

scaffolding for the building up of productive historical knowledge. It will be understood then, that no more is here contended for than that the long tried and well proved basis of middle and higher class education should not be arbitrarily shifted. It is unnecessary to say that exceptional cases will occur, which can be dealt with only by exceptional means. There are, no doubt, minds capable enough in other respects, but thoroughly incapable of grasping the simplest truths on a given subject. But let not such incapacity be taken for granted; a man, and a boy too, may be accounted of sound mind, unless proved to be otherwise; and those who are at all experienced in intellectual treatment, know that there are reasons which may even induce the patient to assume the appearance of greater feebleness than he can fairly lay claim to. Private tuition is the remedy for all really exceptional cases, or at least reception and judicious individual treatment within the walls of an intellectual reformatory, if such a valuable institution exists. The reader will, therefore, understand that the foregoing remarks refer to education in schools only, and in schools more or less of the public type. Should he be disposed to agree with us thus far, the further question as to the extent to which classical pursuits should be carried, and in particular as to the degree of importance to be attached to the practice, regarded purely as a mental cultivator, of composition, original or initiative, in the dead languages, remains untouched. We are not ourselves committed, nor would wish in anything here said to commit him to any opinion on that subject.

THE HON. THOS. D'ARCY MCGEE, M.P., &c.

PART II.

ON his arrival in Dublin, Mr. McGee was received with every mark of respect and friendship by the leading men of the Irish party; Mr. Gray, however, not being at the moment prepared to give up to him the editorial chair of "*The Freeman*," he was sent to London, as the special correspondent of that journal. There he had every opportunity of becoming thoroughly acquainted with the Irish members of parliament, and with their views on Irish matters. It was at a time when the Irish people were living in a perpetual round of the greatest excitement: Repeal was their watchword; and O'Connell their idol, the National heart was throbbing with hope, and the last shilling was willingly offered by Ireland's sons and daughters, to defray the expenses of the Irish cause; O'Connell was

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