

The Greatest Miracle of St. Patrick

It's given up by every one that Patrick of the bells was the most wonderful saint that ever lived for working miracles, and the one I am going to tell you about now was the greatest miracle of them all.

Long ago, and a very long time ago entirely it was when Finn MacCumhail and the warriors of the Fianna ruled from their king's dun at Almuinn over the pleasant province of Leinster. Three score captains there were of the Fianna and five score champions followed every captain when he went to the wars. And the like of these men for heroes the world has never seen before or since. Seven feet tall was Mianne, the smallest of them all, and the handle of his spear was just a young ash tree.

On the White Horse of Magic tree. By that you may know that the others were the tallest. The first song has been made up about them by the ancient bards of Ireland.

On a day at the court of Teambair in the presence of the four kings and the four queens of the court, the three caskets of honor were given without lessening to Oislin by Cormac, the high king. The first casket held the five silver lilies of courtesy, which meant kindness to the stranger, hospitality to the poor and distressed, gentleness to the old men and children, and white homage to women. The second casket contained the five bronze rings of hearing, which signified: Skill in fighting, sleight in wrestling, swiftness in hunting, caution in chess playing, and sweet cunning in the making of melodious songs. And the third casket held three golden apples which signified courage in danger, faith in friendship, and truth in speaking. And no other man before or since ever got those three caskets at one time without lessening.

So no wonder at all it was that Niamh of the golden hair, who was the daughter of the king of the Country of the Young, was to be married with the great fame of Oislin and journeyed all the way to Ireland for love of him. And no sooner did Oislin set eyes on Niamh of the golden hair than he loved her with every fiber of his body, and it's what he said to her: "From this day out I will have neither ease of mind nor peace of heart until your life is the same as my life; and for no other woman in the world but you, O woman of the deep shining eyes!"

For answer Niamh bent down from the white horse on which she rode and kissed him on the forehead and on the eyes, and this is what she said: "There is many a king's son who has paid court to me, O Oislin of the comely brow, but it's to you I give my heart, and to no other; and it's to take you back to me to my father's country I have come, bringing the white horse of magic for our journey. And if you love me, as you say, you will come up now and sit behind me here."

So he did that, and the great white horse turned his face to the western sea and the people of the Fianna saw them no more. And they went the high way together on the white horse of magic over the high, tossing sea and under the dark, running waves and in the Country of the Young and were given as husbands to the young women in the palace of the king itself.

But one day as Oislin and his young men were coming home from the hunt on the side of the hill before them, and out of the middle of the crowd there sounded harp began playing, and the heart of Oislin stood still, for he knew it to be Suannach, son of Stenshen, who was in it playing, and the song that Suannach was playing was the lament for the death of Oscar.

way to Ath Clath to preach the new faith to the people. After Oislin told his wonderful story to the clerics Patrick took him by the hand and led him the ways to Ath Clath, where for three days Oislin listened to Patrick of the bells preaching to the princes and to the people.

On the fourth day of the preaching, when Patrick was getting ready to baptize the people it's what he said to Oislin:

"Come out now with the others, son of Finn, till I baptize you and save you from the torments of hell, for if you are not baptized you can never enter heaven."

"But tell me first, Patrick of the white book, where are the Fianna—my son, Oscar of the strokes. Art they dead, the victorious, Colille, son of Ronan, and Finn, my father—are they in your heaven?"

"No," answered Patrick, "their likes would not be let into heaven, they would only used as fuel for the fires in deep hell, suffering the torments of fire."

A spot of red anger burned on either cheek of Oislin, and it's what he answered:

"Then keep your heaven for yourself, O Patrick of the crooked staff, and for the likes of these ill singing clerics; as for myself, I want none of it. I will be christened with water to be with Finn, my father, and my son, Oscar, and the friends of my youth."

And Oislin could not understand at all the words Patrick's eyes nor the trouble in his voice as the saint answered him:

"The mercy of God is more wonderful than all his works. Oislin, this is the day when the three caskets of honor were given without lessening to Oislin by Cormac, the high king. The first casket held the five silver lilies of courtesy, which meant kindness to the stranger, hospitality to the poor and distressed, gentleness to the old men and children, and white homage to women. The second casket contained the five bronze rings of hearing, which signified: Skill in fighting, sleight in wrestling, swiftness in hunting, caution in chess playing, and sweet cunning in the making of melodious songs. And the third casket held three golden apples which signified courage in danger, faith in friendship, and truth in speaking. And no other man before or since ever got those three caskets at one time without lessening."

When the last figure melted away into the haze Patrick knew that his task was ended. But as he turned to regain the bank a respondent figure stepped forth to meet him. Of all the men Patrick had ever seen in the world, this one was the staitest

Bill to Promote Civil Service. Mr. Frouin introduced in the house the bill to promote and improve civil service nearly every office in the state, including the offices under the governor, the secretary of state, the auditor, the treasurer, the superintendent of public instruction, the insurance superintendent, the railroad and warehouse commission, the factory inspector, the state board of health, the board of pharmacy and all offices and places of employment in the penal and reformatory institutions. The exceptions to the rule are all elective offices, the adjutant general, the insurance department, the state factory inspector, members of boards of trustees, superintendents of institutions and one chief clerk, one deputy and one stenographer for each institution to which the provisions of this act apply; a secretary and one stenographer in the office of the governor; one chief clerk or deputy in the office of the following offices and departments: the secretary of state, the auditor of public accounts, the state treasurer; and the superintendent of public instruction; all employees of the office of the state treasurer who regularly handle large sums of money; one chief clerk or deputy in the department of the railroad and warehouse commission; the adjutant general, the insurance superintendent, the state factory inspector, and the state food commissioner. The Cook county bill extends civil service from its present limitation to all offices and departments of the county service. The persons exempted from civil service in Cook county are: All elective officers; one assistant sheriff; one assistant clerk in each of the courts; one clerk for the coroner, county clerk, recorder of deeds, each of the clerks of courts of record, and a chief clerk for the board of assessors and board of review, and one private secretary for the president of the county board; in the state's attorney's office five assistants who are engaged in trial work; the county attorney; superintendent of public works; warden of the insane asylum; superintendent of the poor house; county agent; county physician, and county architect. In addition to these exemptions, the consulting staff of physicians and surgeons may be appointed without examination under the civil service rule.

Patrick Baptized Him There. And comest. It's more than seven feet tall he was, and the hair of his proud head fell like burnished gold to his shoulders. Upon his brow was a golden shield, and a collar of red gold encircled his neck. Patrick knew well that it was Oislin and no other that stood before him. As the saint gazed the apparition raised its right hand high above its head with the open palm toward Patrick. And it's how it stood there smiling a little minute and then disappeared through the cloud the way the others had gone. As it did that the mists lifted, and Patrick went out to where the figure of the old man was lying, and it's how he lay with his lips to the ground and he cold and dead.

BILL A SURPRISE

SPEAKER SHURTLEFF INTRODUCES IMPORTANT MEASURE.

REPEALS PRESENT ACT

If It Becomes Law No More Questions of Public Policy Will Be Submitted to Voters for Opinion.

Springfield.—Speaker Shurtleff sprung a surprise on the radicals when he introduced in the house a bill repealing the public policy act passed in 1901. If the speaker's measure should become a law there will be no more questions of public policy submitted to the voters for an expression of opinion. The bill, however, does not in any way seek to interfere with the right of a referendum vote on any law or ordinance that may be passed either by a city council or the legislature. A referendum vote is mandatory and is a part of the law, whereas a public-policy vote is merely an expression of opinion as emphasized in the question of a direct primary. Those who favor the repeal of the public-policy act contend that direct primaries reflect sound public sentiment. It is said the movement grows out of the primary bill contest, as the big vote in favor of direct primaries was repeatedly used in argument by the friends of direct voting.

Civil Service Bills. The forty-fifth general assembly has nine civil service bills before it at the present time. These comprise the recommendations of the state committee, three bills introduced by members of the legislature of their own volition, and one measure providing for the extension of civil service in Cook county from its present limitation from civil service in this bill are: All elective officers; all members of boards, trustees and commissioners; superintendents of institutions, and one chief clerk or deputy in each of the following offices and departments: the secretary of state, the auditor of public accounts, the state treasurer; and the superintendent of public instruction; all employees of the office of the state treasurer who regularly handle large sums of money; one chief clerk or deputy in the department of the railroad and warehouse commission; the adjutant general, the insurance superintendent, the state factory inspector, and the state food commissioner. The Cook county bill extends civil service from its present limitation to all offices and departments of the county service. The persons exempted from civil service in Cook county are: All elective officers; one assistant sheriff; one assistant clerk in each of the courts; one clerk for the coroner, county clerk, recorder of deeds, each of the clerks of courts of record, and a chief clerk for the board of assessors and board of review, and one private secretary for the president of the county board; in the state's attorney's office five assistants who are engaged in trial work; the county attorney; superintendent of public works; warden of the insane asylum; superintendent of the poor house; county agent; county physician, and county architect. In addition to these exemptions, the consulting staff of physicians and surgeons may be appointed without examination under the civil service rule.

Lake to Gulf Plan Feasible. In the opinion of the commission, the deep waterway to connect the great lakes and the gulf is not only feasible but also of considerable value that the limit of its possibilities cannot be comprehended.

Attention is called to the resources which may be developed along the route proposed for the coal deposits located at La Salle and Peru, and the distilleries at Peoria and Pekin which are along the Monongahela and Kanawha. There are unlimited deposits of iron ore, zinc, lead, silver, copper and other minerals at La Salle and Peru, and the distilleries at Peoria and Pekin which are along the Monongahela and Kanawha. There are unlimited deposits of iron ore, zinc, lead, silver, copper and other minerals at La Salle and Peru, and the distilleries at Peoria and Pekin which are along the Monongahela and Kanawha.

Corporation Bills. Many bills affecting public utility corporations are pending in the committee of laws of the House. The bills measure fixing the hours of service for certain classes of employees and providing for safety appliances and comforts for passengers and motorists.

Another Special Message. Another special message is to be laid before the general assembly by Governor Shurtleff. The message has to do with legislation looking toward the ultimate consummation of the deep waterway project. Incorporated in the message will be the report of the international commission, a voluminous document treating in detail the various phases of the subject. The commission, created under an act approved May 16, 1905, by the United States Congress, was organized at Chicago, Ill., and its members include: Judge H. W. Johnson of Ottawa, a banker; E. M. Schmidt, a manufacturer of Beardstown, and the secretary, Lyman E. Cooley, civil engineer.

Status of Local Option. Last week an earnest attempt was made by Chairman Sheldon of the house judiciary committee, and Senator Berry, who will champion the measure, to get the local option a common ground upon which the liquor and anti-liquor interests could stand as regards the scope of the local option bill. But this was unsuccessful, and the measure is expected to go to any compromise. The combination of precinct feature and section 17, which allows any two householders to institute proceedings for the recovery of the license, is a compromise, but will probably be stricken out of the bill in committee.

Juvenile Courts Illegal? Debate in the house committee on judiciary, this morning, on the bill to amend the juvenile court law introduced by Mr. Church, has developed the fact according to Representative McRoberts of Peoria, that the present law, which provides for the removal of a non-constitutional jurisdiction over the cases affecting dependent, delinquent and defective children. He thinks their work may be knocked out by the proposed law, but is opposed by anyone who takes an appeal on a decision of the juvenile courts.

State Banking Department.

Springfield.—A state department of banking, to have effective supervision of the organization and conduct of banks and banking associations throughout the state, is proposed in a bill drawn up by Representative John P. McGoorty and introduced in the house.

This measure would take the supervision of banks from the state auditor, in whose hands that power lies at present. New duties are assigned to the directors of banks under state supervision. Section 15 provides that the directors of every such bank and association shall, at the time of any examination, furnish to the examiner a statement in writing as to the soundness of the securities and paid-up capital of every such bank as were found by such examiner, which written statement shall be sworn to by at least three directors who are not salaried officers of such bank or association.

While the bill requires that all general records of the proposed department shall be considered public records and open to view, a special provision is made that the facts and information obtained through the provisions of section 15 shall be kept secret "except so far as the public interest may require." It also requires a report or special action regarding the affairs of the bank or association, or except when such state officer is called as a witness in a criminal proceeding or order in a court of justice.

The head of the proposed department is to be known as the superintendent of banking, who shall be appointed by the governor for a term of five years, unless sooner removed for good cause after that period. A salary of \$5,000 a year is provided for the department head, and provision is made for one bank examiner at a salary of \$6,000 and for other examiners at salaries of \$2,500. Assistant examiners and other employees may be engaged by the superintendent at salaries fixed by him.

Worth Knowing About. If you need a first-class laxative, there is nothing better nor safer than the Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. Each pill contains one grain of solid extract of sarsaparilla, which, with other valuable vegetable products, make it a blood purifier of excellent character. If you are troubled with constipation, one pill at night will afford great relief.

Brandth's Pills are the same fine laxative tonic pill your grandparents used. They have been in use for over a century, and are for sale everywhere, either plain or sugar-coated.

Judge Got His Answer. The supreme court, gets as much fun as possible out of life, even extracting an occasional laugh from trials which he presides in. Not long ago he indulged in his favorite propensity and came off second best. An applicant for naturalization was before him, the French chef of a wig hotel, satisfied with the answers to the formal questions, Judge Graham suddenly and unsmilingly put a final poser: "You say you are a chef? What is the difference between a real chef and a phoosant?" Just as quickly and fully as seriously came the answer: "Forty cents, your honor."

Modern Plays Puzzle Empress. The empress of Japan has been reading some European plays and she does not like them. She suspects that they deal with forbidden subjects and has ordered that all dangerous meditations. The freedom with which women in them are represented as expressing their opinions in public, giving vent to their most intimate sentiments and putting their handskerchiefs over their eyes and weeping before people, is said to strike her as quite inconceivable.

World's Dairy Interests. The importance of the world's dairy industries is attested by the fact that they warrant the calling of an international congress and discussion of the best methods of dairy conduct, the third of these having just been announced for convention at The Hague, during September of next year. The general secretary of the movement is Dr. A. J. Swaying, of The Hague.

THE WHOLE FAMILY. Mother Finds a Food for Grown-Ups and Children as Well. Food that can be eaten with relish and benefit by the children as well as the older members of the family, makes a pleasant household commodity.

Such a food is Grape-Nuts. It not only agrees with children, but children, but older persons who, from bad habits of eating, have become dyspeptic.

A Philadelphia lady, after being benefited herself, persuaded her husband to try Grape-Nuts for stomach trouble. She writes:

"About eight years ago I had a severe attack of congestion of stomach and bowels. From that time on, I had to be careful about eating, as nearly every kind of food then known to me, seemed to cause pain.

"Four years ago I commenced to use Grape-Nuts, and in a few days I was better, and from that time I seldom have been without it; have gained in health and strength and an bow heavier than I ever was.

"My husband has also in a bad condition—his stomach became so weak that he could eat hardly anything with comfort. I got him to try Grape-Nuts, and he soon found his stomach trouble had disappeared.

"Mr. and Mrs. Swaying, 9 years old, do not want anything else for breakfast but Grape-Nuts, and more healthy children cannot be found." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read the "Little Booklet," "Road to Well-being," in page "There's a Reason."

A MID-WINTER VERDICT.

"Bright Sunshine All Winter," Is What a Western Canada Lady Says.

Malden, Sask., Canada, Feb. 4, 1907.

C. J. Broughton, Esq., Canadian Government Agent, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir: Being so well pleased with Canada we wish my father and brother to come here. Will you please send them reading matter on Canada. We have been very nearly a year and are delighted with this country. We have lived in Illinois, Iowa, and Michigan and we find Canada away ahead of any of them. We have had bright sunshine all winter so far, only two nice, easy snow storms. If it was not all right you know I would not want my father and brother to come here, but we think it is grand.

(Signed) MRS. ED. TROUPE.

High Prices Paid for Pigs.

A splinter with one eye, born recently paid \$500 for a bulldog. A man in Massachusetts has just bought a cow for \$5,000. Walter Garvey has a hog for which he refused a cash offer of \$4,000. The owner of a \$200,000 for Szyony, a race horse. There are several roosters of fashionable blood priced as high as \$900 each. You can buy a fine lion for \$500. We shall have a craze for breeding fishes, and a fine male salmon, educated to pond life, might be worth \$1,000. The \$5,000 cow was one called "Red" and "White". The female animal may become the mother of 300,000 little fellows in the same time, worth in the aggregate, possibly, as much as the calf—N. Y. Press.

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Interior Decorating.

Improve the interior appearance of your home by applying to the woodwork—doors, window casings, window-frames, baseboards, etc.—a good coat of Decoraco Interior Enamel, which we will apply for you in any color, made in sixteen beautiful shades. Decoraco Interior Enamels are especially made for interior work, and can be used on wood and metal. They wear like glazed tile, retain their handsome lustre, prevent disease by resistance to dirt, dust and grease.

Decoraco Interior Enamels.

Decoraco Interior Enamels are prepared ready for the brush, are easily applied, and cost no more than good paint.

Buffalo Oil Paint & Varnish Co., Buffalo, Chicago.

FREE PAXINE

To convince you of the value of Paxine, we will send you a free bottle of Paxine. Paxine is a powerful purgative, and is especially adapted for the treatment of constipation, indigestion, and other ailments of the digestive tract.

READERS

of this paper are invited to send in their names for a free copy of the book "The Art of Living," which is a valuable treatise on the art of living a happy and successful life.

PATENTS

of this paper are invited to send in their names for a free copy of the book "The Art of Living," which is a valuable treatise on the art of living a happy and successful life.