



A Magazine of General Literature.

VOL. VII, NO. ~~HOUSE~~ HAMILTON, ONT. NOVEMBER, 1881.

REGIOPOLIS COLLEGE

KINGSTON, ONTARIO

TO THE READERS OF THE HARP.

C. Donovan, Esq., B. A.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have learned with great pleasure that you have become proprietor and editor of THE HARP hitherto published in Montreal, but henceforward to be published in this city. The undertaking meets my cordial approbation, and from your well known abilities and Catholic principles and conduct, I have every confidence that under your management it will be no mean contribution to Catholic literature. I therefore earnestly commend it to the patronage of the clergy and laity of this Diocese, and I hope that it will be in every sense a success.

I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

✠ P. F. CRINNON,  
Bp. of Hamilton.

HAMILTON, Oct., 1881.

MONTREAL, Oct. 8, 1881.

To the Readers of the HARP :

Having sold the copyright and my good will of THE HARP to Mr. C. Donovan, B. A., Hamilton, I beg to return the readers of THE HARP my most sincere thanks for their patronage these many years and hope that they will extend to my successor a continuance of their favor.

J. GILLIES.

HAMILTON, Nov. 1st, 1881.

In issuing the first number under the new management, I take the opportunity to respectfully solicit from the patrons of THE HARP a continuance of their support. I shall endeavor to conduct it in such a manner that THE HARP will continue to sustain the reputation it has hitherto enjoyed as a good and popular magazine.

CORNELIUS DONOVAN.

## THE DAY OF TRIAL.

A TALE—BY GERALD GRIFFIN.

Long study, and the most laborious application, were necessary to obtain these honors by which men of learning and genius were distinguished in the ancient Irish colleges. These honors entitled the successful candidates to take precedence of the warriors and nobles of the day, and to occupy a place which was second only to royalty itself.

In the ranks of the Ollamhs, which was the highest degree conferred on the cultivators of the lighter muse, in those ancient academies, was the venerable and highly-gifted Madaghan, the Ard-filea, or chief

poet and chronicler to the arch-king of Erin. His duty was to furnish the rhymes or metrical histories of the day; to compose those martial odes which were set to music and sung by the crochies or harpers at the public feasts; to retain in his memory no less than three hundred and fifty stories of past times, for the amusement and instruction of the people; and, in quality of bard, which he added to his accomplishments, to execute with a ready finger the most intricate pieces of music. For these services he was usually rewarded, according to the custom of the time, with