

# **THE SOUL OF IRELAND**

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The soul of Ireland by W. J. Lockington

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**W. J. LOCKINGTON**

**THE SOUL  
OF IRELAND**





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# THE SOUL OF IRELAND

BY  
W. J. LOCKINGTON, S.J.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION  
BY  
G. K. CHESTERTON

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1921

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TO  
MARY MYDEN DHEELISH  
MOTHER OF  
THE MOTHERS OF IRELAND

2061183





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The resurrection of Ireland, of which Father Lockington writes here with so much spirit and eloquence, is really a historical event that has the appearance of a miracle. . . . Many Englishmen do not see the point; simply because many Englishmen are in this matter quite ignorant. . . . They do not happen to know how utterly Ireland was crushed; with what finality and fundamental oblivion the nation was once numbered with the dead.

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Once let the heart of the people of England be touched by the truth regarding Ireland, their sense of justice will ensure that Ireland will take proper place, as sister with sister, and no longer be the Cinderella of the Empire.

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The divine gift of faith, that Saint Patrick threw like a white mantle over the whole land, covers it to-day as pure and untarnished as when he walked the earth. . . . All prayers of His loved and loving people.

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I saw them in their poor homes, and wondered at the vivid faith that gilded and ennobled their poverty and trials.

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They are a reserved people, reticent with strangers. . . . They have a quiet, gentle dignity that is all their own, and a native refinement that is remarkable.

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Pestilence and Famine lay like a pall over Ireland and from beneath the blackness her poor children fled in terror. This exodus was the scattering broadcast of a crucified nation.

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There are many glorious monuments to-day in Ireland that speak eloquently of her sufferings in those dark days . . . to me by far the most touching is the granite block, a broad table of gray stone, with the sacred name of Jesus carved deep; that silent table . . . the Mass Rock.

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On Christmas Eve a multitude of new stars blazes from coast to coast in Ireland . . . the great Christmas candle shining in the window of every home lighting the land for the angels to guide the Christ Child thither.