

works. They are couched in an elegant and concise style. "The Catholic Christian Instructed" is the most popular of his works, and has indeed claimed universal admiration.

The great literary revival which distinguished the beginning of the present century was not at first shared by Catholics. But after the efforts of Daniel O'Connell had succeeded in securing Emancipation they made full use of the facilities which had been denied them for almost three centuries. In all departments of literature Catholics busied themselves in the removal of the rank growth of prejudice which the days of persecution had fostered and in the dissemination of truth. Nor did they prove inferior to their more favored brethren. Many of the greatest literary lights of the nineteenth century have been numbered amongst them, and have contributed their quota to augment the influence of the Catholic element in our language.

The first of our co-religionists we meet is Thomas Moore, Ireland's "sweet son of song." Though himself a lax Catholic, his works are on the whole strongly favorable to the faith which was his country's proud and only heritage. This is noticeable in his "Irish Melodies," which famous collection of lyrics show his great mastery over the English language as well as fervent patriotism, but it is even more to be remarked in the "Sacred Songs." These hold a high rank in English religious poetry. Their beauty and tenderness is exemplified in the well-known lines, beginning "This world is all a fleeting show." Throughout all those religious melodies we can trace a strain of regret for indifference to early teachings. This is even more marked in that noted controversial work, "Travels of an Irish Gentleman in Search of a Religion." To Lord John Russell, Moore explained that his object in this work was to prove Catholicism "in all respects the old, original Christianity, and Protestantism a departure from it." Though the tone of some of his earlier works is objectionable from a moral point of view, it cannot be denied that on the whole Moore's works are deeply influenced by Catholic ideas and doctrine.

Moore was the first of a noble band of Irish Catholics who have contributed largely to, and had a wonderful influence upon the literature of the century. Celtic genius elevated by Catholic