

**IN THE GATES
OF THE NORTH**

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In the Gates of the North by Standish O'Grady

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STANDISH O'GRADY

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OF THE NORTH**

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"The noble steeds flew along nor needed at all the
scourge of the charioteer."

IN THE GATES OF THE NORTH

BY

STANDISH O'GRADY

Author of

"THE COMING OF CUCULAIN"
"THE TRIUMPH AND PASSING OF CUCULAIN"
"THE FLIGHT OF THE EAGLE"
ETC.



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INTRODUCTION

I KNEW a man who delighted much to express himself with a certain amplitude and stateliness of diction, and rejoiced greatly when his words seemed to strike the ear with a sound like the measured tread of marching men. Once, in his sonorous manner, he wrote some large sentences concerning Irish History in general, of the relations of Irish heroic legend with the same, and of both with our country's still obscure, uncertain, and untravelled future—sentences which I propose to use here by way of preface or prelude to the heroic, romantic, and semi-historic Irish tale which I am about to tell. It is one which, perhaps, if I do not hope too much may be found prophetic as well as commemorative, and to belong as much to the future as to the past.

“There is,” he writes, “a pleasure in watching the reclamation of desert land—the choking