

Mr. Scott Herald

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Just a little splash of color. Sure it brightens up the day! Drab the world would be, and duller. But for good St. Patrick's day!
 Who is he who would be scornin' When the shamrock smiles at him, With this good St. Patrick's mornin' Full of kindness to the brim?

THE OLDEST NATION

IRELAND is the oldest European nation. The liu flail, or stone of fate, was believed to be identical with the stone on which Jacob laid his head. The Tuatha de Danann brought it to Ireland by way of Norway. They were called the Tribe of God and were looked upon as superhuman because of their great attainments in artistic and scientific pursuits. "All who are skilled in the use of musical instruments; those who are gifted in the arts of divination and enchantment—such are the sons of the descendants of the Tuatha de Danann."

About 300 or 400 years later another tribe from the same stock and called Gaels came from Egypt by way of Spain to Ireland. Their queen was



Old Monastic Ruin.

named Scotia and when she separated from the king her followers were called Scots. At first they gave the name of Scotland to Ireland and it was so described for many centuries. They and the Picts colonized north Britain and gave the name Scotland to it. The Picts came to Ireland shortly after the landing of the Gaels. These Gaels had lost a great many men in a stormy voyage from Spain and the widows were married to the Picts, who had no women with them.

Tara's Halls continued to be the seat of government down till the Christian era, when it fell into disuse because of a curse that was placed upon it by St. Brendan.



Ireland's Harp.

Since time out of mind it has been the custom to associate the harp with Irish music, perhaps because the harp is the emblem upon the flag of Ireland, or perhaps because "the harp that once through Tara's halls its soul of music shed" has echoed through the succeeding ages, stirring the imagination to vision of past glories. At all events, in spite of the fact that the origin of the harp antedates the earliest records of civilization and that now the harp has become almost extinct in Ireland, it seems probable that the historic association will persist.

The HARP of GOLD

By Minna Irving

When Erin's sons to battle went
 Their king was grieved to find
 The gray-haired minstrel and his pipes
 Alas! were left behind.
 Then from a dark and rocky glen
 Before his warriors bold,
 Appeared a maiden robed in green,
 Who bore a harp of gold.
 On every long and weary march
 O'er bog and mountainside
 And every field where rose and fell
 The battle's crimson tide,
 Still ever fluttered in the van
 Her mantle's emerald fold.
 As leading on to victory
 She played the harp of gold.

Back to his castle came the king,
 He brought a fair young queen,
 The sweet musician still arrayed
 In robes of emerald green.
 And if you doubt the ancient tale,
 In Erin's flag behold
 The minstrel maiden's cloak of green,
 And harp of shining gold.

ST. PATRICK'S LIFE

Early Days Obscure, But
 Glorious Deeds Will
 Live Forever.

WHEREVER an Irishman makes his home, there an altar to St. Patrick is established, and on the seventeenth of March a trail of green enriches the globe. The shamrock from the old sod reaches faraway places and decorates thousands of gallant Irishmen who by the symbol proclaim their devotion to St. Patrick. This year, owing to the war and the uncertainty of the future, the celebrations are somewhat saddened.

Historians tell us with unflinching zest that St. Patrick was born of pious and God-fearing parents in the year 372 of the Christian era. The little that is known of his youth has been sadly garbled by chroniclers who, being ambitious to produce something new, seem to have forged some points of the history. Of these chroniclers some are, no doubt, correct, but which? On this account some painstaking writer has given us the facts as far as truly known, and with these we must be content.

In 387 he was sold as a slave to a chieftain of Ulster. To the youthful slave Ireland seemed Godforsaken and overrun by fiends of evil power. There was no church, no sacraments. He could find no priest nor any one who paid any attention to religion. He was "alone among scoffers and the worshippers of graven images."

His life of prayer and self-sacrifice continued during the long years of his term of slavery, which were three. Finally freed from his bondage he entered the priesthood as he had so long desired. After he had finished his studies, he was ordained and the zeal of his soul became a conflagration. As many devout souls have prayed to do, he wished to convert the whole world, and as all desire, he prayed pathetically to wear the martyr's crown. France knew of him and there he labored for a time, as he did in Italy and the Thyrrenian sea islands. But it was to Ireland his heart turned most eagerly and he was permitted a vision in which he saw the people of Erin stretch forth their arms to him in supplication, and this vision determined him to undertake the difficult task of the conversion of Ireland. He traveled to Rome to get the permission of the pope and submitted his labor and himself to that high dignitary. He was consecrated bishop and, having received his instructions and having been blessed, he began his journey to his new mission.

The inhabitants of Erin were considered in an advanced state of civilization, and St. Patrick began his labors by denouncing Druidism, astonishing his followers by the wonderful deeds he accomplished in the name of God, and little by little they believed and accepted the mysteries of the true religion. He explained to them the mysteries of the Trinity by picking from the sod a shamrock and discarding on its trefoil leaf on one stem; then on the crucifix he ex-

plained the birth of the Christ and the purpose of his death and the beginning of the church. The religious fervor of St. Patrick appealed to the warm hearts of his listeners and his teachings swept Ireland like a conflagration. God's churches arose out of Druidical ruins and the houses of the Druids became monasteries. Bearing aloft the banner of his Master, St. Patrick's travels over Erin were triumphantly successful.

It is not given to many workers to see the fruits of their labors, but under St. Patrick's teaching, in his life, Ireland became known as the Island of Saints. He lived to be one hundred and twenty years old. Another saint of Ireland said of him: "A just man with a purity of nature like a patriarch's; a true pilgrim like Abraham; gentle and forgiving like Moses; a praiseworthy psalmist like David;



Pilgrims at St. Patrick's Cross, Saint's Island, Lough Derg.

in wisdom like Solomon; a chosen vessel of God like the Apostle Paul, and full of grace and knowledge like John, the beloved disciple of Christ."

St. Patrick's Day.

March 17th is celebrated by Irishmen of all creeds and denominations as the birthday of their patron saint, Patrick. There is a story that once there was a dispute between two factions, one claiming that the patron saint was born on the eighth, the other that he came to this world on the ninth of March. As the quarrel could not otherwise be settled, the 17th was decided on by the simple compromise of adding eight and nine together. But there appears to be no reason for doubting that St. Patrick was born either at Kirkpatrick (or Dumbarton) in Scotland, or perhaps in France, in the latter part of the fourth century, on the day usually kept as his birthday. St. Patrick's day is purely a national celebration irrespective of any religious belief.

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