

Here, St. Patrick meets two beautiful maidens who recount to him the story of their grief, which is chiefly concerning the sorrowful conditions of their country and their race. One of the maidens relates a dream in which there appeared to her a lady with a sword piercing her heart. At the sight of such a vision the maiden burst into tears but "the lady spoke":—

"My child, weep not for me, but for thy country weep;
Her wound is deeper far than mine. Cry loud!
The cry of grief is prayer.

The two maidens invite Patrick to go with them to their father's palace. Patrick consents and De Vere takes advantage of this occasion to describe many incidents. Very well indeed does he describe the beauty of Benigns' countenance in few words;

Her looks were sad
And awe-struck; his, fulfilled with secret
Joy, sent forth a gleam as when a morn-touched bay
Though ambush shines of woodlands.

At last, they reached the king's palace and the king and queen being pleased with their daughter's story, extend a hearty welcome to the guests. A royal banquet is prepared at which a blind bard sings to the blind king a song of vengeance which arouses the feelings of the guests.

"And the great hall roared
With wrath of those wild listeners."

Then, after the wrath had died away, the queen bids her daughters to sing of man's sorrowful condition. The saint, deeply impressed, told the gathering how God had died for man, how He cares for his children and in Him alone is found peace and consolation. The king and queen along with their followers became converted and the two daughters whose wail had summoned Patrick, entered a convent and spend a life of peace and virtue.

S. P. QUILTY, '12.