

"have therefore remained intact, and their subsequent history is a record of progress such as always attends self-reliance, originality and mental independence."

"Thus," he proceeds, "the language movement in Ireland is something wider and deeper and richer in promise for the future than philology or antiquarianism. It is a national movement in the fullest sense. Its aim is to restore, to concentrate, and to discipline the vital forces of a weak and wounded nation. These things," he contends, "will have been accomplished when there is a strong Irish tone and coloring upon all our thoughts, and feelings, and action; when we are genuine Irishmen after the pattern of those who went before us for thousands of years. In Irish soil to-day," he points out (in this agreeing with such students of the subject as Thomas Davis, Douglas Hyde, and William O'Brien), "there are latent energies, vague movements, rudimentary instincts that need but the breath of a whisper of our fathers to rouse them once more to the heights. and vigor, and full sweep of a national life. Our thirsty soil," he continues, "has need to be fertilized by the seed-bearing winds and the generous showers of national tradition. But national traditions," this Irish priest concludes, "can exist nowhere save in the national language."

If unselfishness is an element of patriotism and unity a characteristic, then the movement possesses two qualities of national importance. That the Irish language movement has these is demonstrated by the fact that, without any positions of emolument or of political importance to offer, it has nevertheless attracted to itself men from every rank, condition and political affiliation in the old land. It is not necessary to particularize here in view of what has already been said in that connection. Since its inception to the present day, purity of motive and unity of action, on the part of those directing it, have distinguished the movement. And when one considers the widely-divergent views, political and religious, of those men, and the character of a country whose modern life has been so often vexed by the warfare of faction, it seems incredible that such a distinctly national work as the revival of the Irish language should have escaped not only blank