

their mother Ireland, at not one of them will be heard a single note of exultation at the expense of any other nation on the face of the globe. In that respect Ireland and her children occupy a position that is absolutely unique.

No less unique is their position if we pass in brief review the history of the race itself. "If" says a distinguished author, "we confine our judgment of Ireland to those centuries from the coming of St. Patrick to the Danish invasion—centuries during which the other nations of Europe were simply shifting camps of savages—we shall find Ireland the sanctuary and the only uncontaminated fountain of civilization and a civilization all the more marvellous that it was not derived from Greece or Rome, but grew up of its own native vigor like a violet in some unvisited dell."

After years' of bitter struggle for existence we see in the Irish no taint of moral or intellectual degeneracy. They are gifted with a passion for spirituality, for valor, for beauty, for learning, for hospitality and for all that is elevating and noble. In a word they possess at the present day the same as they did in the past, all those high and ennobling qualities that won for them renown in the centuries immediately following the preaching of St. Patrick.

This remarkable permanency of the great saint's work is in a large part due to the fact that he laid deep and strong the foundations of Catholicity. He established those relations of unbounded confidence and deep affection between the clergy and the laity that have done so much for the preservation of the faith. He was not satisfied that religion should be taught alone in the church. He effected that intimate alliance between faith and education which rendered secular instruction the handmaid of religion and caused the Irish to become at the same time a race of missionaries and teachers. The monasteries were not only the abodes of religion but eminent seats of learning whither the children of every class of Irish society repaired, to drink deep from the fountains of human science and to be formed to Christian virtue and morality. Hence it is that the Irish people retain today the impression, received from the hands of St. Patrick more faithfully than does any other nation preserve the mould of its apostle, and hence it is that Irishmen in every part of the globe are still so enthusiastic in doing honor to the memory of their patron saint.

In the days of the supreme glory of the Irish race St. Patrick was its pride and the faith he brought it the cause of