## 4 CLONTARF-AN IRISH NATIONAL DRAMA

Donough :-

I blame thee not, MacLiag, for thy gloom And bitter grief for our beloved dead;

Yet say I: they are happier being dead,

For they have saved the Church ; and many a Mass

Shall now be chanted for their favoured souls, And many a noble shrine and abbey fair Shall yet be raised unto their memory here In this my kingdom

[He turns and addresses the Viking.]

Thorstein, son of Hall,

Art thou resolved, as lately I have heard,

To come to Christ, and leave the heathen gods?

If this be so, brave prince, whom now we call The "Death-Contemner," such an act of thine Shall gladden us beyond all golden gift.

Thorstein :-

I am resolved, and long have been of mind To be a Christian. All the Viking gods

Are but the shadows of their wintry hills, Or cruel voices of the northern winds.

I follow Christ, and take Him for my God. Prince Donough :--

'Tis well, my noble Thorstein; this same night

The Bishop, Fridolin, will thee baptize,

Anointing thee into the Church of Christ. 'Till then farewell, and angels be thy guard !

[Exeunt omnes.]

## SCENE II.

[A large room in the Palace at Kincora. The Princess Reinalt is seen, seated, and dressed as a bride. Nuala, her handmaiden, is sitting near on a low stool holding on her knee a small cruith, or harp.]