

**LEGENDS AND
STORIES OF IRELAND
(FIRST SERIES)**

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Legends and Stories of Ireland (First Series) by Samuel Lover & D. J. O'Donoghue

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SAMUEL LOVER & D. J. O'DONOGHUE

**LEGENDS AND
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(FIRST SERIES)**

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OF
IRELAND
(FIRST SERIES)

BY
SAMUEL LOVER

EDITED
WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY
D. J. O'DONOGHUE

Author of
"THE LIFE OF WILLIAM GARRETT"
"THE LIFE OF JAMES CLARENCE MANGAN"
"THE PORTS OF IRELAND"
and editor of
"THE HUMOUR OF IRELAND"
"TRAITS AND STORIES OF THE IRISH PEASANTRY," ETC

WESTMINSTER
ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE & Co.
2 WHITEHALL GARDENS
1899

TO

SIR MARTIN ARCHER SHEE, P. R. A.

A PAINTER—A POET—AND AN IRISHMAN,

THIS VOLUME

IS VERY RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY

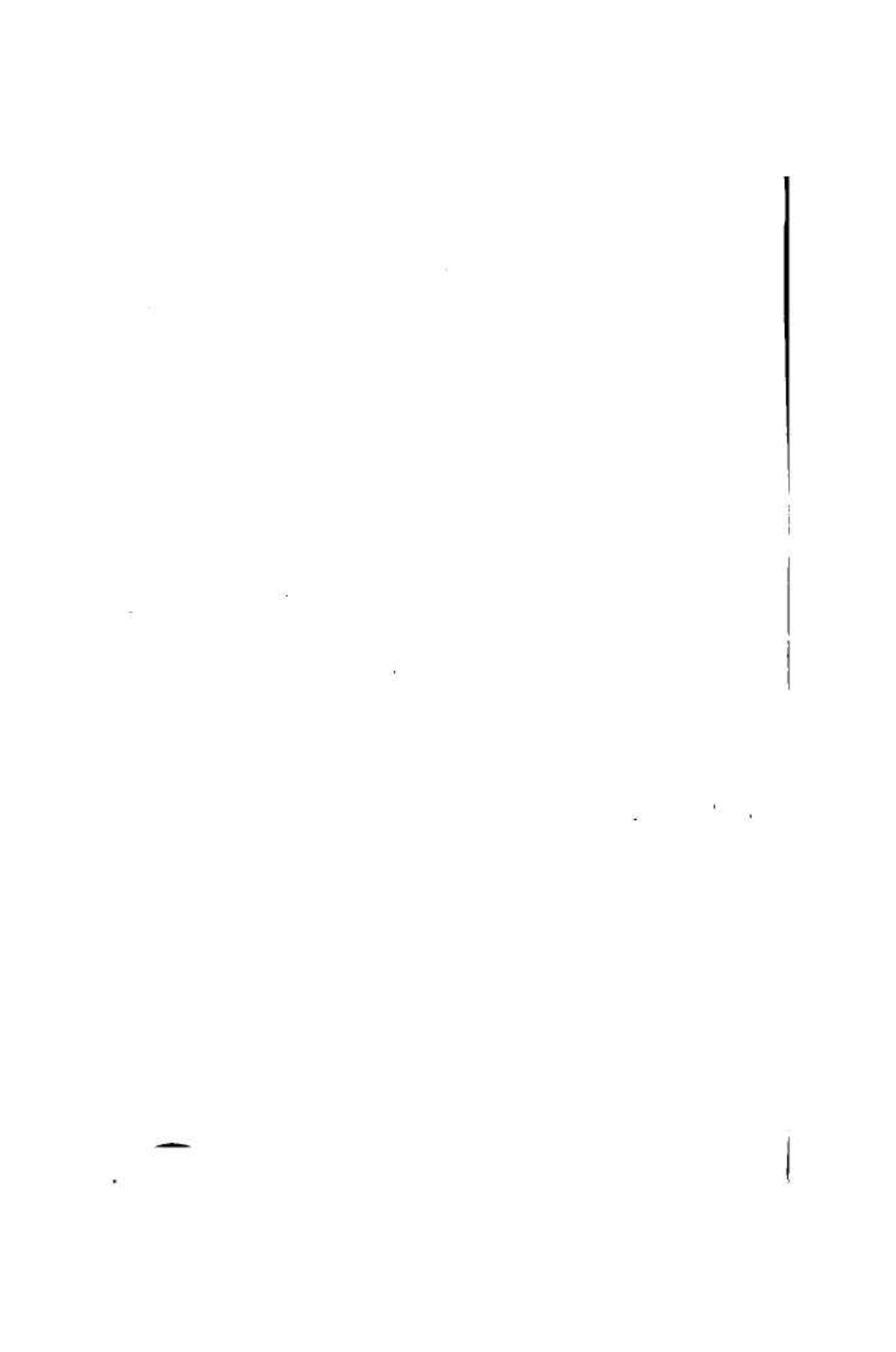
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CONTENTS

	Page
PREFACE... ..	IX
INTRODUCTION	XIII
EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION	XXI
KING O'TOOLE AND SAINT KEVIN—A LEGEND OF GLENDALOUGH	1
LOUGH CORRIB	15
MA. FROM THE CABINET OF MRS.—	18
THE WHITE TROUT—A LEGEND OF CONG	29
THE BATTLE OF THE BERRINS	40
FATHER ROACH	56
THE PRIEST'S STORY	62
THE KING AND THE BISHOP—A LEGEND OF CLONMACNOISE...	73
AN ESSAY ON FOOLS	91
THE CATASTROPHE... ..	100
THE DEVIL'S MILL	122
THE GRIDIRON	136
PADDY THE PIPER... ..	148
THE PRIEST'S GHOST	161
NEW POTATOES—AN IRISH MELODY	166
PADDY THE SPORT... ..	176
NATIONAL MINSTRELSY	204
NOTES	233





P R E F A C E

Though the sources whence these stories are derived are open to every one, yet chance or choice may prevent thousands from making such sources available; and though the village crone and mountain guide have many hearers, still their circle is so circumscribed, that most of what I have ventured to lay before my readers, is, for the first time, made tangible to the greater portion of those who do me the favour to become such.

In one story alone—"Paddy the Piper"—I have no claim to authorship, and this I take the earliest opportunity of declaring, and as I have entered upon my confessions, it is, perhaps, equally fair to state that although most of the tales are authentic, there is one purely my invention, namely, "The Gridiron".

Many of them were originally intended merely for the diversion of a few friends round my own fireside:—there, recited in the manner of those from whom I heard them, they made their *début*, and the flattering reception they met on so minor a stage led to their appearance before larger audiences;—subsequently, I was induced to publish two of them in the *Dublin Literary Gazette*, and the

favourable notice from contemporary prints which they received has led to the publication of the present volume.

I should not have troubled the reader with this account of the "birth, parentage and education" of my literary bantlings, but to have it understood that some of them are essentially oral in their character, and, I fear, suffer materially when reduced to writing. This I mention, *en passant*, to the critics; if I meet but half as good-natured *readers* as I have hitherto found *auditors*, I shall have cause to be thankful. But, previously to the perusal of the following pages, there are a few observations that I feel are necessary, and which I shall make as concise as possible.

Most of the stories are given in the manner of the peasantry; and this has led to some peculiarities that might be objected to, were not the cause explained—namely, frequent digressions in the course of the narrative, occasional adjurations, and certain words unusually spelt. As regards the first, I beg to answer that the stories would be deficient in national character without it; the Irish are so imaginative, they never tell a story straight forward, but constantly indulge in episode; for the second, it is only fair to say, that in most cases the Irish peasant's adjurations are not meant to be in the remotest degree irreverent, but arise merely from the impassioned manner of speaking, which an excitable people are prone to; and I trust that such oaths as "thunder-and-turf," or maledictions, as "bad cess to you," will not be con-