

RESTRICTION OF IMMIGRATION.

A bill that succeeded in running the congressional gauntlet during the busy days immediately prior to the 4th of March, and that received the approval of President Harrison, was the measure designed to restrict immigration. The bill originated in the Senate, and when it reached the House it suffered such drastic amendments that it was feared the same fate would befall it that had overtaken so many other measures on the same subject—it would fail between the two legislative branches. The feature that caused this prospect to appear most ominous was the educational qualification insisted upon by the House; of secondary importance was the clause forbidding the entrance into this country of members of any society or organization which sanctions or justifies the unlawful destruction of property, this latter being aimed at anarchists and socialists. There seemed to be some opposition to these features, for the amendment requiring that all immigrants "over sixteen years of age be able to read and write their own language with reasonable facility" would keep out 65 per cent of the immigrants now arriving. The amendments were finally abandoned, however, and the bill was passed just as it came from the Senate.

Its provisions, briefly defined, are that the masters of vessels and surgeons of vessels shall make affidavit before the United States consul at the sailing port that the emigrants are eligible to admission to this country. The emigrant must state the full name, full age and sex; whether married or single, the calling or occupation, whether able to read or write, the nationality, the last residence, the seaport for landing in the United States, the final destination, if any, beyond the seaport of landing; whether having a ticket through to such final destination; whether the immigrant has paid his own passage or whether it has been paid by other persons or by any corporation, society, municipality or government; whether in possession of money, and if so whether upward of \$30, and how much if \$30 or less; whether going to join a relative, and if so what relative and his name and address; whether ever before in the United States, and if so when and where; whether ever in prison or almshouse, or supported by charity; whether a polygamist; whether under contract (express or implied) to perform labor in the United States, and what is the immigrant's condition of health mentally and physically, and whether deformed or crippled, and if so, from what cause. One section of the bill relates to the inspection of immigrants at the ports of arrival in this country. Any person who may not seem to be clearly entitled to admission shall be detained for a special inquiry to be conducted by not less than four officials acting as inspectors, and to be designated by the secretary of the treasury and the superintendent of immigration. The favorable report of three of these inspectors is required to pass the detained person. Any one of the examining inspectors can appeal from the decision of his associates to the superintendent of

immigration, and this official's action shall be subject to review by the secretary of the treasury.

It is rather surprising, when the clamor of the Eastern states on the subject is considered, that the enactment should be as free as it is from radical provisions. It has some incongruities, and in some particulars is open to the objection that it invites a departure from the traditions of the country and the views of its founders, in their welcome to the poor and oppressed of all nations. Still, the aim sought to be achieved is a good one, and if the intent be kept constantly in mind, the enforcement of the law in a broad and generous spirit will be productive of good.

A COLOMBIA RAILROAD.

There is now an enterprise on foot contemplating the erection of three lines of railway from Bogota, capital of the United States of Colombia, in South America, to points along the Magdalena river. This will traverse a tract of country that has not been trodden by the foot of white man for generations. The country of the Magdalena, or the ancient river Sison, centuries ago was populated by hundreds of thousands of civilized people, and was the center of industry in South America. With the advent of the railway and kindred enterprises, that part of the continent may be made to resume a place of importance in commerce and manufacture.

The railway enterprise referred to was brought to public attention by the filing, in Denver, on Monday, of three articles of incorporation, aggregating \$7,200,000 in capital stock. The organizations embrace the Bogota and Magdalena Railway company, the Columbia Construction company and the Fuquene Improvement company, all of whose property is found in the republic of Colombia.

A number of valuable concessions have been granted by the government, through the influence of C. D. Rogers of New York, who filed the papers. In answer to an inquiry, he gave as his reason for incorporating in Colorado the fact that the laws of Colorado are much more favorable for a company operating in a foreign country than the laws of New York and other Eastern states. The expense of incorporation is also an item to be considered, as it would have cost \$10,000 to file the articles in New York which were filed in Denver for \$1,000.

The object of the organizations, as set forth in the articles, is to develop the country, build and operate railways, and operate mines and coffee plantations.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

Today is the "17th of Ireland," and our Milesian friends almost to a man are recognizing it in one way or another. Not only they but many who are not Irish and not even descendants of the Irish are lending somewhat of a helping hand in order that the measure of respect which the day calls for from the sons of Erin may not be curtailed; many are the green ribbons and artificial shamrocks to be seen upon the

streets and elsewhere, and many are the expressions of loyalty to the land in which the man in honor of whose memory it is all done acquired his eminence.

Patricius' birthplace is a matter of some controversy. One thing has been settled for some time, however, and that is that he was not a native Irishman at all but a native Scotchman with perhaps Irish antecedents. The authorities with substantial unanimity agree that he was born in the year A. D. 372. His young life was an eventful and stormy one, but finally he decided upon entering the missionary field, selecting Ireland as the scene of his labors. He had previously visited France—then Gaul—and Italy and prepared himself mentally and spiritually for his work, eventually being ordained a bishop of the Catholic church in Scotland. Civilization was at a very low ebb in both Ireland and England at the time; men were little if any better than savages, many of them living nomadically and dressing in skins, so it may readily be understood that Bishop Patricius had abundant material of the toughest character on which to exercise his genial power. He began in 432 and his efforts were instantly and constantly successful; he paused not in his career until the entire population of the island were converted to Christianity. Tradition credits him with having on this day of the month and several years after the time last above named taken up his crosser and, waving it over land, the banished every venomous creature from Ireland. He is credited with having written the book of "Confession" at a very old age, but this is not well authenticated.

St. Patrick, as the name has been modernized to, died about 464 as nearly as can be determined, having lived not far from ninety-two years. His life was an upright, moral and gentle one and for it alone, apart from the extraordinary achievement attributed to him, his name is entitled to the respect it receives.

ICELANDIC DISCOVERIES.

The following letter, from one who appears to be thoroughly conversant with his subject, needs no explanation at our hands, save the reminder that the article to which our correspondent refers as being in the SEMI-WEEKLY News of the 3rd inst., appeared in the daily edition of the 28th of February:

BANNOCK, Mont., March 11, 1893.

Editor Deseret News:

Dear Brother—It was with great interest that I read in your semi-weekly of the 3rd inst. the short account of that Icelandic manuscript. It was written at the estate of Vidvaldunga, Iceland, by Gizur Hakonson, and his son Jon, previous to 1380, as the last one of the two died that year. It was found about two hundred years ago on the island Flatey in the bay of Bredafjord (Broadfirth), and hence it is known as Flategar Bok or Codex Flategensis.

It got to Denmark on the same principle as the Tithing House, Salt Lake, got into the hands of a Receiver. Several Danish professors have been appointed to follow the book to Chicago, Baron Brunn, the librarian, being one of them, but none of them knew more about the language in which the book is written than I know about Greek, and hence re-