

of the justly celebrated John Scotus Eregina (Chap. XIV),* and, at a later period, of Columbanus, Aidan, and Virgilius (pp. 152 to 160)—will amply repair the perusal of the students of the ecclesiastical and civil history of Ireland. Some regrets have been expressed to the editor that his late lamented friend had not continued the History of Ireland down to the present time. This was the less necessary in a work like the present, inasmuch as the History of Ireland has been merged into that of England since the Norman conquest. Besides, the difficulties arising from partisan opinions become more intense in proportion as we advance towards our own times. For the rest, the author might well have felt like the ancient historian of Rome: "*Et legentium plerisque, haud dubito, primæ origines proximaque originibus minus præbitura voluptatis sint, festinantibus ad hæc nova.*" * * * * * *Ego, contra, hoc quoque laboris præmium petam, ut me a conspectu maiorum, quæ nostra tot per annos vidit cetas, tantisper certe dum prisca illa tota mente repeto, avertam.*"†

* Vide Hallam's Middle Ages, Vol. II., p. 322, Note 2, Paris edition. Also "Literature of Europe," Vol. I., p. 70, same edition
Tit. Livii. Histor. Prefatio.