

and her language in both hemispheres. Europe, Asia, Africa, America behold her sway. Her language which but a few years ago was only spoken by twenty millions, is now the language of over sixty millions of people. I believe it is not presumption to say that this extension of the power of Britain, allied as it is with ever faithful Ireland has been, in God's design, to propagate the faith of Ireland—the one true faith—throughout the vast extent of the world, and even under a hostile banner to carry the cause of the cross into many lands.

Let us see how God prepared Ireland for, and how she has accomplished and is accomplishing her mission. When the Gospel was first preached in Ireland is not certain, we know, however, that Palladius preceded St. Patrick, that he even found some christians in Ireland, that he converted many people, and yet that God preserved the conversion of Ireland as a nation to our great saint. Pope Celestin in giving him his mission changed his name to Patricius—designating him as the Father in God of the Irish people. St. Patrick enters boldly on his duties—His first Easter in Ireland he spends at Tarah and there, in the presence of king Laoghore, and all his tributary princes, nobles, and pagan priests, kindles that material fire which the king did not extinguish, which Druidical foresight foretold as prophetic of rule in Ireland. A fire truly emblematic of that spiritual fire which the apostle came to light, which Christ came to cast on earth, and which was never to fail in Ireland. St. Patrick goes through the length and breadth of the land. A change took place through his labors of which we find no other example in the history of the church. In his own lifetime he saw the entire island united in homage to the cross, noble churches, convents and monasteries spring up on every side, 3000 nobler temples, living temples, also consecrated to God. Apostolic men were not only fitted to become his coadjutors, but to go forth and bear the standard of the cross to other nations, to become apostles to new peoples.

St. Patrick met with little opposition. No Roman consul had ever set his foot in Ireland. God had preserved the people from the infecting influences of Roman corruption. Roman orgies had never blighted or tainted the land, and when Christianity was offered to Ireland, she had not to oppose to it, as a bulwark, the habit of vice and of a profligate morality. She embraced the new faith with ardour; as one of her own poet has said, "with the sudden brightness of a