Selected Poetry

TRUE AND FALSE LOVE OF FREEDOM.

They that for freedom feel not love but lust, Irreverent, knowing not her spiritual claim,

And they, the votaries blind of windy fame,

And they who cry, "I will because I must"; They too that launch, screened by her shield august.

A bandit's shaft, some private mark their aim:

And they that make her sacred cause their

From restlessness or spleen or sheer disgust At duteous days—all these, the broad of night,

Diverse, by one black note detected stand, Their scorn of every barrier raised by right To awe self-will. Howe'er by virtue banned,

By reason spurned, that act the moment needs

Licensed they deem; holy whate'er succeeds.

-Aubrey de Vere

XX

THE STORM.

Night spun a dusky web o'er moon and stars
And spread her sable cloak o'er mead and
moor;

I heard the having storm break through its bars,

Then forward rush and charge my fastened door.

Like some grim, frenzied mob that bore me spite..

Out in the night the angry tempest howled;

Keen blades of lightning rent the robes of night:

Like angry lions the gruff thunder growled.

The wailing rain poured down from burdened skies;

Around the house the cedars bent and groaned:

Strange voices, that I only could surmise, Across rain-sodden glens and valleys

moaned.

Safe from the trampling storm that raged without.

I sat in the dim lamp-light, a mute form; I heard the wild winds boisterously shout, And a night bird crying out in the storm.

—Patrick Doherty in the Irish World.

26

THE LITTLE WAVES OF BREFFNY.

The grand road from the mountain goes shining to the sea,

And there is traffic in it, and many a horse and cart;

But the litle roads of Cloonagh are dearer far to me,

And the little roads of Cloonagh go rambling through my heart.

A great storm from the ocean goes shouting o'er the hill...

And there is glory in it and terror on the wind;

But the haunted air of twilight is very strange and still,

And the little winds of twilight are dearer to my mind.

The great waves of the Atlantic sweep storming on their way.

Shining green and silver with the hidden herring shoal:

But the Little Waves of Breffny have deenched my heart in spray,

And the Little Waves of Breffuy go stumbling through my soul.

—Eva Gore Booth, in An Anthology et Modern Verse.

10.00

WHY I CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY
(By Patrick Sarsfield Cassidy, in Reply
to an American Friend.)

[Reprinted by Request.]

Ι

Silly question 'tis you ask me—Why I ceebrate the day?
I, an exile from an island—Full three thousand miles away,
Finding here a home and welcome,
Swearing fealty and defence
To the starry flag of freedom—And for ever gone from thence.
Why should I, you woudering ask me,
Hold such love for isle so far,
Clear across the waste of waters,
Cold and distant as a star?

Ħ.

Friend, that island is my mother, From her fertile soil I sprang; Generously my youth she murtured, And my tullaby she sang.

Mark me well, that man's a villain, Mean and cold as clod of earth, In whose heart there's no affection. For the land that gave him birth. If of it no tender memories. Up before his vision swim, Then the land that gives him shelter. Can expect no love from him.

HI

'Tis a light and thoughtless question,
Why I love the dear old sod,
Where my eyes first looked to heaven,
Where my lightsome feet first trod.
Must a man, because he marries,
Cease to love and venerate
In his heart the dear old mother
Sitting sad and desolate?
Trust me, friend, the better husband
Always is the better son;
Heaven protect the maiden from him
Who for mother leve has none.

IV.

Well I love this broad and noble
Land with love as pure as gold;
None the less because my spirit
Visits now and then the old.
Freely would I grasp a sabre,
Rally round the flag of stars,
No less ready for the reason
That I'd shiver Ireland's bars.
Mingled in the manly bosom
Is the love for mother—wife,
So my love for both lands mingles
In the current of my life.

V.

Could you doubt our Irish fealty?
Call the muster of your dead;
Find a field in all your history
Where no Irish valor bled;
Where their deeds no rays of glory
Shed around the starry flag,
From the plains of Angostura
On to Lookouts' highest crag.
Our's a nature large and lavish,
Generous as our mother land;
No cold shallow stream that barely
Covers selfishness' sand.

vr

And you ask the shallow question,
Why I celebrate the day?
Friend, I celebrate no triumph
Won in battle's bloody fray,
Triumph of one kingly despot
O'er another at the cost
Of a hecatomb of heroes,
And perhaps of freedom lost;
Nor a victory ignoble
Of one faction, class, or creed,
While a strife—distracted nation
Wept the fratricidal deed!

VII.

'Tis not these my memory hallows;
Friend, it is a sacred cause—
'Tis the bringing to a people
Christian light and love and laws.
Gentle Patrick, the Apostle,
Brought no flaming battle brand;
In his heart of peace the gospel,
And a shamrock in his hand.
These the weapons that he wielded,
Ireland bowed to Heaven's sway;
Who'd object but brutish bigot
If we celebrate his day.

VIII.

Far I've left my mother country,
Made this fair young land my bride;
Both I'll ever love and cherish,
And defend whate'er betide.
From her cliffs let Erin beckon,
And I hasten to her aid;
Let a caitiff strike Columbia—
From its scabbard leaps the blade.
Ha! I note your eyes approval!
With my motives you agree;
Come then, brave and free Columbian,
Come and celebrate with me.

New York, March 15, 1880.

Muir Bros.

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