

Literary Department.

“SLIAV NA MON.”



Rev James B. Dollard the talented poet priest was born August 30th, 1872 in the parish of Mooncoin, County Kilkenny, Ireland. His preparatory studies were made at St. Kierman's College, Kilkenny. In 1891 he came to Canada where he studied for the church in a five years course of Philosophy and Theology at Montreal. He is now the esteemed rector of St. Columb Cille's Uptergrove.

“Sliav na mon” the pen name so often in evidence in magazines and periodicals was signed to his early poems to the Boston Pilot. It refers to a mountain in Tipperary under whose shade he was cradled; from which he caught no doubt,

the spirit of poesy, as he grew up mid the lingering legend and story of the by-gone days of Ireland. Father Dollard ranks high among the ballad singers of his adopted country and it is in this light we wish to consider him in these few lines.

His ballads are heart-calls voicing the longings of the exile for the green hills and dales of his far away Erin. He sings always sweetly of her joys and sorrows, of her hopes and despair; her noble history and misty lore; the humbly striving son of the motherland is depicted honestly in strong lines and is the inspiration of much music from this genuine, throbbing harp of song. His men and women fairly live and breathe in the glowing pages and “at times one listens for the sound of their footsteps.”

“The subjects which draw me most” says the poet priest “are