

preferred the agonizing death of hunger to the bribe of the tempter, is the same dear Ireland, the land of the martyr yet. What a victory was that of faith over the world, when the tempter entering the lowly cabin, saw the wasted skeleton form of one who, but a few weeks before, gloried in the pride of conscious manhood, viewed the companion of his life and labours stretched in death throes on the ground, the little ones yet spared, deprived of all things save life itself; the father's heart broken with grief, that noble, manly heart, that he would so gladly have changed into bread were it possible and given therewith to wife and child to eat, when the insidious voice was heard, as in the garden 6,000 years ago, "Come and eat. Come and join us and gain food and work, and health and strength, and life." Then an answer could be heard, a hoarse whisper, uttered with all possible energy, and yet with weakly bated breath issuing from a starving throat, a whisper which penetrated the very depths and made Hell tremble—for even Hell believes; a whisper which pierced the vault of Heaven and rose before the Throne of the Most High—the voice of the Saints, like the hymning of many waters—"Never will I raise my wife from her bed of straw with wages of hypocrisy; never will I clothe my children with the pay of perjury; the chalice of perjury and hypocrisy shall never touch my lips, when the price of it is the betrayal of the Cross of Christ." The Church in all the glories of her eighteen centuries past, can allege to us no more touching tribute to the faith, than Ireland has furnished in our own times.

But I must hasten on and briefly trace the glorious fruits of St. Patrick's labours in other lands. I have presumed to say that in God's design Ireland was to missionarise the British Empire and I must needs go around the globe to seek the jewels in the heavenly crown of him, some of his glories I would fain announce to day. What would have been the actual position of Catholicism in this vast English speaking world had not Ireland remained faithful to the teachings of St. Patrick? If the sister Isle had succeeded in engaging her in a revolt against the Church? The British Empire containing more than one tenth, the English speaking world one fifth, of the Catholic Episcopate of the world would have been indeed like another Russia or another China in which the priest dare hardly put his foot. England herself has she not owed much? Does she not owe very much to St. Patrick? We know that