

ST. PATRICK'S
Autobiography

*the Confession & Epistle of
Patrick of Ireland*

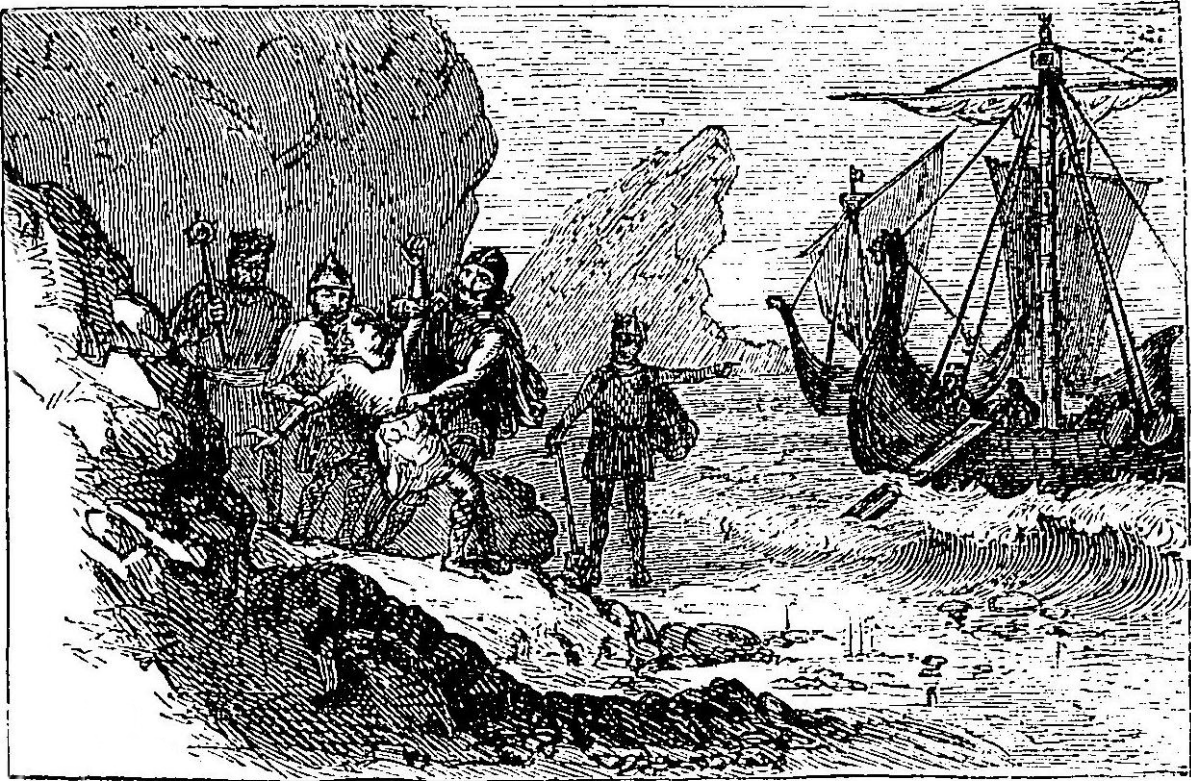
*excerpted & translated into verse
by Adam F McCune*



I am Patrick; I'm a sinner.
Hear what God has done for me!
He turned my path to face the good;
His mercy set me free!

When young, I fled the living God.
Though I was taught how to be saved,
I chose to stay in doubt and death.
My sin had me enslaved.

God said, "I will set you free.
When you're in trouble, call on me."
The land of my captivity
Is where God set me free.



In human law I was born free
But at sixteen they captured me
And led me in captivity
To Ireland by sea.

I saw how small I really was;
I saw the sins that I had done.
And God, just like a father does,
Consoled me like a son.

God said, "I will set you free.
When you're in trouble, call on me."
The land of my captivity
Is where God set me free.



Our God, the one who makes us whole,
Gave me himself to love and know.
I turned to him with all my soul;
My love began to grow.

Six years in Ireland, each day
I served a man and fed his sheep.
I prayed all day, at night I'd pray
And when I rose from sleep.

God said, "I will set you free.
When you're in trouble, call on me."
The land of my captivity
Is where God set me free.



Then in a dream a voice declared,
“You’ll go back home across the sea.
Behold: your ship has been prepared.”
So I was moved to flee.

I went out in the strength of God
Two hundred thousand steps or more.
I found the ship prepared to leave
The day I reached the shore.

The captain said I could not come;
I left and called out to the Lord.
Before my prayer was even done,
They told me, “Come on board.”

God said, “I will set you free.
When you’re in trouble, call on me.”
The land of my captivity
Is where God set me free.

My parents, back on Britain’s shore,
Received me as their son anew
And begged that I would leave no more,
After what I went through.



I dreamed I read and the Irish spoke
From a letter an Irish man brought me.
I heard the voice of the Irish folk
From the woods on the western sea.

“Come walk among us, holy boy!
We plead with you,” the voices spoke.
It touched my heart; I read no more,
And that is how I woke.

God said, “I will set you free.
When you’re in trouble, call on me.”
We all are in captivity
Until God sets us free.



Many told me not to go.
“Why go to danger in the land
Of enemies who don’t know God?”
They did not understand.

Our sinful selves drag us toward death,
The sins we do keep us enslaved;
In God we’ll be reborn and free—
Those who believe are saved!

They don’t know God; they are in need!
The love of Christ directed me
To tell the good news he decreed
In lands across the sea!

God said, “I will set you free!
When you’re in trouble, call on me.”
We all are in captivity
Until God sets us free.

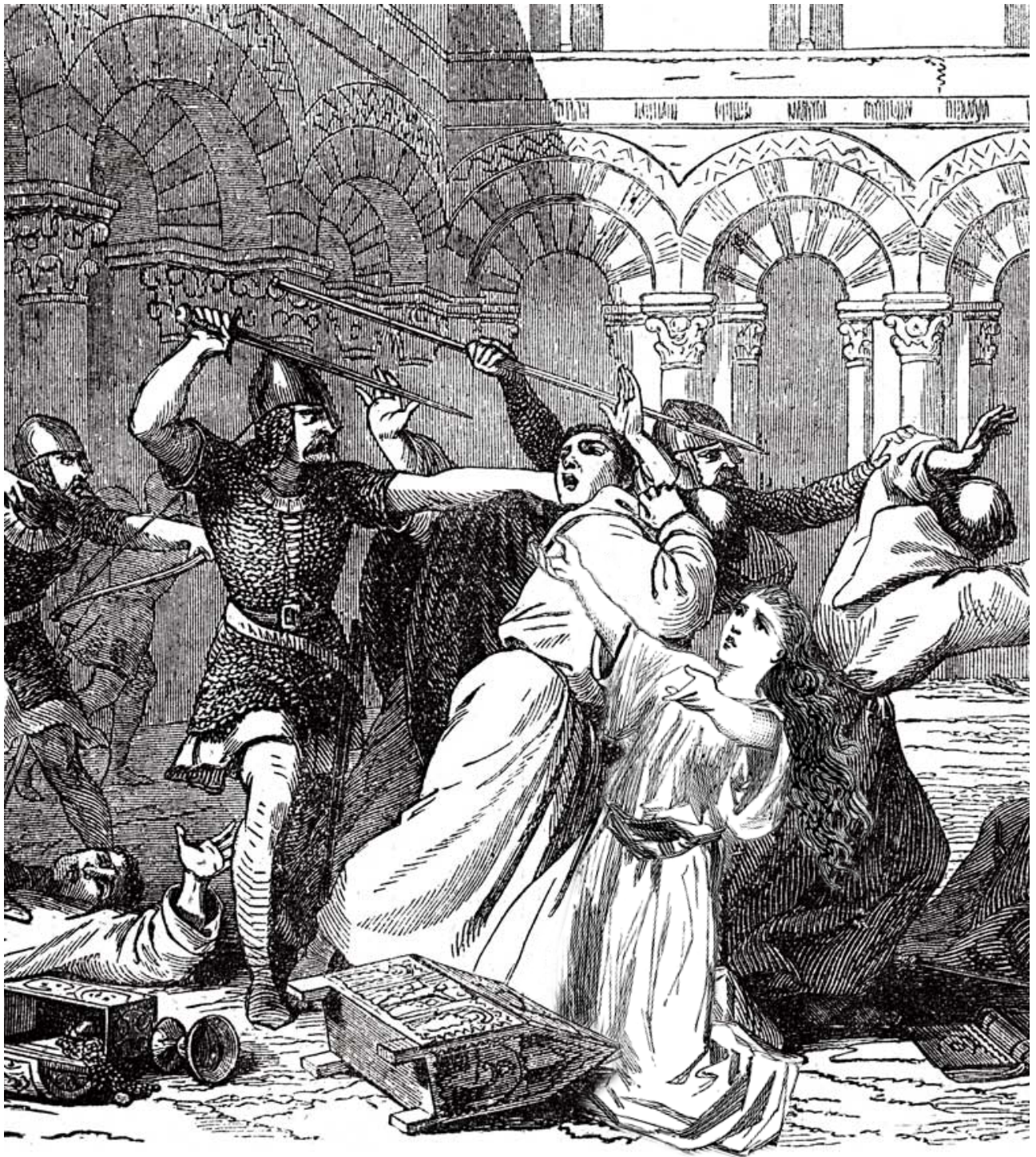


And so to Ireland I came,
Where no one was baptized before,
God's saving gospel to proclaim
Unto the farthest shore.

I know that God in heaven reigns
Though I risk death and slavery.
The Irish kings bound me in chains
But then God set me free.

And thousands here were born again,
Both nobles and those held enslaved.
Parents and masters threaten them,
But more and more are saved.

God said, "I will set you free!
When you're in trouble, call on me."
Though you are in captivity
The Lord can set you free.



The new baptized believers dressed
In robes of shining white the day
When soldiers of Coroticus
Attacked to seize and slay.

They would not give my people back—
Some they enslaved, and some they slew.
Oh, my children, born in Christ,
What can I do for you?

God said, “I will set you free!
When you’re in trouble, call on me.”
Though you are in captivity
The Lord can set you free.

Let no one eat with those who kill
Our fellow Christians with the sword.
Let all men know they are estranged
From me and Christ the Lord.

Till they repent, and free God’s folk,
They live in death, enslaved to sin.
Sinners perish far from God;
Believers enter in.



My children, God will loose your chain,
And though you die, still you will rise.
Where death will be no more you'll reign
With Christ in paradise.

God said, "I will set you free!
When you're in trouble, call on me."
Though you are in captivity
The Lord can set you free.

This is my declaration!
God is our consolation!
He calls from every nation
His people to be free!

God said, "I will set you free!
When you're in trouble, call on me."
Though you are in captivity
The Lord can set you free.

Patrick of Ireland was taken captive at sixteen to serve as a shepherd in Ireland. He escaped and returned to his family in Britain, but later returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary and baptized many thousands.

Adam F McCune co-authored the medieval fantasy novel *The Rats of Hamelin* and for nearly a decade has been annually adapting Jane Austen's short works as one-act plays for the Jane Austen Summer Program.

Illustrations

Most of these illustrations were taken from Mary Francis Cusack's *The Life of Saint Patrick* (1871).

The depiction of the attack is "Massacre of Christian Priests by the Danish Invaders" (signed Philippoteaux) from John Cassell's *Illustrated History of England*, Vol. I (1857), by J. F. Smith. The female figure was added from a 19th-century illustration of the Judgment of Solomon.

The representation of heaven is a combination of two illustrations (designed by William Harvey and engraved by G., E., and J. Dalziel) depicting the Celestial City in an 1863 illustrated edition of John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*.