

A plea for Pilgrimages is another of these papers. The pilgrimage particularly recommended is not to Jerusalem, not to Mecca, not to Rome, but to the Groves of Blarney, in the County of Cork. The shrine of his devotion is not the last resting place of any great saint, prophet, statesman or warrior; it is nothing more or less than the famous blarney stone which has its place on the ruined battlements of Blarney Castle—a stone which is said to impart the gift of suasive language to those who kiss it. The Groves of Blarney, he says, have been commemorated by the Greek poets many centuries before the Christian Era. Milliken, the reputed author of the song of that name, was but a simple translator from the Greek original. In Mahony's hands the Groves of Blarney becomes a polyglot poem, he having discovered, as he says, renderings of it in Greek, Latin, French and Italian. It is needless to say that these were his own productions. As a sample of the execution of his work, I will give the closing verse in "Corcagian" and French:—

"There is a stone there,
That whoever kisses
Oh! he never misses
To grow eloquent
'Tis he may clamber
To a lady's chamber
Or become a member
Of parliament
A clever spouter
He'll sure turn out, or
An out and-outer,
"To be let alone"
Don't hope to hinder him,
Or to bewilder him;
Sure he's a pilgrim
From the Blarney Stone!"

"Une pierre s'y rencontre
Estimable tresor,
Qui vaut son poids en or
Au guide qui la montre.
Qui batse ce monument,
Acquiert la parole
Qui doucement cajole;
Il devient eloquent
Au boudoir d'une dame
Il sera bien reçu
Et meme a son inscu
Fera naître une flamme
Homme a bonnes fortunes
A lui on peut se fier
Pour mystifier
La Chambre des Communes."

But the paper of the Prout series for which Mahoney is most famous is the Rogueries of Tom Moore. With the