

his baptismal name was Succath. At the age of sixteen, Patrick was seized by Irish pirates, and sold as a slave. He learned the language of his captors while "tending a stern man's swine," as he expresses it, on the Irish mountains, at which occupation he was employed for nearly seven years in a land for the most part of pagan darkness. Here, during his captivity, he prayed many times a day; in his own words, he "stayed in the woods and on the mountains, and was urged to prayer before the dawn, in snow, in frost, in rain." At the age of twenty-two he escaped from his slavery and made his way home.

One might reasonably have supposed that he would have gladly turned his back upon a people who had sold him into slavery, but God ordained otherwise. The saint yearned to save the souls of his captors and their fellow-countrymen. Very soon he resolved to revisit the island of his captivity, and there preach the Gospel of Salvation to the heathen Irish. Professor Morley says (in his "English Writers") that "there were already centres of Christian work in Ireland where devoted men were labouring," and St. Patrick's object appears to have been to gather together these scattered forces by a movement that "should carry with it the whole people."

After four years of patient study first undergone, he went to Rome, thence he passed into Gaul, was consecrated by Bishop Amathus, and proceeded to Ireland, landing at Wicklow, where he began his missionary labours. Preaching by the way with an eloquence and earnestness none could excel, and at which mankind and nature alike marvelled, he proceeded to visit his

old master Milcho, with the object of paying him his purchase freedom; but it is said that the slave-owner, rather than accept the money from his hands, "burned himself and his goods."

The personal character of the great Apostle had an enormous influence upon the ardent and impulsive Irish race. S. Patrick enlisted many important chiefs in the Master's service, some of whom made grants of land for the purpose of erecting Religious Houses; finally winning over to his side the great Irish heathen king, Laeghaire. The old laws of the country were revised under Patrick's directions and brought into harmony with Christian practices, and systematic arrangements for the conversion of the Irish commenced. All this, and much more, was effected, without giving offence to the Irish people. Thus the whole of his active and beautiful life was devoted to effecting the salvation and elevating the moral and social condition of the Irish amongst whom, for some sixty years or more, he constantly and zealously laboured with a perseverance which has justly won for him the title of Patron Saint and Apostle of the Sister Isle.

"While he spake, men say that the
refluent tide
On the shore by Colpa ceased to
sink;
And the Druids, because they could
answer nought,
Bowed down to the Faith the
stranger brought."

—Aubrey De Vere's *Legends of S. Patrick*.

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MONEY.—"An article which may be used as a universal passport to everywhere except to heaven, and as a universal provider of everything except happiness."