

historical details, form a claim to popularity—then this History of Ireland ought to be popular. There is neither the learned profundity of Robertson, the majestic grandiloquence of Gibbon, nor the fluent raciness of Macaulay in the author's mode of treating his subject; but there are qualities of perhaps greater value to the general reader, transparent in the book. It is besides a timely production on this side of the Atlantic, and clearly manifests the fatal injury which divisions amongst the people and their leaders, insubordination to established authority, and the want of true patriotism are inevitably calculated to produce.

In preparing for the press the materials left to his discretion, the editor has sought to preserve, as far as possible, the phraseology of the lamented author, so that his friends may generally recognize his accustomed style—a style, at once imaginative and eloquent, classical and pure. In a book which, according to the design of its author, must be brief, brevity might appear to be almost incompatible with clearness,* but both will be found delectably conjoined in this volume. It will no doubt, be regretted by many lovers of Irish History that comparatively so little is given respecting the life and times of Coneover MacNessa (p. 49); of Conn “of the hundred battles” (p. 56); of Finn MacCoul (p. 59); of Nial “of the nine hostages” (p. 66.); and, at a period still later, of Brian Boru, who was at once the Solon and the Epaminondas of his country. Again, in the ecclesiastical portions of the volume, regret will probably be felt that more copious details are not furnished; but it must be remembered that all these things could not be introduced into a popular “handbook” of Irish History: whilst the dissertation on Ancient Irish Philosophy in Chapter VI., the calm and judicious remarks on the constitution of the Irish monarchy occasionally interspersed through the earlier portion of the book, the summary of the Lives of St. Patrick, (p. 80), of Columba,†

* Horace, *Epistola ad Pisones*, 26.

† Or Colum-kill “the dove of the Churches.”