

your own inattention, you may learn to undervalue these great blessings of heaven, which are dealt amongst men. I feel obliged (nor can it seem foreign to my purpose,) to preface in as brief a manner as possible, the infant state of our parent isle, before the light of Christianity first beamed on her borders. I do so, in order to make appear the almost insurmountable difficulties, which, our Saint underwent in order to reclaim that people to the light of Christianity; and at the same time that you, my brethren, by knowing the magnitude and danger of his labours, can with more ease, learn how to appreciate them. If I briefly sketch over some of the memorable actions connected with his parentage and birth, together with the time of his landing on the Irish coast; it is that you may conceive how, in the person of Saint Patrick, the wisdom of the Lord is made manifest in his bounty to man, and the virtues of the righteous are not forgotten. Permit me therefore, my brethern, while I trespass on your patience, but as short a time as to me shall seem possible, most earnestly to solicit your attention.

It is the opinion of some of the most eminent writers of the present day, who laboured more to enlighten than divide, whose principles were too honorable to allow partiality to usurp the dominion of truth, or bigotry to supplant the powers of reason, and in whose honest candor we can implicitly confide, that of all nations on the face of the globe, there was none which seemed to treasure up with such scrupulous attention, in the annual registers, the leading or particular actions of each elapsing year, and in the pandects of their nation, the legitimate succession and hereditary right of each succeeding ruler, who either governed himself or bore a part in the go-