

on in Ireland. The Emerald Isle was the university of Europe, to which the youth that aspired to excellence in either sacred or profane science, instinctively directed his steps. The same schools that sent forth legions of missionaries, opened their doors to Cymbrians, Britons, Angles, Franks, Saxons, and Scots. In the monastic cities that were called the schools of Bangor, Clonard, Clonfert, Armagh and Louth, thousands of strangers, from all countries, received a gratuitous education; not only instruction, but books, lodging, food and even clothing being furnished them free from remuneration of any kind. The schools were supported by the princely donations of the chieftains and the continually in-pouring gifts of the clansmen. The Irish had, and have always had, a sort of veneration for the scholar, that made them consider it an act of religion to aid in his education. The clansman's humble gift, as well as the chieftain's lordly donation, was indeed an act of religion; for by it he was taking part in the fulfilment of Ireland's grand mission. He was helping to diffuse, throughout Europe the wealth of Ireland's Christian faith, Christian learning and Christian civilization. These schools gave England her Alfred the Great, and France her Dagobert. Louth alone educated more than a hundred European prelates.

Thus was Ireland the "lamp of the north when half the world was night." God gave her a sublime mission, part of which was to raise up civilized Christian nations from the hordes of barbarian invaders, that He, in His justice, had sent to wreak vengeance on the crumbling sin-cankered Roman Empire. Nobly and generously did she accomplish this part of her mission.

A. MADDEN, O. M. I., '98.