

preacher, and agreed to obey the laws he would promulgate. Then Dubhthach recited all the laws of the Brehons, and those which did not clash with the Word of God were confirmed by the ecclesiastics and the chief men of Erin. The laws in existence appear to have been all right except as to matters pertaining to the Faith and the Church; and this is the *Senchus Mor*.

Some have attributed the origin of these laws to the influence of Cai, an imagined contemporary of Moses, who had learned the law of Moses before coming from the East. Of course this myth deserves no consideration (Ginnell, p. 31). The *Senchus Mor* is sometimes called *Cain Phadraig*, Patrick's Law. It also went by the name "Nofis," the "knowledge of nine persons," because nine persons arranged the book, three bishops (including Patrick) three kings and three Brehons, two doctors of law, and the third a bard. Before the art of writing was general the laws were in rhyme, and probably when first inscribed in the *Senchus Mor* they rhymed. *Bearla Feini* was the dialect used. (There being but little type in that classic language in our printer's office, we cannot give our readers a specimen of the original text.)

Much interesting information concerning the language and laws of ancient Ireland and the influence of St. Patrick upon the latter is given in "The Story of St. Patrick," by Joseph Sanderson, and in "Ireland: the Irish, their Christianity, etc.," by J. B. Finlay (New York, 1895), works which should find their way into every library. They are most interesting reading, and throw much light upon the early history of Ireland, and give all the lore connected with its great titular saint, worthy of preservation.

The legal works of early days contain much on subjects never now treated of in such books. For instance, the writer of the *Senchus Mor* tells us at considerable length concerning the creation of the world, and Moses was not consulted in his account any more than he was by the writer of the *Gentoo Laws*, when he discoursed on the same topic. The *Senchus Mor* says that the moon is 244 miles from the sun. But the highly esteemed Coke, in his *Institutes of the Laws of Eng-*