

the ruinous structures of error and superstition. Irish steel glittered in the front rank of the most desperate conflicts on the war-fields of Europe, and more than once the ranks of England went down before the brave "Exiles of Erin." in just punishment for the terrible penal code which excluded the Irish soldier from his country's service.

The object of this little volume is to give the outlines of Ireland's history—to tell of her traditions and her heroes, her glories and her sorrows, and thus, if possible, to lead the Irish youth who are scattered over this vast and enlightened Continent, to admire this long afflicted land of their forefathers—the land of saints and warriors, of poets, statesmen, and orators.

The plan of the work is simple and partly new ; it is given to the pupil in the form in which, as I hope, it will be most easily understood and remembered. The catechetical form of instruction is now admitted by experienced teachers, to be the best adapted to the nature and capacity of children—a system by which they will acquire knowledge of a science in less time than by any other.

As an introductory work, the following compendium will be found to possess many advantages, particularly for that class of learners for which it is designed. It presents to the minds of the young a clear and concise view of the most interesting and important events of the history of Ireland, and will I trust, supply a want much felt in our Irish Catholic schools and academies.

In conclusion I may add, that my best wishes for the success of this little volume, are that its pages may spread as far and wide as the Irish race itself, and that they may be read with the same care and in the same spirit as those in which they were compiled.

Quebec Jan. 17th 1880.