

school of eloquence appealed more powerfully and directly to the national mind and heart.

Does not all this show that as a result of the use for centuries of two languages, side by side as in Ireland, many idiomatic differences disappear or are, at least, modified, so that the acquisition and use of both languages by the population interested are hardly open to the current objection that a bi-lingual people can never have a thorough and effective knowledge of either language? The writers and orators we have named in illustration of this view, let alone the authorities that might be cited in its support, establish its soundness. "That strange tenacity," says Duffy, in his essay on "The Ballad Poetry of Ireland, "of the Celtic race which makes a description of their habits and propensities when Cæsar was still a proconsul in Gaul, true in essentials of the Irish people to this day, has enabled them to infuse the ancient and hereditary spirit of the country into all that is genuine of our modern poetry. *And even the language grew almost Irish* (the italics are ours.) The soul of the country stammering its passionate grief and hatred in a strange tongue, loved still to utter them in its old familiar idioms and cadences; uttering them, perhaps, with more piercing earnestness because of the impediment; and winning out of the very difficulty a grace and a triumph."

The Gaelic movement has not for its object nor in its tendency the destruction of aught that is excellent or worth preserving in the character of the Irish people at home or abroad. On the contrary, their literary, national, and religious characteristics cannot fail to be strengthened by that stirring in the heart of the Gael of its best and purest impulses which is the key-note of the present movement. Side by side with such a knowledge and use of the old tongue as is urged by the leaders of the movement, there will still exist as effective knowledge and use of the English language as is now the case,—perhaps, a better knowledge, for using the older language in those relations of life for which it is so singularly well adapted, and using it as an auxiliary to the modern, the national mind in the command and use of the latter will attain an unfettered development. This is not a mere opinion, as witness our best writers and our most effective orators. For weal or woe,