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THE PATRICK OF LEGEND AND THE PATRICK OF HISTORY.

THE earliest and most reliable of the manuscripts of the Confession of Patrick closes with a note in the hand of the transcriber, which is as follows:—"Thus far the volume which Patrick wrote with his own hand: On the seventeenth of March Patrick was translated to heaven." The recent festival of the great apostle of the Irish church offers an opportunity for presenting a few things concerning him that may interest the readers of this magazine. When two centuries from the death of Patrick had passed, national, as well as religious feeling, had created a character in which a little history is mingled with much fable. In one life, which is supposed to reach as far back as the eighth century, Patrick, while yet a child, works miracles. Water bursts from the rock for his baptism; water is turned into fire to cook his food, and icicles become faggots to make a fire to warm him. During a voyage from France his stone altar becomes a float in which a leper sails with him to Ireland. When his paschal fire was seen from Tara, the Druids prophesied after the Babylonian fashion: "Oh king! Live for ever! This fire will never be extinguished, unless it be extinguished this night." One of the king's magicians was by Patrick's hand lifted up and made to fall so that his brains were dashed out. When the king was about to destroy the saint, a horror of darkness fell upon him, and he groped in the dark, like Elymas the sorcerer. When this king on another occasion tried to kill Patrick, the saint and his friends were