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 Munster & Limerick  
 O'Connell St  
 Limerick

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Battle of Brunanburh  
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 that time

Antial period of the  
 Middle Ages  
 (Retrice dec)

HISTORICAL COURSE FOR SCHOOLS  
 General Editor—T. CORCORAN, S.J., D.Litt.  
 Professor of Education, University College, Dublin

6th year  
 1944-45  
 IRELAND

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES  
 TO A.D. 800

M. Dwyer  
 The Old Ireland  
 BY *Palmer Green*  
 JOHN RYAN, S.J., M.A. Co Limerick

Ursuline Convent,  
 St. Mary's

Waterford  
 His John Ryan S.J. was born at Liscara  
 Castle Connell in 1883. His youth  
 was a childhood friend of my grand  
 Con & Michael McMahon who lived nearby.  
 They went to Castle Connell Nat. School where  
 they were taught by Mr. Edmunds.  
 His Ryan's father's name was a farmer. John

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James died his son Denis took over the farm,  
 he later sold it & moved to a larger farm  
 at Rathmore near Limerick. *[Signature]*

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Marie Saffman.

## Ireland from the Earliest Times to A.D. 800

### CHAPTER I.

#### PRE-CELTIC IRELAND—PREHISTORIC TIMES.

UNLIKE the medieval chronicler, who could draw on a fertile imagination when authentic records were not forthcoming, the writer of to-day cannot carry the history of his country, with names and dates, back to the Expulsion from Paradise, or even to the centuries immediately succeeding the Deluge. True it is that the inhabitants of our island in far off ages did much that was worthy of remembrance, but the art of writing was not one of their accomplishments, nor did they discover any other device by which the narrative of their doings could be transmitted directly to posterity. The result is that the early stages of civilization in Ireland, the habits and institutions of its ancient peoples, are known to us only by indirect deductions from implements, buildings, works of art, and similar monuments of antiquity that have survived. To formulate and apply the principles by which the study of these should be governed is the province of archaeology, and on that important science we shall, therefore, have to rely for the contents of the present chapter.

#### Stone Age. Copper Age. Bronze Age. Iron Age.

In Ireland, as in almost all other countries of the old world and the new, where the progress of culture has been studied, the ages are found to succeed one another in the same order. They are named, from the

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