles he is said to have wrought.

As far as known St. Patrick did not claim to have miraculous power, nor to have driven the reptiles out of Ireland.

It has always been the rule among ignorant and superstitious people to credit their religious teachers and great leaders with having done some marvelous or miraculous thing. Without something of the sort other ignorant and superstitious people would not heed them.

There may never have been any reptiles on this particular island, it having been one of the last to rise up out of the salty sea.

It is not the fact that a man is able to do wonderful things, or to work miracles, that makes him great really, but his ability to see and to comprehend the great truths concerning life, and to earnestly desire to spread these among the people. This it is that commands the attention of the livelier spirits, and wins the respect and confidence of those who desire better things in this life.

Such was St. Patrick.

A Splendid Type.

It is not the mere human creature that accomplishes great things, but the man within the machine. It was not the figure seen by the people that commanded their admiration, for he was not an Apollo, nor was it the familiar form bearing a shepherd's crook that brought these rough, untutored men to their knees and inspired them with worshipful feelings; nor was it the venerable father that aroused the spark of crude love in their hearts and ripened it until it became a controlling influence of their lives.

It was the man within the plainly clad form, the spirit that lighted the kindly eye, the love that prompted the tongue to utter appeals, to give timely warnings and to promise contentment, prosperity and happiness to all who would live right one toward another, thus pleasing God and making for peace and good will on earth.

Great he was indeed, else he could not have done so great good toward all men.

PLANT LONG HELD SACRED

Clover, of Which the Shamrock is a Species, Was Much Thought Of by the Ancient Greeks.

It is difficult to say what was the original shamrock, trefoil or Hero Trinity. The leaf now recognized as the national emblem is that of the white clover, but the name shamrock is generic and is applied also to the purple clover, the speedwell, the pimpernel and to the wood sorrel.

The clover of two or four leaves was held sacred in the festivals of the Greeks. The one of four leaves, when carried about, is supposed to insure success at play and confer the power of detecting evil spirits. The lover may put it under his pillow and he will dream of his beloved, or the maiden may slip it into her sweetheart's shoe without his knowledge and it will insure his safe return from any journey.

It may be employed to prevent the wearer's helms drawn into military service, is said to be a cure for lunacy, and is still, among the Irish, regarded as magical, even sacred. Snakes dislike it exceedingly and will not remain where it is growing.

Some say the four-leaf shamrock is the shamrock of luck, and others that it is the five-leaved one that holds the magic touch. This latter is rare and prized and is said to grow from a decaying body, as the nettle is said to spring from buried human remains. The shamrock of luck must be found "without searching, without seeking." When thus discovered it should be cherished and preserved as an invincible talisman.

ST. PATRICK PAID HIS WAY

In His "Confessions" He Tells of His Custom—Never Asked for Contributions.

Always chary of "sending round the plate," Patrick paid his own way through the Green Isle, as he emphatically relates in his "Confessions."

"But when it happens that I baptized so many thousand men did I accept ever a screpall (a Celtic coin of the value of about six cents) from them?" he wrote. "Tell me, and I will return it to you. Or when the Lord ordained clergy through my humility and ministry, did I confer the grace gratuitously? If I asked any of them even the value of my shoe, tell me, and I will repay you more. I rather spent for you as far as I was able, and among you and everywhere for you I endured many perils in distant places, where none had been farther or had ever come to baptize or ordain the clergy or confirm the people."

DADDY'S EVENING FAIRY TALE

BY MARY GRAHAM BONNER.

FROG'S SPRING SONG.

"Goog-a-rum, goog-a-rum," said Grandpa Frog.

The little frogs opened their very sleepy eyes and said: "What time is it?"

Now, they asked this question in their croaking voices, and they asked the time just as people ask the time in the morning when they hate to get up, but know they must.

"What time is it?" repeated Grandpa Frog. "Goog-a-rum, goog-a-rum, dear me, dear me. And to think that an old fellow like myself has to wake up all the others. Gracious, but when I was a young chap, or a young frog, I would be the first one up every spring."

"Oh, is it as late as that?" asked a little frog. Just as a grown-up or a child might ask if it really could be eight o'clock.

"Yes, it's getting-up time," said Grandpa Frog. "The spring is here. Yes, it's here. The creatures who have slept all winter are beginning to appear. But for those who would like to sleep still longer, I've no objection. It's very early springtime."

"What does that mean?" asked another little frog.

"It means that only the first signs of spring are here. But it's coming, sure enough."

"Don't we have to get up unless we want to, Grandpa?" asked several of the others.

"You may sleep a little longer," said Grandpa. "But I want to be up and see what's going to happen this year. I want to see what flies are in season and how the bug crop is doing."

"It's pretty chilly still, but it's the springtime. I'm sure of that."

"Suppose it turned out to be winter, after all?" asked a little frog.

"Why, yes," said another, "we may only have been having just little naps and not our good sleep at all."

"We're not so dreadfully sleepy," said another, "and if it were still the first part of the winter we'd be so very, very sleepy."

"And what is more we'd never even dream or think of waking up, or of leaving our nice beds of mud."

"Wise grandchild! Goog-a-rum, goog-a-rum," said Grandpa Frog. "You know," he continued, "that I have never made a mistake about the spring."



"Is It as Late as That?" Asked a Little Frog.

There are all sorts of things which happen which make a fellow think that maybe the spring isn't coming after all—that we're going right over the winter once more. It's apt to do such strange, cold things again. But, just the same, the spring always has its own way in the end. Once it starts to come, it comes, even though slowly. It always arrives in the end.

"Isn't that wonderful!" exclaimed the young frogs.

"To be sure it's wonderful," said Grandpa Frog. "Spring is fine! Spring is—well it's spring!"

"You've said that several times, Grandpa," said one of the little frogs.

"Don't be rude to your grandpa," said Grandpa Frog. "He can't help saying it many times. He is so pleased about it."

"That's right," said Grandpa. "I'm so pleased about it I'd like to sing a song about it." And he began, but only frogs with their voices and their understanding of music (or their kind of music) would have enjoyed it. This was the song:

"I'm a frog, I'm a frog,
And I sit on a log,
I oft have a surprise,
A bug or some flies,
They hop on my nose,
But not on my toes,
For a bug on the nose,
In the mouth soon goes,
I soon must begin
To grow fat, not thin,
And now that spring's here,
I'll begin, never fear! Goog-a-rum, goog-a-rum!"

And all the little frogs decided they had slept enough, and they joined Grandpa Frog in croaking, or singing, his song of the spring.

In Tune.

The girl who cannot play finger exercises without wincing if the piano is out of tune, is sometimes strangely indifferent to discords in the home life. It is true that the piano strings should be kept tightened, so that notes shall be neither sharp nor flat, but it is vastly more important that the hearts of the household shall be in tune, that there may be no jangling.—Girl's Companion.

Fair Weather Friends.

Are the friends you are making the sort of people who will stand by you on the cloudy days? Remember that fair-weather friends are a pretty poor investment for your time and effort.

Helping the Meat and Milk Supply

(Special Information Service, United States Department of Agriculture.)
LIVE STOCK INCREASES—SHOULD HAVE MORE.



How One Cow Helped to Swell the Stock Increase—Healthy Triplets.

INCREASE SHOWN IN MEAT ANIMALS

Federal Reports Give Gains Made in 1917 and Needs of Present Year.

MORE MEAT ANIMALS NEEDED

Specialists Tell How to Get More Pork and Beef—Exports Have Increased 177 Per Cent During Past Three Years.

Live stock men are on the job. A gratifying increase in the principal classes of live stock during 1917 is reported by David F. Houston, secretary of agriculture, in a recent statement. The increases reported as for January 1, 1918, on farms and ranges of the United States, according to a revised estimate for 1917, are: Horses, 353-

WAYS TO THE 15 PER CENT HOG INCREASE.

Pork production, to attain the 15 per cent increase declared needed during 1918, according to the agricultural production program recently announced by the department of agriculture, will be increased economically by breeding for two litters a year, by saving through better care a larger number of the pigs farrowed, by growing pasture and forage crops, by using wastes, especially town and city garbage, by proper rations of concentrated feeds, by the use of self-feeders, by pasturing alfalfa and other legumes and other forage crops, by hogging down grain sorghums and corn, by finishing hogs to heavier weights, up to about 275 pounds, and by preventive measures which will keep hogs free from cholera, tuberculosis, other diseases and parasites.

The increase of 4.5 per cent in numbers of "other cattle" is due to an increase of 4.2 per cent in calves, 2.7 per cent in heifers, a decrease of 3.2 per cent in other heifers, a decrease of 3.2 per cent in steers, and an increase of 1.9 per cent in "other cattle" (milk cows not included). Swine over six months old increased 4.5 per cent; those under six months increased 7.8 per cent.

The number of live stock not on farms, that is, stock in cities and villages, is not estimated yearly, but their number in 1910 as reported by the census was: Horses, 3,183,000; mules, 270,000; cattle, 1,879,000; sheep, 301,000; swine, 1,288,000. The census of 1910 also reported 106,000 asses and burros on farms and 17,000 not on farms; 2,915,000 goats on farms and 115,000 not on farms.

In average value per head horses increased \$1.39, mules increased \$10.59, milk cows increased \$10.96, other cattle increased \$4.90; sheep increased \$4.69, swine increased \$7.76.

In total value the increases are: Horses, \$66,319,000; mules, \$63,058,000; milk cows, \$278,388,000; other cattle, \$282,431,000; sheep, \$238,338,000; swine, \$569,378,000.

The total value January 1, 1918, of all animals enumerated above was \$8,263,524,000 as compared with \$6,735,612,000 January 1, 1917, an increase of \$1,527,912,000, or 22.7 per cent.

How to Get More Beef.

The number of beef animals should be maintained, and in areas where it is clearly the best range and farm practice, should be increased, says the program for agricultural production in 1918 recently made public by the United States department of agriculture. Since the outbreak of the Euro-

pean war and the consequent depletion of the European supply of cattle, the task of meeting the increasing demands for beef and beef products, to a large extent, has been put upon the people of the United States.

The exports of dressed beef and beef products have increased 177 per cent during the last three years. The shortage of beef abroad, like the shortage of other meat products, doubtless will be accentuated as the war progresses.

Beef production can be increased in the settled farm areas of the nation, and especially in the South. It can be increased everywhere by preventing the loss of flesh by calves during their first winter and keeping calves growing during this period so that beef animals may be marketed at earlier ages, thereby requiring the maintenance of fewer stocker cattle and making possible the maintenance of larger breeding herds; by using a larger proportion of bulls on the range to insure larger calf crops; by using good bulls only; by reducing the tick-infested areas as rapidly as possible; by eliminating as far as possible the losses from disease and predatory animals; by transferring animals from regions of scarcity of feed to those where there is an abundance of feed; by providing a more ample supply of winter feed and better shelter, and by utilizing all roughage produced, either as fodder, hay, or silage, and supplementing these feeds with more nitrogenous concentrates and less grain.

Growing Calves for Beef.

In order that calves may be qualified for the production of baby beef, that is, fattened and matured for market between one and two years of age, they must have quality and good finish. The consumer does not want the unfinished yearling, and the calf that does not have quality will not take on a high finish. Neither will the calf lacking in early-maturing qualities fatten properly during the latter part of the feeding period, but instead it will use most of the feed which it consumes for growth. The feeder should keep this in mind and first determine whether his calves are good enough to compete on the fat yearling market, and if he decides that they are not, they should be finished with coarse feeds and marketed later.

The deep, wide-bodied, thick-fleshed calf with short legs and an abundance of quality as indicated by fineness of hair, texture of skin, smoothness of flesh, and general refinement about the head and other parts of the body, is the type best suited for making prime baby beef. Uniformity in size, weight and color should not be overlooked either, because such factors are an advantage in marketing. These points are of great importance in selecting calves that will make rapid gains and return the most pounds of meat for the amount of feed given them.

BILLIONS IN FARM PRODUCTS.

The total estimated value of all farm products, including animal products, for 1917 is given as \$19,443,849,381 in a recent report of the secretary of agriculture. This compares with \$13,406,304,011 for 1916 and \$9,388,765,779, the five-year average for 1910-1914. These valuations are based upon the prices received by producers, which will apply to the total output regardless of whether the products are consumed on the farms or sold.

FEEDING HOGS MORE BARLEY

Tendency on Part of Farmers to Use More of Crop Than in Past to Conserve Wheat.

There is a distinct tendency for farmers to feed more barley to hogs than in the past, owing to the great need for wheat conservation. The movement may result in the development of barley as a great hog feed like corn in the middle West.

Care in Fattening Calves.

More care is necessary in fattening calves than in feeding grown cattle, but, wherever possible, it is best to raise and finish beef cattle on the same farm.