

**IN THE SHADOW OF ST.  
PATRICK'S: A PAPER READ  
BEFORE  
THE IRISH NATIONAL LITERARY  
SOCIETY, APRIL 27, 1893**

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In the Shadow of St. Patrick's: A Paper Read Before the Irish National Literary Society, April 27, 1893 by P. J. McCall

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**P. J. MCCALL**

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IN THE  
SHADOW OF ST. PATRICK'S:

*A PAPER*

Read before the Irish National Literary Society,  
April 27, 1893.

BY  
P. J. McCALL.

CONTAINING  
*NOTICES AND REMINISCENCES*

OF

CLARENCE MANGAN.	DR. WHALLEY.
FATHER MEEHAN.	ISAAC BUTLER.
O'CONNELL.	JOSUE JACOB.
ROBERT EMMET.	JOHNNY CREWE.
MAJOR SIRR.	"Zozimus."
JEMMY O'BRIEN (the Informer).	KEARNEY THE SINGER.
SIR WM. PETTY.	DAN DONNELLY.
SIR TIM O'BRIEN.	JACK BOYLAN.

ETC.

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## INTRODUCTION.



THE manner in which the following little paper came to be written is simply told. When the Council of the Irish National Literary Society was preparing a series of House Lectures for the past Session (1893), it was remarked that none of the papers offered by the Members dealt with any special matter, being all of a general interest, broadly historical or minutely critical. Then it was suggested by the Vice-President (Dr. Sigerson), that some one of us acquainted with Dublin should endeavour to describe a particular locality of which he had some knowledge and in response to his invitation I undertook to

contribute some facts concerning the neighbourhood around St. Patrick's. The narration may prove interesting, or it may not, but if it should, I would feel encouraged to persevere in the same direction with, perhaps, better results.

In any case, I can fairly claim to have collected a good deal of new matter, hitherto unpublished, and in great danger of lying for ever ungarnered.







## IN THE SHADOW OF ST. PATRICK'S.

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ON considering the title of my paper, I find that I am precluded from dealing with a subject which at once forcibly attracts the attention, and this is, of course, the Cathedral itself. It is almost an act of self-denial to set oneself to the task of delving, as it were, amid the surroundings of such a stately historical old pile, remembering so many thrilling events connected with it, and to ignore, even then, its memories of Comyn and Marsh, of Swift and Vanessa, of James and William, to deal with events and personages possessing, by comparison, but trivial claims on our consideration.

But St. Patrick's, our pre-Union Valhalla, has already received full and competent treatment from many historians. The pages of Sir James Ware, Walter Harris, Messrs. Whitelaw, War-

burton and Walsh, the unique MSS. of Butler and the ponderous tome of Monk Mason—all these afford such a mass of information regarding its foundation and its past and present glories, that I rather choose to put together a collection of notes relative to the neighbourhood and its people, very little of which has, as yet, been preserved within the safe and enduring pages of a book.

This task is still the more urgent, when I consider that a scheme for removing all the old landmarks is in a very forward state of completion. Already the process of dilapidation has developed to an alarming extent, so much so, that what a few years ago was a busy colony, full of recollections of eventful times and striking personalities, has already become like the ground covered by the palace of Aladdin, a waste of barrenness and desolation. Already I tremble to miss the haunts of Mangan and Tighe, of Lady Morgan and Sir Francis Burdett, of Swift and Petty, and a good many other folk who made a stir in Dublin life, long before the example of Haussman in Paris set civic authorities all over the kingdom full of enthusiasm to imitate on a small scale his colossal philistinism, in replacing every unique home of former times by the more sightly but scarcely more comfortable dwellings of *fin siècle*ism.

St. Patrick's Cathedral is, as all Dubliners are aware, situated in the centre of the Liberties, and

on the banks of the Poddle River.\* By the way, I should like very much to have the derivation of this name satisfactorily explained. So far, I have never met with an explanation, and accordingly, without putting forward any pretentious claims, I beg to offer one. Some hold that it is a corruption of the word puddle, which by an easy process of transition, would become Poddle. But in my opinion this is not the case, and for this reason: The old inhabitants never say "The Poddle" but "*The Pottle*," and this, I think, affords a clue to its nomenclature.

We are told by Monk Mason and others that on the foundation of the Cathedral in 1170 by Archbishop Comyn, he granted to the chapter eight void spaces around it for the purpose of building residences for the clergy. These spaces around the church, then built on an island—it is called St. Patrick's *in insula* in the Bull of Pope Alexander III.—were afterwards known as the Liberty of St. Patrick's, and were invested with many privileges.†

\* *The Poddle*.—This little river rises just at Tymon Castle in the Green Hills of Crumlin. It flows behind Mount Argus and Mount Jerome, and crosses under the canal near Richmond Bridewell. It is divided into two arteries at the Cross Poddle, now Dean Street, and joining again at the beginning of Patrick Street, it encircles the Castle of Dublin, and empties itself into the Liffey just under Duffy's the publishers, of Wellington Quay.

† *The Liberties of Dublin*.—These were districts originally outside the city proper, endowed with many privileges, and included the Liberties of St. Patrick's, the Liberties of St. Sepulchre, etc. The Earl of Meath's Liberty was