

voured of Heaven to a certain place, where but a little before the swine upturned the soil and exposed the precious metal; which the greedy monarch anxiously viewed, and thus consented to liberate the boy, the beloved of God, the delight as well as the admiration of the pagans themselves, the solicitude of the Angels, and him, whom the riches of the whole earth were not worthy to detain and much less to enjoy. And thus through the special guidance of heaven and under the tutelage of the Angels of God, we find St. Patrick once more restored to his country and his parents. Being thus delivered from the hardships of slavery and the goading cares of a painful exile, he was resolved that the precious hours of his innocent youth would not be consumed in idleness and ease; he resolved to improve and turn to profit the precious talent with which the Lord endowed him; and having obtained a perfect knowledge of the Irish language, during his stay in that country, he ardently sought now to attain a knowledge of other languages; and the better to realize this object, he put himself under the tutelage of the holy bishop of Germanus, the reputation of whose philosophical acquirements endeared him to the learned, and whose eminent sanctity already bespoke the sacred workings of the Holy Ghost. With him he remained for the space of thirteen years, reading and imbibing the holy scriptures, until he penetrated to the depth of ecclesiastical knowledge, as we find sufficiently recorded in the acts of St. Germanus; after which he received from the Saint, who was a prelate illustrious in his birth, in his nobility, in his life, in his learning and his office; but above all was he illustrious for his miracles, the different degrees of holy orders, and at length the sacerdotal digni-