LECTURE.

THOUGHTS ON THE LITERATURE OF IRELAND.

an interesting and Instructive Address melivered Before the C.Y.M.S.. on 28th January, 1892, by Professor W. McKay.

(Coachision.)

Tax grandeur and impressiveness of he scene when Burke rose to commence as great task were almost overwhelm-Macaulay, in his brilliant essay mg. Macaulay, in his brilliant essay on Warren Hustings, has painted it as only that great word-painter can describe such a scone. He has told us how the hard Chancellor Thurlow sat enthroued under a rich state canopy, the judges of the land in ermine by his side; how the relates of the Church in their lawnseeves and the peers in their robes, com-posed a venerable throng; how the Queen and peetesses in their brilliant dresses. and a bright galaxy of English beauties, througed the long galleries; how the queen of Tragedy, Mrs. Siddons, was conpiet, us in the prime of her majestic menty, looking with emotion on a scene

nd Macauley, with Bacon and Shakepearer of whom Lord Jeffrey said, "The prodest and the most accomplished inthat England has produced for enturies, and of a noble and loveable Let us pause here for an in-, this Scotchman, who would give the cont Scotchman in all his own writings. rights are we to sit by famely and sub-scribe to Scotchmen doing the same? it short Hall, in his Apoloun for the Freesem of the Press, wrote of Burke :- "His appeal largey has laid all nature under

salk of art." Hers is one of the dearest and brighest ames in English literatue. There is othing in the English language more coarming than the writings of Gold-south. His "Deserted Village" is a south. His "Deserted Village" is a great manufacture as long as the barglish language. It is a poem of the acart, and the heart guards it alike from criticism and analysis. A lofter niche timest be awarded to it than to "The Traveller." The sympathies it awakens are wider and deeper; its tenderness and are wider and deeper; its tenderness and pathos reach all hearts; in profound pathos teach all hearts; in profound of Grattan," wrote the illustrious Count forman interest it is unsurpassed. Even Barns. Beranger, and Elliot, in their tweet, a new world—the world of fremost impassioned songs, have never sur-

passed these noble lines :-"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey, Where wealth accumulates, and men decay: Princes and lords may flourish, or may fade; A breath can make them, as a breath has made: But a hold peasantry, their country's pride, When once destroyed, can never be supplied."

Like a noble piece of Greek sculpture, in which we can detect nothing super-thous, nothing wanting,—the marble seeming to glow with life.—the poem "Ah! dear, dear Grattan!" exclaims

contains nothing but pure poetry; and though limited in its range, and covering but a few pages, it has on it the stamp of immortality. One oft-quoted passage I cannot but cite once more,—it never palls. It is a picture of the poet's own longings, amid his sore trials in the din and roar of London,—aspirations, alas! never to be realized, and a potent reproof to England for attempting to rob us of this great genius, as she would fain do his distinguished countryman and friend Edmund Burke :-

'In all my wanderings through this world of In all my griefs,-and God has given my

share,— I still had hopes, my letest hours to crown, Amidst these humble bowers to lay me

Anidst these humble bowers to lay me down:
To husband out life's taper to the close, And keep the flame from wasting by repose: I still had hopes, for pride attends us still, Amidst the swains to shew my book-learn'd skill;
Around my fire an evening group to draw, And tell of all I fell, and all I saw;
And as a hare, whom hounds and horns pursue.
Pants to the place from whence at first she flew,

I still had hopes, my long vexations past, Here to return—and die at home at last." The "Vicar of Wakefield," according to Goldsmith himself, is a work with a hundred faults, and yet Goethe, the Shakspeare of Germany, fell in love with this prose-idyl. How striking to find to anty, looking with emotion on a scene this king of modern literature, the great surpassing all the imitations of the stage; and wise Goethe, sitting as a scholar at the feet of the simple-hearted Trishman, Empire and Parr the great classical and owning his obligations to this char-er clar, and Reynolds the famous paints ming tale. He writes thus:—"It is not an bad left their studies to gaze upon to be described, the effect that Goldin sector. There, too," he says, "were smith's Wear' had upon me just at the said a ound the queen, the fair-haired critical moment of mental development, taughters of the House of Brunswick. That lofty and henovolem irony,—that are and indugent view of all infirmities world, will in the future, as they have in the past, honor themselves in honoring changes and changes and the whole train of kindred virtues, whatever names they hear, proved my hear all genius, whose fame must survive with the past, honor themselves in honoring the plustrious name of Daniel O'Connel. Such were some of the men of Irish genius, and at this distance of time, whatever names they hear, proved my hear all genius, whose fame must survive with the past, honor themselves in honoring the plustrious name of Daniel O'Connel. Such were some of the men of Irish genius, whose fame must survive with the past, honor themselves in honoring the past, honor themselves in h comme ocation occupied the sittings of train of kindred virtues, whatever and the whole sold advantage of the sitting of train of kindred virtues, whatever genius, whose fame must survive with mames they bear, proved my best education; and in the end, these are the thoughts and feelings which have reclaimed us from all the errors of life."

Nor did Goethe's estimate of the Universal such were some of the men of Irish genius, whose fame must survive with increasing splendor the foot-prints of the the Creator is written across the blue canopy of the heavens, to remind us of accommends of impeaciment in his hands alter as years increased. At the age of according a testimony towards heaven, he eighty-one, on the brink of the grave, he is streaming eyes, told how his agents anabated delight, "read the charming to an enumeration of the Irishnen who distinguished themselves in metrics in the history of Ireland as illustrative of the great Irish heart told a friend that he had recently, with its streaming eyes, told how his agents anabated delight, "read the charming the continuous continuous and the property of the great Irish heart and race. I should fear to trust myself to an enumeration of the Irishnen who distinguished themselves in meters and the charming the continuous conti ind streaming eyes, told how his agents (unabated delight, "read the charming had inflored numeritionable tortures on thock from beginning to end, not a little thock at the charming hook from beginning to end, not a little thousand the reign of the last hook at the true presence of their parents. The child been indebted to the author of the chard agency of the audience could not be twen the charming the charming the reign of the last thor, sevently years before." Soft Walter thor, sevently years before. Soft has also finely said of the Vicar: of Frazer, of Tom Moore, "the poet of all things to a sympathetic indignation memory of the author who contrives so of Tennyson; the time when Sam Lover commenced to charm with pen and pendicular to the present the reign of the last this is the period of Pront, author of the Bells of Shandon, of Magian Editor of Frazer, of Tom Moore, "the poet of all the reign of the last this is the period of Pront, author of the Bells of Shandon, of Magian Editor of Frazer, of Tom Moore, "the poet of all the reign of the last the second of Pront, author of the Bells of Shandon, of Magian Editor of Frazer, of Tom Moore, "the poet of all the reign of the last this is the period of Pront, author of the Bells of Shandon, of Magian Editor of Frazer, of Tom Moore, "the poet of all the properties of the reign of the last the second of Pront, author of the Bells of Shandon, of Magian Editor of Frazer, of Tom Moore, "the poet of all the properties of the reign of the last the second of Pront, author of the Bells of Shandon, of Magian Editor of Frazer, of Tom Moore, "the poet of all the properties of the Pront, author of the Bells of Shandon, of Magian Editor of the Pront, author of the Bells of Shandon, of Magian Editor o arbitists of sympathetic indignation memory of the author was concrives so as when the voice of the orator—Mrs. well to reconcile us to human nature." Is this not true fame? Nay, is not this if y admitted that all stage effect sank to not pluggess in presence of such a charm alike the simplest and the sagest proposed was seen to the child and the philosopher? That the child and the philosopher? That accused was seen to are pale, and Thurlow for once shed a charm alike the simplest and the sagest popularity the assemblies at Holland popularity and the popularity and the Holland po he always seemed to do best that which she assumed by her marriage with Nation Hastings of high crimes and assembled to the was doing, a man who had the art of being minute without tediousness, and to the Commons House of Parliar guage was copious without exuberance.

The always seemed to do best that which within the being minute without tediousness, and to the Earl of Derby. From a poverties the home in a back street of Cork she won her way honorably and fairly to a Ducal mansion, and to the highest cent, whose trust he has betrayed. I include the final in the name of the finglish nation, whose ancient honor he cased in the name of the finglish nation, whose ancient honor he cased without extraint, and easy without exuberance. But Goldsmith possessed a surer title than even the words and Balfe, as the journals of the country repeatedly tell us, holds rank as the first of the renowned Johnson could give him of the first of the renowned Johnson could give him of the first of the renowned Johnson could give him of the first of the to our admiration. By his works we of English musicians, if not the founder to the fact that the first of the founder of the form and that the first of the founder to our admiration. By his works we of English musicians, if not the founder of the five all drama of England. The popularity of Ballie's music renders it almost both says in the manner to get the first of the first of the first of the founder of the five all drama of the first of th

proof of his reputation amongst his con-There are a bequated as the representative of a numerous class of his unity never the last he is an illustrious of a want great possibilities are in this partial possibilities are in the last he is and a noble example. Jamus Letters to his pen. But though we claim from Mrs. North and Lady Burke was not the author another Irish nan was a mobile example; and a noble example; and his pension of the least of each young generation of Irish. May many arise to tread in his pension of the English House of Commons. And a most the stemastic pension of the English House of Commons. Lord Brougham and Lord Macaulay, Lord Brougham and Lord Macaulay, and Pool Anground Boll Dorgen and Lord Propagation. Lord Brougham and Lord Macaulay, Campbell and Mahon, have united in expressing conviction that Francis was the ultiment of such men as Mackintoish author of the letters; and all subsequent research has tended to strengthen their arguments. That the secret of his identity would perish with him was the hoast of Junius: but the application of patient industry and analytical genius dark, and contemplate the importmence and established on an impregnable basis the fact that Junius was Sir Philip memity of one of our greatest country- Francis, the Irishman, and none other. Francis, the Irishman, and none other. During this period, wrote Henry Burke, the reconsidered himself or any of his wordstinguished countrymen, as ether an sons of 'Auld Scotian'. If England as robbed us of everything great and oble in our literature for ages, as she as done for centuries with our political. as done for centuries with our political under the protection of Pope. The government are we to sit by tamely and subject the ground tetused to Pope one of his plays, "Gustavus Vasa," because of the boldness of the language and the fearless expression of political opinions; but Brooke had numerous and influential friends; the play was published by subribute, and has collected riches from very scene of the creation and every scription, and netted £1,000. Speaking of his celebrated novel, the "Fool of Quality," the Rev. Charles Kingsley has said that "the mind of the man who wrote it was a hundred years in advance

of his time in political and religious

"By reading the admirable speeches land, her sublime geniuses and her indefatigable struggles." No government over dismayed him; the world could not bribe him; he thought only of Ireland, lived for no other object; dedicated to her his beautiful fancy, his manly courage, and all the splendor of his astonishing eloquence. He was the first power-

one of his eloquent countrymen, "kindly

Irish of the Irish—all our own!"

To this period belongs the witty and versatile John Philpot Curran, the fearless advocate of liberty,

Whose mind was an essence compounded with art, From the finest and best of all other meu's powers, Who ruled like a wizard the world of the heart.
And could call up its sunshine, or call down its showers."

In one of his magnificent flights of eloquence, during the celebrated state trials, he said of the press: What then remains? The liberty of the press only—that sacred palladium which no influence has power no government. fluence, no power, no government, which nothing but the depravity, or folly. or corruption of a jury can destroy." I destroy her nationality, yet Ireland is must pass over Flood, Plunkett, Shiel, and Whiteside, and an array of great enjoy political independence; but she names, and come to one that I have no still has her national literature, her need to mention. Wherever oratory is admired, or freedom cherished, or genius honored, there will the name of Daniel O'Connell thrill the hearts and fire the shamrock does not adorn? Where the souls of age after age, down through a l muse that has not visited her hills and future time. He was, perhaps, the greatest representative of the Irish na- soul of the warrior and soothed the sortion that ever lived. As the Liberator and Emancipator he was the true exemplar of his people and the religion of his country. He was the grandest Christian statesman the world has ever seen.

"A combination and a form, indeed, Where every god did seem to set his seal matter the world assurance of a man."

"A combination and a form, indeed, Where every god did seem to set his seal matter the world assurance of a man."

I have no need to praise him. The Lacordaires of France, the Venturas of Italy, the Burkes of Ireland, the Phillipnames appear in the history of Ireland

may be satisfied to mode that and to finder that standard, the best of all, he may long sleep secure in the permanent the common entiny and appressor of ad "The triumph of the person of ad "The triumph of the may long sleep secure in the person of ad "The triumph of the may long sleep secure in the person of ad "The triumph of the may long sleep secure in the person of add "The triumph of the man long and the may long sleep secure in the person of add "The triumph of the may long sleep secure in the person of add "The triumph of the may long sleep secure in the person of the most unnecessary to say anything about the may long sleep secure in the person of the may long sleep secure in the person of the may long sleep secure in the person of the most unnecessary to say anything about the may long sleep secure in the person of the may long sleep secure in the person of the may long sleep secure in the person of the may long sleep secure in the person of the may long sleep secure in the person of the may long sleep secure in the person of the may long sleep secure in the person of the person of the may long sleep secure in the person of the may long sleep secure in the person of the person of the may long sleep secure in the person of the person of the may long sleep secure in the person of the may long sleep secure in the person the person of the may long sleep secure in the person of the person of the may long sleep secure in the person of the person of the person of the person of the may long sleep secure in the person of the person of the may long sleep secure in the person of the may long sleep secure in the person of the per of them. Amongst the lady authoresses we claim Hon. Mrs. Norton and Lady and Read, Anster and Bell, Doran and Knightly, Dufferin and Grattan, the Sullivan brothers, and a host of others. must close this brief, but imperfect, enumeration. To dwell longer on a dry list of names would but transgress the bounds of propriety. Yet, pardon me, ladies and gentlemen, if in the warmth of my Celtie blood, I be carried away by enthusiasm, when I behold in the literary firmament that brilliant galaxy of geniuses that shone so resplendently in the darkest hour of Ireland's history Where is the Irishman whose heart is not fired at the bare mention of the men of 48? Where, on the scroll of fame, can there be found such a combination

of natural endowments as characterized or natural endowments as characterized the more than Spartan band that strove so valiantly to shake off the galling chains of centuries. But all her children have not walked in the footsteps of worthies "of bad eminence," Froude and Findle, they are the product of Transcriptor. Fyndale, they are the products of Ireland's rich, luxurious soil. For

She is a rich and rare land. Oh! she's a fresh and fair land; She is a dear and rare land This native land of mine.

No men than hers are braver; Her women's hearts n'er waver; I'd freely die to save her, And think my lot divine.

She's not a dull or cold land; No! she's a warm and bold land, th! she's a true and old land— This native land of mine.

Could beauty ever guard her, And virtue still reward her, No foe would cross her border, No friend within it pine.

Oh! she's a fresh and fair land; Oh! she's a true and rare had. Yes; she's a rare and fair land— This native land of mine."

With all that has been said, and considering the many Irishmen that in various countries are filling with honor the highest departments of social and political life-men of worth, soldiers, heroes, poets, patriots and divines—the future of Iroland is cheering. The same vitality, intellect and resources distinguish her to-day that distinguished TELEPHONE, 2690.

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her in the past. Though England has

"Erin! O, Erin! the long in the shade, Thy star shall shine out when the proudest shall fade."

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By order of the Board of Directors.

J. S. BOUSQUET, Cashler. Montreal, January, 28th, 1892. 29-4

LA BANQUE DU PEUPLE. Dividend No. 111.

The Stockholders of La Banque du Peuple are hereby notified that a Semi-Annual Dividend of three per cent. for the last six months has been declared on the capital stock and will be payable at the office of the Bank on and after Monday, the 7th March next.

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By order of the Board of Directors.

J. S. BOUSQUET, Cashier. Montreal, 29th January, 1893. 29 4



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