

IRISH MIST AND SUNSHINE

(A Prelude)

Soft mist on Irish mountain
Bright sun on field and dell
Swift tides of joy and sorrow
In Celtic hearts that swell
Green glen and haunted woodland
Loved homes by laughing streams
Firm faith and matchless manhood
Lo! these my varied themes.

Round-tower and ivied abbey
Low whispering of the Past
Around Life's early pathway
Their dreamful shadows cast
Wild wind-blasts sighing voiceful
Far o'er the moorland lone
Brought throbbing fairy music
To thrill with mystic tone.

Gray mist and flashing Sunshine
That fleck the gorse-land brown:—
High deed and cloudy legend
Of Eire's old renown
The saints' and martyrs' yearnings
The patriot's rhapsodies
With tim'rous touch uncertain
I strike the Harp to these.