

to be impressed upon the people more forcibly, and to have taken peculiar hold of the national mind. Let us consider what these peculiar features of St. Patrick's teachings were...

HE PREACHED FIDELITY

and unswerving devotion to the Pope—the head of the Catholic Church. Coming direct from Rome, and filled with ecclesiastical knowledge...

ers and sacrifice for the dead are frequently mentioned, as evidently being the practice, frequent and loving of the people. They were not unamiable of the dead, like others who have no hope...

Finally, the great saint established between the people and their priesthood the firmest bonds of mutual confidence and love. In the Catholic Church the priest is separated from men and consecrated to God...

great trials came upon Ireland at the beginning of the ninth century, when the Northmen, or Danes, invaded the country in mighty force. They came not only as the enemies of Ireland's nationality...

THE GLOOMY AND TERRIBLE WORSHIP OF ODIN

was to replace the religion of Christ; and for three hundred long years the whole land was covered with bloodshed and confusion, the nation fighting with heroic courage and perseverance, in defence of its altars and homes...

It is necessary for us to-day to recall the sad events that followed the Danish invasion of Ireland. The crown of empire fell from Ireland's brows...

The emerald gem of the western world

It is, however worthy of remark, that although Ireland never was united in her opposition to her English invader, as she had been at Clontarf...

FOR MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEARS

the work of St. Patrick was the glory of Christendom. The Virgin Church of Ireland, unstained even by one martyr's blood, became the prolific mother of saints. Strange indeed, and singular in its glory...

but the chief was extirpated in the citadel of God; the light of divine truth was upon his path, the power of the Most High nerved his arm, and the spirit of Patrick lunged over him...

Ireland's preservation of the Catholic faith has been a puzzle to the world, and men have sought to explain in many different ways the extraordinary phenomenon...

we may also admit to a slight extent the conservatism of the Irish character, and its veneration for antiquity. Oh, how much our fathers had to love in their ancient religion! Their history began with their Christianity...

Cong—saint, and bard, and hero, all alike presented themselves to the national mind surrounded by the halo of that religion which the people were now called upon to abandon and despise...

But none of these purely natural explanations can explain the supernatural fact, that a whole people preferred, for ten generations, confiscation, exile, and death, rather than surrender their faith...

THE NEW AND FALSE RELIGION

assaile precisely those points of Catholic teaching which he had engrained most deeply on the mind and heart of Ireland, as if he had anticipated the trial, and prepared for it...

Through good report and evil report, Ireland was always faithful to Peter's chair; and it is a curious fact, that when the Christian world was confused by the pretensions of Antipodes...

Devotion to the Mother of God was the next great feature of Patrick's preaching and of Ireland's Catholicity. The image of all that is fairest in nature and grace, which arose before the eyes of the people...

The third great leading feature of our holy religion assailed by Protestantism was the sweet and tender doctrine of prayer and love for the dead. That which is opposed to divine truth is always, when we analyze it, an outrage on the best instincts of man...

TO A PEOPLE LIKE THE IRISH,

naturally affectionate, and strongly attached to each other, the Christian doctrine of prayer for the dead must always be grateful. Our history served to deepen this portion of our Catholic devotion...

Finally, the new religion was represented to the Irish people by men who grotesquely represented themselves as successors of the apostles. The popular mind of Ireland had derived its idea of the Christian priesthood from such men as St. Patrick, Columba, of Iona, and Kevin, of Glendalough...

and purity of the priest the sanctity and austerity of the Cenobite. The virtues of Ireland's priesthood made them the admiration of other lands, but the idols of their own people. The monastic glories of ancient Lismore and Bangor were still reflected from Mellifont and Bective...

WHAT EVER HEARD SUCH A DACTYL?

What wonder that Ireland took her own priest, her "oggarth aroon," to her bosom! Never did she know his value till now. It was only when she had seen his hideous counterpart that she realized all that she possessed in the humble child of St. Francis and St. Dominick...

Now, I say, that in all this we see the Providence of God in the labor of Ireland's glorious apostle. Who can deny that the religion which St. Patrick gave to Ireland is divine? A thousand years of sanctity attest it. Three hundred years of martyrdom attest it. If men will deny the virtues which creates, the fortune which it inspires, let them look to Ireland's history...

CATHOLIC PROSPECTS POLITICALLY.

The Conservatives hold the reins. How and whether will they drive? Who shall say?—Men are beginning to speculate, and to say, With the Tories in power Catholics may look out for persecution. Many of them would re-establish Protestant ascendancy in Ireland if they could...