Review

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attitude towards the Pope. Even if, on the testimony of ancient tradition, it is contended that St. Patrick had been commissioned by Rome, it by no means follows that Columba was. Had he been thus commissioned doubtless his biographer, Adamnan, would have referred to it. But he is silent, and his silence is significant; for both he, and the writer of the oldest Irish *Life of St. Columba* (of the tenth century) dwell with considerable detail on the circumstances and motives which led to Columba's emigration to Iona. Adamnan, while declaring that the love of Christ was the constraining motive, lets us see that the feud which issued in the battle of Culdreveny, had some connection with his departure; and, anxious as he was to exalt his saintly hero, he could have no motive, but the reverse, with his own incipient Roman proclivities, for passing over in silence a Roman commission, had such existed. It may be admitted therefore that Dr. Lightfoot had some ground for affirming that "Celtic Christianity grew up a strictly native growth," without inspiration or help from Rome. It was tended and guarded by the fostering care of the Saint of Iona. The Church he founded belongs to Christianity. It was the *Columban* Church and was neither Romanist nor Protestant, Episcopal nor Presbyterian, yet the common source whence have issued the varied streams of Scottish religion and ecclesiastical life.

In this book Father Edmonds has produced a work worthy of his learning, industry, and loyalty to the Church of Rome. It is written throughout from one point of view; but while it will therefore be specially appreciated by Catholic readers, non-Catholics will peruse it with interest, and acknowledge the courtesy with which the supporters of their views are usually treated. One failure in that regard is regrettable, and that is when, at page 194, he accuses Dr. Lightfoot and other modern Anglicans "of a spitefulness which is positively childish."

J. C. R.

The Poetry of Badenoch. Collected and Edited with Translations, Introduction, and Notes by the Rev. THOMAS SINTON. Inverness: Northern Counties Publishing Co. £1, 1s.

The minister of Dores has been long known as a lover of Gaelic song and story, and in this bulky volume he has given the fruits of many years' collecting. A few of the pieces included here may be found in other collections, a larger number were at one time or another contributed by the Editor himself to the *Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness*, but most of them appear for the first time. The book is of interest more especially to Badenoch men, but it should also appeal to a wider circle of readers. The idea of making such a volume was a good one, and certainly there is no living man who could do it as well as Mr. Sinton. He is a competent Gaelic scholar, he knows the songs and traditions and family histories of Badenoch as no other man does, and he has also that natural love for 'odds and ends,' which marks the successful collector.

The material is arranged under different headings such as:—Songs of War, Songs of the Chase, Songs of Humour, Songs of Love, Songs of Feeling, etc.

There are carefully made indices, and also notes explanatory of the different writers and the circumstances in which the several pieces were composed. In these notes Mr. Sinton's intimate knowledge of Badenoch history and lore comes out very clearly. A few of the pieces are marked with the initials 'T. S.,' from which we gather that Mr. Sinton's own name is to be added to the bards of Badenoch. In the second part of the volume a literal prose rendering into English is given of all the pieces in the first part. We think ourselves that the English translations might have been left out entirely—but that is a matter of opinion and probably the majority of readers will approve of Mr. Sinton's judgment in giving an English rendering. We have, however, found it useful in getting the meaning of unfamiliar words and expressions which are peculiar to the diction of Badenoch. There are in all 149 pieces of varying length, some of them being only stray verses of larger songs that are now lost, while others cover several pages. There is something in the book for every kind of taste, and while some of the verses have music in them for Badenoch men alone, there are many of the pieces that will appeal to every lover of Gaelic poetry. We have come across one or two pieces which were as popular in the West of Scotland as they are in Badenoch, and of which we heard suggested an origin different from that given by the Editor of this volume, but probably Mr. Sinton has good tradition in favour of claiming them for Badenoch.

We are grateful to Mr. Sinton for preserving these relics of his country's songs, and heartily congratulate him on the conclusion of this work, which has occupied the leisure of many years—a work which we hope may be as useful to others as it has been congenial to himself. Let us also hope that we may find some one yet who can give him 'An coille chno taobh Loch Lagain.' It is not possible to give any extracts out of the book, but we can assure those of our readers who have a guinea to spare that they will find in it much good reading.

D. L.

Inverness in the Fifteenth Century. By EVAN M. BARRON. Inverness: R. Carruthers & Sons. 3s. 6d.

The author describes this little volume as a slight contribution towards a history of mediæval Inverness. It is in truth a very valuable contribution. As he himself points out, it is based, not on the results of original research, but on the Exchequer Rolls and other published sources of an antiquarian nature; but he has with great success gathered the scattered dry bones disinterred by the antiquaries, fitted them together, and clothed them with the living flesh of history. He has, in a marked degree for so young a writer, the faculty of throwing himself back into the age of which he speaks,