

INTRODUCTION BY THE ARCHBISHOP OF TORONTO.

Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen has graciously consented, at the request of the Catholic Young Ladies' Literary Society of Toronto, to the publication of the very interesting and able lecture she delivered, under the auspices and at the request of the aforesaid Society, in the Massey Hall, Toronto, on the 31st May last. The great audience that assembled on that occasion were well rewarded for their attendance by a rare intellectual treat on the subject of the Irish Literary Revival. They were interested and instructed by the stores of information and the great erudition brought to bear on the subject of the lecture, and were charmed and delighted by the graceful and pleasing manner of its delivery.

The published lecture will, we are sure, be read with avidity by those who had the pleasure of listening to her Excellency on that occasion; and it will entertain, interest and instruct many who had not that good fortune. Her Ladyship showed a mastery over her subject which laborious research, extensive reading, and patient study could alone enable her to do; whilst by her power of condensation, her mental grasp, and her tender sympathy with her theme, she succeeded in exhibiting to her audience the most beautiful kaleidoscopic views of the literary history of Ireland. We forbear any further comments, but will let the lecture speak for itself.

As her Ladyship, in her introductory remarks, alludes in a deprecatory tone to words we then spoke, we deem it our duty to repeat them here:

“MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

“I have come this evening in compliance with a formality usual on such occasions, to introduce to this audience her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen. As a matter of fact, her Excellency needs no introduction to this or to any other audience in this Dominion, for her great gifts of head and heart, and her noble works of charity have made her name a household word in all the homes of Canada, and have spread her fame through the length and breadth of the British Empire.

“But she has endeared herself in a special manner to the Irish race at home and abroad. Her love for our people, her tender sympathy with their sufferings and sorrows, her far-reaching charity and her unwearied labours for the betterment of their lot, have won the undying love and affection of Irish hearts, and have placed our people under a debt to her