

THE STORY OF IRELAND

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The story of Ireland by Standish O'Grady

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STANDISH O'GRADY

**THE STORY
OF IRELAND**

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THE STORY OF IRELAND

BY

STANDISH O'GRADY

AUTHOR OF "FINN AND HIS COMPANIONS."

Methuen & Co.

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IRELAND: HER STORY.

CHAPTER I.

ANCIENT IRELAND.

WHEN Julius Cæsar and the Romans invaded Britain, Ireland was inhabited by a nation whom the Romans called Scoti or Scots. The same nation, too, occupied the western half of Scotland, while the Picts held the remainder of that country. But the people of Ireland did not call themselves Scots; they called themselves the Gaedil, or the Gael, because, they said, they were the children of a very far away and ancient hero named Gaedil. The Romans called the island Scotia, and also Hibernia. The people themselves had a great many names of their own for the island. They called it Inis na Fidba or the Isle of Woods, Inis Elga, the Noble Island, and many other names. They were an ingenious and inventive people, and extremely fond of songs and stories, so that the island was full of bards, who, with their harps, used to travel from one house to another, singing songs for the people about the island in which