

KING LAOGARE'S DAUGHTERS.

TO aid the spread of the Gospel in Ireland, Dehu, the chief, lent St. Patrick a chariot drawn by two white buffaloes. By means of this chariot, on which he placed the altar stone and the sacred vessels, the Apostle journeyed through Erin

The poor, the slaves and the afflicted flocked about him. These people knowing only their dark and cruel gods, Patrick spoke to them of the charity of Christ, and his words—like soft, delicious music—ravished their hearts. When he did not preach, he often sang, and at the sound of his silvery voice the plowman left his plough, the fisherman his nets, the shepherd his flocks. All ran to hear him. Frequently the women and maidens unfastened their necklaces and bracelets and laid them on the altar, but to their grief he always returned them.

Laogare, then king of Connacht, had two daughters of great beauty. The eldest was named Ethnea (the White), and the younger Felthlena (the Rose). In all the countries of the world, the care of the young was confided to the priests. The upbringing of the princesses was given to two old Druid priests, Kaplis and Kaplid. Each of the brothers bore his royal pupil a truly paternal affection, and great was their anxiety as they heard of the approach of Patrick.

The Apostle had at last entered on the lands of Connacht. Skirting the Shannon veiled in the thin morning mist, he advanced through the forests of the Druids. The birds singing in the branches flew about the chariot and seemed to welcome the Apostle of Ireland. Not far away, the king's two daughters—more beautiful, more graceful than Homer's Nausicaa—were bathing in the Well of Klebah. On a neighboring height, amid their sacred stones, the old Druids, Kaplis and Kaplid, were endeavoring by arts of magic to conceal their pupils from Patrick's eyes. Suddenly the rising sun was veiled, dense shadow overspread the place, but (according to the old legend) Patrick had