

the accuracy of the statement "that the Celtic race stands now with averted torch, and the light of it is a glory before the eyes, and the flame of it is blown into the hearts of the mightier conquering people. The Celt falls, but his spirit rises in the heart and in the brain of the Anglo-Celtic peoples with whom are the destinies of the generations to come."

It must be regarded as a strong indication of the present vitality of the Gaelic language that a translation of the Book of Common Prayer into Gaelic, for the benefit of the Gaelic members of the Scottish Episcopal Church, was published during last year. The translators have performed their work well, as a general rule. With commendable propriety, advantage was taken of the Gaelic version of the Bible, which is in common use in Scotland, for the purpose of presenting, in a Gaelic dress, those portions of Scripture that, along with the Psalms, go to form a considerable portion of the English Prayer-Book. It is at least interesting to know that in Argyllshire itself there are several Episcopal ministers who conduct religious services in Gaelic. It may be safely inferred, that if the Bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church were apprehensive that Gaelic was sadly on the decline, and was hurrying to the day of its death and consequent extinction, they would not have taken the pains of translating the English Prayer Book into Gaelic.

As might be expected, owing to the great dissimilarity which exists between English and Gaelic idioms, the Gaelic translation of the English Prayer-Book is occasionally stiff. Praise rather than blame, however, is to be generously bestowed on the translators, who have done their work with much ability and accuracy.

In the introduction to his grammar—the first Gaelic grammar which was published—Shaw had this doleful statement to make when it was published in 1778: "But at present I much doubt whether there be four men in Scotland that would spell one page the same way. The taste, at this day, of the clergy—a lettered and respectable order—is to understand the English, content with what Gaelic enables them to translate of a sermon they originally wrote in English. And although they are obliged to speak in public once in seven days, there are not five ministers in Scotland who write their discourses in their own tongue." Almost one hundred and twenty years have passed since Shaw had occasion to give such a lamentable account of the defective Gaelic scholarship of his time. Innumerable progress has, in the interval, been made in the grammatical study of the Gaelic language, and in the acquiring of ability and facility to speak and write it fluently and accurately. It would be simply ridiculous to apply the strong condemnation which Shaw attached to the Gaelic scholarship of his own time, to the wide and thorough scholarship which obtains in our day. Were correctness in the understanding and in the writing of Gaelic to be taken as an infallible criterion of the utility of that language, the conclusion could not be resisted, that the chances of a prolonged existence are altogether on the side of Gaelic as we know and speak it now.

"A Course of Gaelic Grammar, by Duncan Reid, F.S.L.A., teacher of Gaelic in the High School of Glasgow." Such is the writing on the title page of a very useful and intelligible grammar, which was published in August, 1895. The author thus writes in his preface: "In compiling this course of Gaelic grammar, I have adopted the plan which I have followed during the last few years in teaching the students of the Gaelic class in the High School of Glasgow. It is chiefly intended as a text-book for Highland schools and pupil teachers, and is designed to meet the requirements of the Scotch Education Code. The ordinary student will find here sufficient material to enable him to acquire a good knowledge of Gaelic grammar. The exercises are carefully graded, and the selections for reading, towards the end, are from the standard works of some of the best writers of Gaelic prose and poetry." Though exception may be taken to portions of Reid's Grammar, it has to be admitted that it is very concise and simple, so that the ordinary student can easily obtain a sufficient knowledge of the language, whereby he can be enabled to appreciate its peculiar beauties, and to derive enjoyment from its treasures in prose and verse.