

beauties, are too conspicuous to remain long unnoticed. In all there are fourteen considerable poems, beginning with "The Disbelief of Milcho," which relates the landing of St. Patrick in pagan Ireland, and concluding with "The Confession of St. Patrick," in which "The Islands Great Inheritor," his momentous mission accomplished, commends his soul to God. Each legend is in itself a complete and genuine literary gem, betraying in every line the hand, and heart of a master artist. Heart-touching incidents in the life of one of the Church's greatest saints are here narrated in a style at once elevated and solemn, soul-stirring scenes peculiar to a people "reserved in blind barbaric innocence": quiet rural scenes; scenes of simple grandeur; scenes awful in pathos; but above all, the wonderful scenes presented by a great race eternally "clanned to Christ," are here depicted with that artistic naturalness of tone, and easy grace of expression, essentially characteristic of the poet truly great. Unfortunately the natural tendency to regard each legend as apart from its fellows has closed the eyes of many to what must be acknowledged the greatest merit of a work which the poet evidently intended to be considered, not piecemeal, but rather as a literary unit. Of the gifted author, so recently called away to the reward of his great labour in the cause of religion and truth, what is to be said? His short-comings as a poet, which, sad to say, are much more widely known, and, by the majority of present day critics, much more readily admitted than his merits, may in the present case be passed over with no further comment than that implied in the well-known lines of Pope:

"Great wits may sometimes gloriously offend,
And rise to faults true critics dare not mend,"

The writer does not feel called upon to cavil, or pry into flaws, but rather to point out beauties, and perfections as would become the office of one who stands sponsor for this latest addition to the poetry of the sublime.

But to proceed to the question at issue. "The Legends of St. Patrick," by an author who has never made any appreciable stir in the