

## LITERARY NOTES AND NOEICTS.

-----I'll shew my mind  
According to my shallow simple skill.

—*Two Gentlemen of Verona.*

38—It is gratifying to learn that the efforts of the Irish Literary Society (see Note No. 10, Vol. VIII.,) are meeting with a generous measure of success. A lengthy list of books, some re-prints and many original works, has been issued under the auspices of the Society. The volumes are, in general, the sort which an Irishman loving his country would most desire to read. More than one of them has a practical as well as a patriotic trend, and more than one of them also, (see Note No. 1,) should never have been published by the Irish Literary Society. But the great majority of the new publications are most valuable as well as most entertaining. It is, therefore, very gladdening to hear that the books are going off well although the population of Ireland is not very large. The membership of the Literary Society, scattered over all Ireland and England, is steadily increasing. In short, the Irish people are taking an undeviating interest in the movement which has for its object to formulate an Irish literature.

Almost every one knows what were the salient features of the New Ireland Movement. In 1840, the intellect of Ireland had not a voice above a fitful whisper. In 1843, a band of young Irishmen were exciting universal enthusiasm by their writings. The editor of the Dublin Nation was the Prospero whose magic wand wrought the startling change. "The Nation newspaper," says Mr. T. P. O'Connor, "was founded in October 1842, by Mr., now Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, and he had among his assistants, Thomas Davis, John Dillon, and subsequently John Mitchel . . . and the writers acquired an influence over the popular mind hitherto unknown in Ireland."

About this time the agitation for Repeal was on the wane. The "Young Irelanders" took up the torch where the Repealers

had dropped it, through exhaustion. They bore it aloft and along until their way was barred by a horrible dragon. State-Brewed Famine destroyed the Young Ireland Movement which in a short time performed much and gave undoubted promise of performing still more. Says Sir Charles Gavan Duffy: "A group of young men, among the most generous and disinterested in our annals, were busy digging up the buried relics of our history, to enlighten the present by a knowledge of the past, setting up on their pedestals anew the overthrown statutes of Irish worthies, assailing wrongs which under long impunities had become unquestioned and even venerable, and warming as with strong wine the heart of the people, by songs of valor and hope . . . The famine swept away their labors: and their passionate attempts to arrest and redress the destruction which the famine inflicted, delivered them over to imprisonment and penal exile." Such is a nut-shell history of the Young Ireland Movement.

The present Irish literary movement is a revival and continuation of the Young Ireland Movement in so far as the latter was literary. It was begun in 1884 under the leadership of such experienced men of affairs and ripe scholars as Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, Dr. Douglas Hyde and Dr. George Sigerson. The proposal made at the first meeting of the Irish Literary Society, was that the more talented among the young people of this generation in Ireland should "take up anew the unfinished work of their predecessors and carry it another stage towards the end which they aimed to reach." This task they have endeavored to perform with unfeigned virility and splendid courage, and now at the end of one short year the good results have become conspicuous. Says a London correspondent: "Good work has been done; good work is being done every