

DR. DOUGLAS HYDE AND THE REVIVAL OF THE GAELIC LANGUAGE

Irish men and women in the United States, whether native sons and daughters of the soil, or bound in sentiment only to the Emerald Isle, because of the songs and tales repeated by those who after finding habitation in the adopted country to which they looked forward as the land of promise, hark back to memory to ancestral scenes, are interested in the propaganda of Dr. Douglas Hyde, who arrived in New York recently, and will then spend four months in a lecture tour, during which he will address American colleges, Irish societies and public meetings.

Youngest son of Rev. Arthur Hyde, a Protestant clergyman, Dr. Douglas Hyde is a Gaelic scholar noted for his learning and his enthusiasm for the literature and language of his native land. He is a member of one of those fine old academic families, possessed of pride in all the honorable traditions and ideals of their race, and eager to save from decay the customs and language in which they have found expression. Like Burke, Goldsmith and many other renowned Irish literary men, Douglas Hyde was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he took the degree of bachelor of arts, with the first senior moderatorship and large gold medal. This was in 1884.

His studies were exceptionally brilliant, and as undergraduate he won first honors in modern literature, German, French, Italian and Celtic. In 1887 he became LL. D. and later successfully passed the examination for a doctor of divinity, although he has never been active in religious orders. From the first he manifested a great interest in all pertaining to the old Irish language, and instead of the usual tour affected by young men of his position on the continent of Europe, after graduation, he travelled extensively in his native province, making a study of the ancient Irish tales, songs and folklore of Connacht. At this time he came in close touch with the Irish peasantry, and was more than ever impressed by the mystic appeal, emotional color and wealth of tenderness contained in the language of the past. His tour and studies bore fruit in a book consisting of tales in Irish, with notes, published in 1889 under the name, "Leabhar Sgeulcheachta."

This work for him recognition from the Celticists, and was followed by other books dealing with the songs, tales and folklore of the Irish. Among these are "The Irish Folklore of the Irish Celts," which he translated into French; "The Love Songs of Connacht," which ran through two editions; "Three Sorrows of Story Telling, Collected from the Story of Early Irish Literature," "An Sgeulcheachta Goodhach, A Literary History of Ireland," "The Tales from the Irish, Ubbha den Chraobh," a volume of poems in Irish; "Casadh an tsaighin, a drama in Irish; "Tá Sgeolta, edited for the Oireachtas committee; "Firdheacht Ghaedhialach, a treatise on Irish poetry; "Raftery's Poems."

The foregoing Irish titles of Dr. Hyde's works will lend understanding to the story told of the Trinity College professor, who, when the movement to revive the Gaelic was first organized, asked another professor, "What is the Irish language?" and received as answer, "A manseum of shockingly spelt adjectives."

To Dr. Hyde the Irish language, with its extensive vocabulary, its rich words, its wealth of idiom, its storied past, preserved in books and manuscripts of immense extent, its melodious verse, its treasury of imagery and legend, is more than a manseum; it is the ancestral tongue of a people noted for the vitality of its national spirit, and as such, he holds, should be saved from passing, because as a language holds the garnered experience of a race, nationality is identified with it. He holds that the necessity of reviving their native tongue, of teaching it to their children and of producing literature in Celtic. At first his was a voice crying in the wilderness. The "national" system of education which the English Government had established in 1832 ignored the ancient language, practically penalizing it in the schools. Parents, handicapped by poverty, and eager that their children should get on in the world, banished the mother tongue from their homes, believing that the language of the dominant nation would give the younger generation a better weapon with which to fight in the struggle for existence. Despite this, Dr. Hyde began his crusade almost a million people were still familiar with the Gaelic. Many of those who spoke it could, however, neither read nor write it. Others than he were interested and a few of these kindred spirits founded the Gaelic League with the avowed object of saving and restoring the old Irish to the place it once held as the household and everyday language of the Irish people. This was in 1893, and Dr. Hyde, its first president, has seen the movement grow from small beginnings into a strong organization, working a profound change in the mental outlook of many of the Irish people and quickening the national life on its intellectual and artistic side.

While regarded as merely academic

at its inception, the league has expanded into a great national movement, untrammelled by politics and appealing to all Irish, regardless of their creeds. Hyde is shown in the fact that Dr. Hyde is himself a Protestant. Its methods are varied. Public meetings, with lectures on the language, literature and history, are held. Organizers are sent to Irish districts to interview the local teachers and encourage them to work for the habitual use of Irish. Ten of these organizers are employed by the league in Ireland, and they are assisted by 200 travelling teachers. In Dublin alone there are 30 branches of the Gaelic League. There are nearly 900 branches throughout the country, with an enrolled membership of 100,000. London branch numbers among its writers some of the most brilliant spirits of the day. Interest in the movement has extended to the United States and South America. The number of Irish schools in which the language is taught has advanced rapidly. In 1888 there were 800 in 1905, a practical result of the league's fight against the English policy of exclusion of Irish from the schools.

Text books teaching the language have been issued and the league in one year sold more than 50,000 of these. A newspaper, "An Claidheamh Soluis," (The Sword of Light), and a Gaelic journal now have a reading public created by the league, which wishes not only to extend the language as a spoken tongue, but to cultivate a modern literature in Irish. Pamphlets, essays, books, are constantly being published under the auspices of the league and during the last year 250,000 of these were sold from its main office alone, not mentioning other agencies. It is an annual festival, at which prizes are awarded for the best poems, songs, essays, stories, plays and orations in Gaelic, is held in May of each year, and is called the Oireachtas, and corresponds to the Welsh eisteddfod. The social side is encouraged in entertainment, in which old Irish music, songs, dances and costumes are the feature. An Irish literary theatre, in which the brilliant playwright, W. B. Yeats, contributed his genius, was projected as early as 1896. At this performance Dr. Hyde appeared in a play of his own composition, "The Twilight of the Gods," thus adding the work of playwright and actor to the list of his other activities for the movement.

There have been many leagues in Ireland. There have been the Land League, the National League, the United Irish League, and before the Gaelic League tentative efforts toward the same end had been made—in 1853 by the Oseinate Society and in 1875 by the Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language. The men organizing these latter two had noted the decline of the old tongue and had sought to preserve the Gaelic as the national language, but comparatively little came of their meetings and intermittent labors. It was not until the second named society did issue orders for the benefit of those who desired to study the language, published translations of some of the old Gaelic romances and finally induced the commissioners of national education, as well as the commissioners of intermediate examinations, to place Irish as a branch of study on the same footing with French and German. But the members of the society lacked a guiding spirit to impel the Irish Text Society, examining the Gaelic possession in the brilliant genius of Douglas Hyde.

The difference between Dr. Hyde and those who preceded him is that, while they were much concerned with the past and little with the present—too much interested in Ireland's archaeological and ancient manuscripts—his chief desire is to preserve the vernacular as a living language and to apply it to the purposes of Irish national life. His enthusiasm and hard work have made the league the most significant outgrowth of Irish nationalism despite the fact that it does not enter into the arena of active politics. The industrial movement in Ireland, the revival of its industries and manufacturers, the attempt to check emigration by forcing employment to young men and women, which has been much commented upon in magazine articles, is bound up with the Gaelic League. The appeal to the national spirit has resulted in a desire to be Irish not only in speech, but in clothes. This has encouraged some industries, and it has become a matter of pride and patriotism with the Gaelic Leaguers to use the products of their own looms and mills and handwork rather than imported articles. In confirmation of the theory that the revival of the native language encourages home industry the leaguers point to Belgium and Hungary.

For one who has accomplished so much, Dr. Hyde is a young man, being still in the forties. He has been fortunate in realizing in his life work what seemed to others a student's dream. His industry is shown in his published works, which number nearly 60 and the offices he has filled besides that of president of the league. He has been interim professor of modern languages in New Brunswick, president of the Irish Text Society, examining in Celtic to the Royal University of Ireland, and assistant editor of the New Irish Library. The year in which he published his first book he was elected member of the Royal Irish Academy. He has married, Mrs. W. B. Yeats and her death, Lady Gregory, who has brought out a translation of Dr. Hyde's plays and was an active promoter of the Irish literary theatre, George Moore, W. B. Yeats and Bernard Shaw, the playwright, are among those associated with Dr. Hyde in the Gaelic movement. In his American

FISCAL REFORM OR HOME RULE, SAYS BALFOUR.

Former Premier Declares This Is The True Issue of Campaign—Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman Promises to Fight Protection and Fiscal Reform

LONDON, Dec. 28.—Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the premier, and Arthur J. Balfour, the former premier, respectively leaders of the two great parties now drawn up in battle array in the United Kingdom, addressed large audiences tonight. The premier spoke at Dunfermline, Scotland, making fiscal reform his battle-cry. In answering a question, he said he did not favor a separate independent legislature for Ireland, but intimated that that country should have a legislature subordinate to the imperial parliament. Mr. Balfour, talking to a sympathetic audience at Queen's Hall, London, asked: "Will you have fiscal reform or home rule, for this is the true issue of the campaign?" Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman said that the liberals would fight protection and fiscal reform during the campaign as they did while in opposition, while the former premier said that fiscal reform would be the first great question with which the unionist party would have to deal whenever it was returned to power, because it was a question in which the welfare of the country was bound up. Mr. Balfour indicated that the whole attack of unionists throughout the present campaign would be centred on the assumed intention of the liberal party to give Ireland control of its own affairs through an executive responsible to an Irish elective body. This, he believed, would inevitably lead to separation, which he admitted would be preferable to the continued parliamentary turmoil consequent on half-way measures.

FRANCE HONORED HON. R. PREFONTAINE

Impressive Funeral Services Held in Paris Church on Saturday.

PARIS, Dec. 30.—Impressive funeral services occurred today at the Church of the Madeleine here over the body of Raymond Prefontaine, the Canadian minister of marine and fisheries, who died in Paris Dec. 25. The government rendered military honors. President Loubet was represented and all the cabinet ministers attended. The minister Thomson pronounced a discourse on the ties uniting France and Canada, and Raulphole Lemeux, the Canadian solicitor general, replied in behalf of Canada. The body will be transported to Canada by the British battleship Dominion. Ottawa, Dec. 31.—Lord Elgin called the governor general yesterday that the British ambassador at Paris had been instructed to ask for an audience with President Loubet to thank him in the name of the King and His Majesty's government for honors extended to the remains of the late Canadian minister of marine.

The Universal Cake Baker. At this season should be very popular in every house. Think of the labor and time it will save during this month. If you haven't seen, look for it. If you haven't bought, buy it. PRICE \$2.00. Raisin Seeders. The Enterprise, Price \$1.00. The X Ray, Price 70 cts. W. H. THORNE & CO., Ltd. Market Square, St. John, N. B.

HOPE YOUNG DRIVEN MAD BY INSANITY

Lawyer Intimates That Treatment in Prison Caused Insanity.

(Boston American.) That May Hope Young, the nineteen-year-old Boston girl, who went insane in prison at Digby, N. S., the day originally set for her hanging for the murder of her adopted child, May Ward, was driven by the inhuman treatment accorded her by prison officials to the charge made by B. G. Monroe of Digby, the convicted woman's counsel, in a letter received by Mrs. Kate Brodie of No. 39 North-Mead street, Charlestown, sister of May Hope Young.

An idea of the cause of Hope Young's madness may be obtained from a perusal of this excerpt from Mr. Monroe's letter: "I have made every endeavor to have the rigor of her imprisonment lessened since the judgment of the court vacating her sentence of death and ordering her a new trial, but without result. I may say that I am very much surprised that the character of her imprisonment and the terrible strain of lying so long under sentence of death should have resulted in her present condition. She should have constant care, but is utterly neglected. She seldom sees anyone. Only at the rarest intervals the jailer and myself have talked with her through a narrow window."

"She is under the hallucination that somebody has been hanging in her cell. This may say is not very far from the truth, for Peter Wheeler was hanged within the jail building a few years ago. I do not think the jail physician understands the condition at all. My own impression is that she is suffering from nervous prostration as much as anything else. "Since her collapse she has been moved to a smaller cell some distance from the others, formerly occupied. She is to be removed immediately (28th) to the insane hospital. Someone should visit her and see that she gets proper medical attendance, or she will die. It is an obscure part of the institution and is utterly neglected. You know what that means. "I cannot spend any more money for her. There is no man living who would have done as much for Hope as I have done for nothing. You had better get friends who have money to help at once."

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SH YOU ALL HAPPY NEW YEAR.

The year just closed has been by far the best we have ever had—a new record has been made. For this we thank the public who have so generously patronized us, as to compel us to add another store on account of the increased business. We start the new year with brighter prospects, better stocks, more room, and are better prepared in every way, than ever before, to cater to the wants of Men and Boys. It will add to your happiness to buy your clothing for 1906, here, J. N. HARVEY, Clothing and Furnishing, 199 to 207 Union St.

NEW RECTOR FOR CHRIST CHURCH

Rev. J. R. DeWolfe Cowie Inducted at Fredericton

FREDERICTON, N. B., Dec. 30.—In the presence of a congregation which completely filled Christ Church, the Rev. James Rexton DeWolfe Cowie was this morning formally inducted and inducted rector of Fredericton. The ceremony was a beautiful and most impressive one. At 11 o'clock the Lord Bishop of the diocese entered the church from the vestry and took his seat at the head of the chancel steps and thus seated duly inducted the newly appointed rector, who knelt before him. The induction services followed, the senior warden admitting the newly appointed rector into the church and delivering to him the keys and the rector ringing the bells in recognition of the powers bestowed upon him. The bishop preached a plain and powerful sermon, taking his text from the 6th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, 2nd verse. He explained the service of institution and induction, and congratulated the parish accordingly on the selection it had made. He asked one and all to pray for the new incumbent and do all in their power to assist in the work he was about to take up. At the conclusion of the service the sacrament of the Lord's Supper followed, the bishop being the celebrant. At the request of the rector the church warden and vestry first came to the altar rail, after which the congregation, the benediction was pronounced by the lord bishop. In the evening the new rector conducted the service and preached an eloquent sermon. He pictured in beautiful terms the nativity and its value to humanity. In concluding Mr. Cowie spoke most feelingly of the late Canon Roberts and his grand work and asked his parishioners to join with him in starting out in the beginning of a New Year in keeping up in the future the great work of the past. Dedication services at the Main street United Baptist church at Maryville took place today. Three services were held, morning, noon and evening, the preachers being Rev. B. H. Nobles, A. A. Rideout and J. H. McDonald. The music rendered was especially selected and was of an exceptionally fine order. Solos were given by Mrs. Joseph Capen and Mrs. W. M. G. A watch night service was held at the Methodist church, which was largely attended.

RICHIBUCTO.

RICHIBUCTO, Dec. 30.—The funeral of the late Mrs. Joseph Michael took place on Tuesday afternoon. Rev. M. Cuthbert of Newcastle conducted the services at St. Mary's church and the grave. Clement Allain, a horse trader from Lower Village, who had taken too much patent medicine, lost his way on Wednesday night and got on to the Kent Northern railway track near Rexton station. He started to drive toward town, and when about half way the horse fell into a culvert. Allain left the animal and started to get help, but forgot later on what happened. The next morning when he had sobered up he remembered the incident and on going to the scene of the mishap found the horse dead. The animal was valued at eighty dollars and was under sale to be delivered next day. John E. Wright fell in his home a few days ago and fractured a rib. Mrs. J. P. Black received a fall on Wednesday while walking down Pagan street. She had to be conveyed home, and at last reports was improving. Mrs. Gallant and child of Sydney are visiting her parents, J. C. and Mrs. Vanour. J. D. Irving of Buctouche commenced buying frocks here this week. R. O'Leary shipped two carloads this week. K. Phinney of the Kent Northern railway left today for Chatham to spend New Year's. Alfred Pine, who has been in the Moncton hospital for two weeks, has returned home much improved in health.

MURDER AT OTTAWA; FIVE ARRESTS MADE.

OTTAWA, Dec. 31.—Members of the ministerial tariff commission returned home yesterday for New Year's holiday and will hold a sitting at New-castle, N. B., on Wednesday, Fredericton, Thursday, St. Stephen, Friday, Monday, Jan. 8th, St. John. Itinerary after St. John is not settled. Ministers are undecided whether to go to P. E. Island or Nova Scotia first. The dying hours of the old year in Ottawa were characterized by a brutal murder. James Burke, a well known character in police circles, 36 years old, was found shortly before midnight at the east end of Alexander bridge lying in a pool of blood with his head split open. He died two or three minutes after the police arrived on the scene. Five persons, all of bad character, are under arrest. Alphonse Larocque, aged 42; Louis Berthiaume, aged 38; Francis Potvin, aged 25; Robert Pudney, aged 28, and Annie Fields were arrested. Larocque and Berthiaume live in a couple of miserable shacks on Eric-ham's wharf under the bridge. A drunken carousal was in progress at Larocque's, and it is said when Burke tried to gain admission Larocque hit him on the head with a shovel. Larocque, however, declares it was Berthiaume who struck the fatal blow. A. A. McLean, M. P. for Queens, is in town. He came up from Montreal, where his son is in a hospital recovering from an attack of typhoid fever, was experienced.

Advertising cannot justly be called an expense, although it is an expense when ignorantly handled. — Salinas, Cal., Index.

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