Christmas Morn

(J. William Fischer in The Bec.) O happy morn, so bright and fair, With jeweled star-gleams in thy

Come, send thy angel blessings For hearts are weary and their

Expectant, glad, steals everywhere.

O happy morn! The star so bright, That lingers in thy fond embrace, Is smiling on the earth's lone face, Wrapped in a darkness - black as night — With blinded eyes, that long for

O happy morn! In bated breath, All nature waits with throbbing

Thy joyous Dawn, which will ime promised Hope, that Love bringeth

To light the fields of Sin and

O happy morn! See, now appears The Light to bless a course well

'Tis Christ - the new-born King The Sun That lights the rocks of human

Grace O'Malley

And dries, O world, thy sinful

At the Ceilidh of the Inghinidhe nah Eireann, says United Ireland, Miss Thornton read the following

Gramne Ni Mhaille, the Irish Sea Queen, is a personage about whom is woven a mass of historic and romantic legend which would lead one to believe that this formidable Queen of the West was merely a creation of the bards and story-tellers. The esteem in which her memory is still held by the islanders of the West coast after a lapse of three centuries, and the stories of her perilous adventures with which they beguile the tedious hours of their long dreary winter, impress us with her power and greatness, and we no longer doubt her reality.

Grainne's father, Owen O'Malley, was chief of Umaile, now the baronies of Borrishoole and Murrisk; he was descended from Brian, King of Connacht in the Fifth Century who was also the ancestor of the O'Connors, Kings of Connacht. The O'Malleys were celebrated chiefs and mariners, and are thus designated by O'Dugan:

Good man yet there never was co mariner,

Of every weather ye are the pro-phets, a tribe of brotherly af-

fection and friendship, Valiant chiefs always having a con-siderable fleet under their com-

Sydney, the Lord Deputy, in one of his despatches on the State of Connacht, says:
"O'Malley (who came to him) is an original Irishman, strong in galleys and in seamen."
Grainne was brought un, as was customary in those times, by foster patents on Claire Island, and there her youth was passed mong a seafaring race whose lives were a constant war against the storms and perils of the ocean; and, there also she acquired that great love for the sea and everything pertaining to it, as she eagerly listened to ing to it, as she eagerly listened to the wild tales of adventure told by the hardy islesmen, and which im-planted in her nature that courage and daring for which she efter wards became famous, and which wards became fumous, and which made her name a terror on the wereen coast for many a long day wherever a blow could be struck against the power of England from Cape Clear in the "Spanish Seas" to the "old isles" of Scotland When Grainne was eighteen sile returned. turned to her home on the main land, and while there she irequent ly accompanied her father, who mercial purpose, and sometimes the fleet was engaged in protecting the landing of cargoes from France or

Grainne was married to Dona O'Flaherty, surnamed Houl an Chogaidh, or Donal of the Wars who was chieftain over West Connacht. The O'Flahertys were reatly feared by the settlers in Gallway was who were restant to the contact of the nacht. The O'Flahertys were reatily feared by the settlers in Gally was who were trying to establish trade under the protection of the English hastions; whenever oppositunity offered they would swoop down, ravaging and destroying exerciting before them, and so great was the terror of their mains that the citizens of Galway had inserthed over the western gate the solution of the western gate the solution prayer: "From ve lerocious O'Flahertys, good Lord delivering!" On one occasion, when her throther O'Malleys made a descent or Donalds the O'Malleys made a descent or Donalds the Galleys, carried off the O'Malley clan slain Grainne, who was with the galleys, carried off the O'Malley clan slain Grainne, who was with the galleys, carried off the Young daughter of O'Donnell, the Laty Walla as a hostage.

On her brother's death, in a son being an infant, Grainne, we discipled the clansmen to the claim of the O'Malleys allowed by the clansmen to the claim of the O'Malley of the Committee of the O'Malley of the O'Malley of the Committee of the O'Ma

THE ESQUIMO

overruled this. The territory of the

O'Malleys and even of the rest of Connacht had up to this period 1e-

mained comparatively see from the destroying forces of the English, who were turning the fair Province of Munster into a desert,

and where, to use the words of the

Four Masters, "The lowing of a cow or the voice of a plowman could scarcely be heard from Dun-

queen in the west of Kerry to Cashel." The English found it im-possible to obtain a foothold in

possible to obtain a foothold in Connacht owing to its remoteness and impenetrability by land, and the fleet of the O'Mallevs held control by sea. To overcome these difficulties and maintain a hostile attitude, separated alike from succors and supplies, would have been impossible, and hence the claus of the West arranged their differences as pleased themselves. This peace-

as pleased themselves. This peace-

ful state of affairs was interrupted

by the appointment of Sir Edward Fyton as President of the pro-

vince. Owing to the policy he pur

vince. Owing to the policy he pursued he soon found it necessary to fight a pitched battle against the combined forces of the Burkes and O'Flahertys. The Irish at first prevailed. Both sides claimed the

victory, which left matters as they were before. Hostilities once begun the O'F'ahertys and O'Malleys de-cided to strengthen themselves

against the English, and for this purpose determined to obtain pos-

session of the Arran Isles, which would be a strong vantage ground for striking at the invader then es-tablished at Galway. Grainne's fa-ther had the nominal title of Lor.

of the Isles of Arran, the O'Fla-herty's also claimed ownership, both

these titles were now combined by Grainne's marriage. The Isles were held by O'Brien, of Thomond, who was assisted by the English n his

endeavor to retain them. In this struggle for possession the O'Malleys and O'Flahertys were the victors, but at the cost of the life of

Donal O'Flaherty, who was slain

in an engagement.

At her husband's death, Grainne

was only about twenty-four, and although an affliction so great

might well have crushed an ordin-ary spirit, yet in a character such as hers it only served to bring out more strongly the sterner traits of

her nature and almost blight for-ever its softer side. Gainne took

upon herself the command of the O'Malley fleet, and made wh h her crew many bold expeditions. Her

chief rendezvous was at Clore Is-land, where she kept her large ves-

sels moored and had a fortress, but she had her small craft at Carriga-

howly Castle (the Rock of the Fleet), and this was ner principal

residence and stronghold. There was a hole to be seen in the ruined walls, through which a cable was

run_from one of her ships, for the purpose of communicating an alarm to her apartment on any sudden danger. It was now, indeed, that Grainne exercised her prerogative as queen of the sea, as if it were her own special inharit-

if it were her own special inherit-

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ance, and the banner of the O'Malleys with its motto, "Mighty on Land and Sea," qualled neither to prince nor baron, not even to the standard of the English queen. Gramme recked little of plundering the latter, for well she knew that what the English had was mostly taken by robbery, and even mur-der, and therefore she reasoned that it was a good thing for any-one to take it from them. Thus we sometimes find her coming in contact with the notorious Eng-lish pirate of his day, Sir Francis Drake and sweeping of with some Drake, and swooping off with some of his hard won prizes. So great were the grievances of the English against Grainne that they offered a against Grainne that they offered a reward of £500 for her apprehen-sion, and troops were sent from Galway, under the command of Sir Richard Burke, to take the Castle of Carrigahowly. The seige lasted for a considerable time, until, pro-visions becoming scarce, Grainne, seeing that she could not conquer, determined to win over to her side determined to win over to her side the commander of the forces, in this she was successful. The Pug-lish were thus outwitted, and by her marriage with Sir Richard Burke she obtained a strong ally and strengthened the power of Con-nacht, Sir Richard being chief of the Mayo branch of the MacWilliam. The Burkes were descended from a half-brother of William the Conqueror, but had adopted Irish laws, manners and customs, and hence they took the surname Mac-William from their encestor, William de Burgo; several of them were styled Lords MacWilliam un-

were styled Lords MacWilliam un-der the laws of tanistry.
Seeing how useless force had proved against the Irish chieftain-ess, Elizabeth, on the advice of Lord Deputy Sydney, resolved to try the effect of an opposite policy, and accordingly invited Grainne to the English Court. The invitation was accepted, and the Irish senguent dressed in the cos-Irish sea-queen, dressed in the costume of her country — a vellow bodice and short skirt elaborately embroidered, her hair gathered to the crown and fastened with a bod-kin, a crimson mantle thrown over her shoulders and fastened with a brooch — attended by her kernes and gallowglasses, entered the Court of the English queen. Eliza-besh received her with great honor, and in commemoration of her visit offered to create her a countess.
This Grainne haughtily declined, saying, "that she deemed it superfluous to accept of a Saxon citle."
Her motherly instinct was so far
prevailed on that she allowed her
son, Tiohoid na Luinge (Theobald
of the Ships), born during the voyage from Mayo to Chester, to re-ceive the title of Earl or Lord Viscount Mayo. On her return voyage from England, a story is told of her putting in at Howth for provisions, and finding the gates of the castle closed, the family being at dinner. She was justly indig-nant at this breach of the laws of hospitality, and happening to see a little boy with an attendant on the seashore, Granne, on learning that it was the young heir af Howth, gave orders to her men to have him carried to her ships and conveyed to Comacht, doubtless intending to bring him up with a proper conception of the ideas of hos, itality. It is said that she would not restore the boy until his feather, entered into a stimulation. father entered into a stipulation that the gates of the castle should never be closed at dinner-time. A story like the foregoing proves to what an extent the Irish of those

times cultivated the social virtue of hospitality, The power and influence of Grainne Ni Mhaille were considerable, as the ruins of her places of strength on the mainland are still numerous, and the castles of Clare Island, Kildamnit, Carrigahowly and Doona still standing prove to the least observant how strong must have been her sway on land and sea. Her rule extended over and sea. Her rule extended over the clans O'Malley, O'Flaherty and the clans O'Malley, O'Flanerty and Burke, embracing a line of sea-coast extending for over one-hun-ared miles. She used all her power and influence in keeping the English out of Connaught and in resisting the successive sheriffs which the Government from time to time sent into the province Thus we find one of these agents, Theobald Dillon, writing to Wal-

singham, 1583.

Mhaille, with all their force, and did swear they would have my life for coming so far into their coun-try, and, especially, his wife would fight with me before she was essentially a woman of action, as is seen in the personal supervision of her own fleet. She was equal in diplomacy to the wily English queen, although the latter was asisted by the most able English statesmen of their time. Grainne strengthened her power by alli-ances, making herself mistress of almost the whole of the western province, and certainly earning for herself the proud title of Queen of Connacht as well as Queen of the

A SONG OF WINTER.

Sing a song of rapture, Gayly everywhere! Four and twenty thousand Snow-flakes in the air.

Sing a song of sleigh-bella Ringing loud and clear, While the rougish urchins Follow in the rear!

Sing a song of sleighing-Now the sport's begun! Four and twenty snow-birds Looking at the fun!

Sing a song of sunshine, For the storm is o'er; Gay old earth is laughing

The Maiming of a Priest

The following letter has been addressed to the Editor of The New York Sun:
Sir—The Rev. William J. O'Kel-

ly, a priest of the Catholic Church of this city, who died on Monday of blood-poisoning caused by a wound on the thumb made by a fishhook, was a martyr to his devotion to his priestly office. There is little doubt that his life could have been saved had he con-sented to the amputation of the wounded thumb when the evidence wounded thumb when the evidence of blood-poisoning was first discovered by his physician. But he persisted in his refusal to have the operation performed, not because he feared the surgeon's knife, but because the amputation would disqualify him from exercising his highest priestly function, that of offering up the searcifee of the offering up the sacrifice of the mass. This sacred office is denied mass. This sacred office is denied to priests with mained hands, yet had Father O'Kelly submitted to the operation which his physician so strenuously urged, and had he again been restored to health, that privilege which he seemed to prize higher than life itself would not, necessarily, have been lost to him forever. It is within the pow-

An application on the part of Father O'Kelly for a dispensation of this nature, unusual as it might be considered, could be supported by a most distinguished precedent in the case of Father Isaac Jo-gues, the Jesuit martyr, who was murdered by American Indians in the seventeenth century while prosccuting his mission ry work among them. He fell a victim several years before his death to the tortures and barbarious cruelties of the Iroquois. He was beaten with clubs and stoned. His finger nails were torn out and the index finger of each hand was gnawed off. The thumb was torn from his right hand. Not only did they thus render him almost helpless to thus render him almost neipiess to fight his way through the forests and protect himself from the beasts of prey, but they depriv-ed him of his cherished sacrificial

er of the Pope at Rome to restore

But in the face of this appalling calamity Father Jogues did not despair. His was a hopeful heart and, handicapped as he was by his wound and the fetters which made him a twice-helpless captive, he still planned future exploratory

issionary victo: After being dragged from village to village by his captors, he was rescued, more dead than alive, by Aeendt Van Curler, the Dutch commander at Fort Orange, who paid, we are told, 100 pieces of gold for his ransom. The Dutch authorities sent him down the majes-tic Hudson to this town where he was received with distinguished consideration by Gov. Kieft of New Amsterdam. He was the first Roman Catholic priest to visit New York, but when he found per-

sons of his own faith, he could not sav mass to them.

When he returned to France, his native land, the fame of his good deeds and the infamy of his treatment by the Indians reached. treatment by the Indians reached the ears of Pope Urban VIII who thereupon issued a special dispen-sation restoring to this priest with mutiliated hands the right to say mass. Father Jogues hastened mass. Father Jogues hastened back to this country to resume his missionary work, only to fall a victim, in 1646, to the treachery of the savares whom ne sought to uplift and befriend. He was murdered at Auricevilla in this State dered at Auriesville in this State, where now stands a shrine in his memory CATHOLICUS. New York, Dec. 10.

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