

Vere's Saint Patrick without feeling much the better for the encounter. Mr. Tennyson in his "Idyls of the King" has pictured for us a noble, a generous, and even a virtuous character; a character that draws our admiration. Still King Arthur, noble, and generous, and virtuous, though he be, is nothing more than an honest hero of the world. Occupied as he is with tournaments, and conquests, and deeds of valor, there is very little room for spirituality in his person. Indeed we cannot hesitate to say that Mr. Tennyson, though he has left us a noble monument, would have done a better work had he adopted the more elevated and more ennobling style of his Irish contemporary. In Mr. De Vere's school we learn that human nature, though vitiated and fallen, can still produce a hero almost as sinless and disinterested as if the gates of Paradise had never been shut against our father, Adam. Just as fire always tends to impart its heat to objects within the sphere of its rays, so does Mr. De Vere's Saint Patrick ever spread abroad upon all neighboring hearts the fervor of his zeal and the burning ardor of his heaven-aspiring love.

Self love cast out,
The love made spiritual of a thousand hearts
Met in his single heart, and kindled there
A sun-like image of Love Divine.

The following extract will give a just idea of the Saint's character, and of the influence it exerted over those whom he was called to evangelize.

The Island race, in feud of clan with clan
Barbaric, gracious else and high of heart,
Nor worshippers of self, nor dulled through sense.
Beholding, not alone his wondrous works;
But, wondrous more, the sweetness of his strength,
And how he neither shrank from flood nor fire,
And how he couched him on the wintry rocks,
And how he sang great hymns to One who heard,
And how he cared for poor men and the sick,
And for the souls invisible of men,
To him made way—not simple hinds alone,
But chiefly wisest heads, for wisdom then
Prime wisdom saw in Faith; and, mixt with these,
Chieftans and sceptred kings.

Such a spirit of disinterestedness and self-sacrifice could not but make captive the generous hearts of our warlike fore-

fathers. Saint Patrick walked among them like some triumphant hero:

And well the people loved him, being one
Who sat amid their marriage feasts, and saw,
Where sin was not, in all things beauty and love,

Like the great Apostle of the Gentiles
he tried to make himself all things to all men, for

"Is not this,"
Men asked, "the preacher of the 'Tidings
Good?'"
"What tidings? Has he found a mine?" "He
speaks
To princes as to brothers; to the hind
As we to princes' children! Yea, when mute,
Saith not his face 'Rejoice?'"

And again in his 'Confession' Saint Patrick himself says:

"I to that people all things made myself
For Christ's sake, building still that good they
lacked
On good already theirs."

Nor did the heroic zeal of Patrick fall short of his other saintly virtues;

Next to God
Next, and how near, he loved the souls of men:
Yea, men to him were souls; the unspiritual herd
He saw as magic-bound, or chained to beast,
And groaned to free them. For their sake, un-
fearing,
He faced the ravening waves, and iron rocks,
Hunger, and poniard's edge, and poisoned cup,
And faced the face of kings, and faced the host
Of demons raging for their realm o'erthrown.
This was the Man of Love.

Such ardent zeal did not look to the present only; it penetrated far into the mystic future, making our beloved Saint earnestly yearn for Erin's constant fidelity. Hear him as he prays and strives with God upon the Mount.

"If Faith indeed should flood the land with
peace,
And peace with gold, and gold eat out her heart
Once true, till Faith one day through Faith's
reward,
Or die, or live diseased, the shame of Faith,
Then blacker where this land and more accursed
Than lands that knew no Christ."

But what avails either Faith, or zeal, or Charity without humility? This last is the virtue upon which, as a sure foundation, must be based the other virtues of an Apostle. Consequently Mr. De Vere has not failed to point it out as a leading