

magne's army and carried off many thousand men, which greatly troubled the pious Emperor. Wherefore, he prayed earnestly to God, and in his sleep there appeared to him an angel, who shot an arrow from a cross-bow, telling him to mark the plant upon which it fell, for that with that plant he might cure his army of the pestilence, and so it really happened." The Carline Thistle was the plant.

It has been disputed what sort of thistle is really the "Barbed Thistle" of Scotland, but it is now generally agreed by botanists that the Cotton Thistle has the best claim to the honour. It became the emblem of Scotland, if legends be true, in the following way: When the Danes invaded Scotland, it was deemed unwarlike to attack an enemy in the darkness of night, instead of in a pitched battle by day; but on one occasion the invaders resolved to avail themselves of stratagem, and in order to prevent their tramp from being heard, they marched barefooted. They had thus neared the Scottish forces unobserved, when a Dane unluckily stepped with his foot upon a superbly prickled thistle, and uttered a cry of pain, which discovered the assailants to the Scots, who ran to their arms and defeated the foe with great slaughter. The thistle was immediately adopted as the insignia of Scotland.

According to Petra Santa, the oldest device on record is the thistle and relative motto, "*Nemo me impune lacesset*," borne in the royal achievement of Scotland, a statement, however, I regret to say, which must just be taken for what it is worth.

If it has been a debatable question which is the true Scotch Thistle, we have not far to seek another much more so, namely, what is the true Irish SHAMROCK? Is it the leaf of the wood-sorrel, or that of one of the trefoils? The weight of authority is certainly in favour of the latter; Dutch Clover being pretty generally regarded by the Irish themselves as the true plant. The reason for the adoption of the Shamrock as the Irish emblem is well known. It seems that when St. Patrick, the great apostle of Ireland, landed near Wicklow, the inhabitants were ready to stone him, for attempting an innovation in the religion of their forefathers. He requested to be heard, and explained to them that God is an omnipotent sacred spirit, who created heaven and earth, and that the Trinity is contained in Unity. His listeners were very disinclined to believe this apparent impossibility. St. Patrick, therefore, plucked a trefoil from the ground and expostulated with them. "What!" he said, "is it not as possible for the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost to be one, as for these three leaves to grow upon a single stock?" His simple and imaginative audience were immediately convinced of their error, and were baptized by the Saint. The remembrance of this incident helped to fill the minds of the natives of the Isle of Saints with reverence for the plant, so there is little to be wondered at in the fact that