

Ireland and Irishmen suffer wrong from systematic misrepresentation, which only better knowledge will cure. If the races who inhabit these British Isles are ever to understand and honor each other, it must be on condition of comprehending the past, not hiding it away; and history is the reservoir from which such knowledge is drawn.

Sir Charles next turned his attention to the great question of an improved Irish national education. He declared that one of the worst defects in the Irish course of discipline, in and out of school (for a young man gives himself most effectual education after he has escaped from the hands of the schoolmaster) is that it is rarely practical. "We learn little thoroughly and little of a reproductive character, and we commonly pay the penalty in a lower place in the world. What writers ought to aim at, who hope to benefit the people, is to fill up the blanks which an imperfect education, and the fever of a tempestuous time, have left in their knowledge, so that their lives may become contented and fruitful." Those plain words contain a large amount of truth; but it is fortunate for Sir Charles that he does not reside in Quebec, where it is the happy custom to brand as a liar and a ruffian every one who cannot be made call an obsolete method of education the best and most progressive on the surface of the globe.

A passage farther on in the lecture is worth remembering. Sir Charles says: "It would be vain to deny that national quarrels are the most intractable of our troubles. The Celt is placable and generous in private transactions; but for public conflicts he has an unsleeping memory. Some of these quarrels are nearly as old as the Flood. The late Martin Haverty, who wrote a meritorious history of Ireland, was once discovered by a friend in a perturbed and angry mood, which he explained by the fact that he had been reading a record of ill-usage his ancestors sustained from the invaders. 'The slaughter of the Milesians by Strongbow,' queried his friend. 'No,' said the historian, 'I speak of the slaughter inflicted by the villainous Milesians on my ancestors, the Tuatha de Danaans.' No one can tell with certainty the date of that transaction within a thousand years, and

it might perhaps be permitted to rest in peace. The memory of wrongs which are perpetuated and renewed cannot be forgotten: but, while no man knows better than I do how just are our complaints, and how terrible the memories they evoke, I affirm that the best Irishmen are prepared, *toto corde*, to forget and forgive the past, if its policy and practices are never to reappear."

Sir Charles closed with a tribute to Irish authors and scholars, and a brief but eloquent exposition of the aims of the Irish Literary Society. I have spoken only of the revival of literature, he said, for happily there has never been altogether wanting a literature for the studious and thoughtful, maintained by the spontaneous zeal of a few gifted men and women. It slept at times, but only for a brief interval. O'Connor and O'Curry, Miss Edgeworth and Lady Morgan, Banim and Griffin, have had successors down to our own day, when we are still at times delighted with glowing historic and legendary stories, or charming idylls of the people, bright and natural as a bunch of shamrocks with the dew of Munster fresh upon them.

If I were to express in one phrase the aim of this Society, and of kindred societies, and of the literary revival of which I have been speaking, it is to begin another deliberate attempt to make of our Celtic people all they are fit to become,—to increase knowledge among them, and lay its foundation deep and sure; to strengthen their convictions, and enlarge their horizon; and to tend the flame of national pride, which, with sincerity of purpose and fervor of soul, constitute the motive power of great enterprises.

The foregoing paragraphs contain only the baldest and briefest *résumé* of the lecture. Many of the most eloquent passages had to be omitted for want of space. Still, it is hoped that enough has been given to supply a serviceable outline of the ground covered, and that the sample bricks will be sufficient to give a good if not an adequate idea of the main pile.

II.—The address which was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Brooke is, if possible, more direct, sustained, suggestive and valuable than the lecture just summarized. The subject which Mr. Brooke discussed was: "In what way we can best make the