

## NOVA SCOTIA (6) ALMANACK.

his pious wishes, and assured him of all necessary assistance in their fulfilment. Patrick, though already a scholar, was placed by his venerable relative under the direction and tuition of Germanus, Bishop of Auxerer, a city of Burgundy in France. With this learned and pious prelate he remained no less than forty years, sedulously pursuing all the various branches of learning calculated to facilitate his proselytizing endeavours. During this long period of study, Patrick was frequently and diligently engaged in preaching, and made himself exceedingly famous for learning, eloquence and piety. Having completed the long and arduous course of preparation which he modestly deemed necessary to qualify him for the conversion of the unenlightened Irish, he proceeded to Rome. Celestine, who was then pope, heard his relation, of designs and desires respecting Ireland, with great attention, and entered most cordially into his feelings. In order, the more effectually to serve Patrick, and to forward his great design, the pontiff created him, by anticipation, archbishop of that unenlightened land which he had devoted himself to redeeming from superstitious barbarism.

Towards the middle of the fifth century of the Christian era Patrick landed in Ireland. He now landed, not as formerly, an enslaved youth, but a learned, famous, and dignified prelate. He spoke the language of the country as though he had been a native; and in that language preached the majestic truths of Christianity. The Irish, even at this early period, were passionately fond of eloquent language: and Patrick was eloquent both in substance and in manner. His eloquence, and the simply beautiful truths of Christianity, added numbers daily to the ranks of proselytes. Among the *people* of Ireland he was most miraculously successful; but he found the superstition of Loigerius, their chief prince, utterly unconquerable. Ireland, at this period, was, as England originally was, governed by several petty and independent princes. He did not, directly or indirectly, interfere to prevent his subjects from listening to the Christian preacher, or from assenting to his doctrines and joining in his devotion. But this was the utmost extent to which Loigerius would stretch his toleration; he would neither listen to the preachings of the Irish apostle, nor accept of baptism at his hands. Saint Patrick seems to have been, at length, seriously displeased with the immovable resolution, or obstinacy of Loigerius. In his exhortations to him he was unceasing, and he at length declared that, as a punishment for his obstinate superstition, his kingdom should never pass into the possession of his children.

As has already been intimated, Saint Patrick, on arriving on his Christian mission, in Ireland, was nearly sixty years of age; for sixty years more he toiled, zealously and unceasingly, in his benevolent and blessed work. He visited every part of Ireland, and converted Pagans into Christians, and the temples of idols into churches and monasteries dedicated to the one true God. Having spent his life with equal benevolence and success, he at length departed to a better world, at the patriarchal age of one hundred and twenty years, on the 17th of March, in the year of our Lord 460.

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ASTRONOMY, whether considered as the foundation of poetic description and imagery, or Mathematical calculations, or evidence of creative power and goodness,—is a science of paramount interests. It possesses sublimity which baffles the conception of the sage and the bard, yet the humblest peasant may exult in the comprehension of its beautifully simple outline.

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