

the very air we breathe, Irish ; Davis, with a fire and force of expression that so attract Erin's true friends and madden her bitter enemies ; Mangan, whose obscure birth, barred him not from penning the melancholy songs of Ireland's suffering ; Goldsmith in his amusing and picturesque descriptions, tinged occasionally with a vein of sadness, and a host of others to whom pages have been devoted in praise of their productions, until finally we reach that shining light of our own day, Aubrey De Vere, the greatest living English poet. His poetry is solemn, ethereal, sublime, Catholic to the very core, too Catholic in fact to obtain its proper success among a band of scoffers, that have but scorn for the author who openly manifests his faith in saints and miracles. Looking back over the list of works with which these Irish names are linked, we may truly say with one of her gifted poets :

'Thyname lov'd Ireland shall live in thy song.'

To-day, Sir, when we think of orators, statesmen, novelists or journalists, a panorama of scenes passes before us, descriptions of which are coupled with the names of Irish authors. We see at a glance Ireland's beautiful rivers, her vine-clad hills, her limpid brooks, her blue mountains and her woods of green : We view Parliament in an uproar of excitement as Irish members pour forth their burning eloquence or succeed in overthrowing a strong "Coercion" Cabinet : Or we behold thousands sway to and fro, flags unfurl and handkerchiefs wave, as the young Irelander steps forth to address his audience, while cheer after cheer rends the air as he makes a happy hit during the course of an eloquent oration.

I know, Sir, I am expected to do justice to Erin's children, in every branch of her literature ; but when I am confronted with an almost infinite number of names, I feel how hopeless is my ability to cope with the task that has devolved upon me.

Let us content ourselves with the names of a few of Erin's children that belong to the class I have mentioned above. Swift leads the van, lighting up our lonesome hours with his wit, repartee and humor. Edmund Burke is recognized by all as the greatest statesman of modern times, while his eloquence places his name in the same rare category as that of Demosthenes. Look now on this Honor Roll ! Can you find a nation whose sons equal, much less surpass it ? There is O'Connell of Emancipation fame ; Grattan, the last father of a "College Green" legislature ; Emmet, patriot-martyr, so cutting in his satire where Ireland's wrongs are concerned, and Curran who overwhelmed hostile judges and pugnacious opponents with storms of irony and sarcasm. Following these come Sheridan and Griffin the former ranking high among dramatic authors and the latter ever teaching us lessons in morality, Lover makes Irish mirth and fun the soul of a Handy Andy or a Rory O'Moore. Carleton gives us charming tales of Irish peasantry and Lever for dashing style and incomparable wit is without a parallel. Justin McCarthy, author of the "History of Our Own Times" is one of the foremost writers of the age. Sir Charles Russell is the leading jurist of modern Britain and the first Irish or Catholic Lord Chancellor of England. And last but not the least Hon. Edward Blake, too honest for Canadian politics, who left the land of his adoption to plead a holier cause in the Imperial parliament.

In the United States, so well-named "The greater Ireland beyond the Sea," in our own happy land of the pine and maple, and in far away Australia, countries that Irishmen so nobly helped to build, the same thing is repeated. What names are more closely connected with the rise and advance of literature than those that betray Irish blood ? Who lead the vanguard in literary competition ? The History of Ireland will tell you whence they sprung. In fact everywhere, you