

must have been thus created in the development of the literature and customs of the Irish and Scottish Gaels.

"Ultonian Hero Ballads, collected in the Highlands and Western Isles of Scotland from the year 1510 and at successive periods till 1870"; such is the designation of a book which was published some time ago by Hector MacLean, under the auspices of the Islay Association. The Gaels of Islay evince a laudable willingness and liberality to honour and befriend any native of their island who succeeds in making a name for himself in the domain of Gaelic learning. To that number belonged the late Hector MacLean, who arranged and translated the Ultonian Hero Ballads. He has rendered in other respects important services to the cause of Gaelic literature. He was an able coadjutor of the late Mr. Campbell, who compiled "Leabhar Feinne." "The large amount," Mr. MacLean writes, "of Irish Saga literature belonging to the Ultonian cycle dates in its form back to the tenth century, and there is MS. tradition of part of it extending back to the seventh century. Different forms of the same Saga can be discriminated as far back as there are means of research, and these Sagas have undergone the same harmonising process, but not the same euhemerising process as the earliest annals. The same mediæval school was conspicuous in this one case as in the other. These ballads have for many centuries been sung and rehearsed in the Highlands." Mr. MacLean has made an important beginning in investigating a department of literature which concerns Irish and Scottish Gaels alike, and which demands much more extensive study than it has yet received.

Iain Lom MacDonald is one of the most talented and satirical poets in the entire range of Gaelic poetry. The largest and best collection of the poems of this famous bard was published some time ago in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. The Rev. A MacLean Sinclair, who prepared the collection in question, has already gained for himself a great reputation for his unremitting devotion to Gaelic literature, and to the perpetuation of Gaelic poetry. He takes an affecting leave of his labours in behalf of Iain Lom in these words: "Beannachd leat Iain Luim, chuir mise d'orain a mach cho maith 's cho ceart 's a b' urraun mi. Tha mian doch as gu tig aon eiginn am dheigh a ni na's fhearr."

"Lyra Celtica" is the name of an anthology of representative Celtic poetry, which is edited by Elizabeth A. Sharp, with an introduction and notes by William Sharp. The "Lyra Celtica" was published during 1896. It is a large, varied and interesting collection of Celtic poetry, containing, as it does, ancient Irish and Scottish poems, ancient Cornish and early Armorican poems, early Cymric and mediæval Welsh; Irish modern and contemporary Scoto-Celtic, (middle period), modern and contemporary Scoto-Celtic, contemporary Anglo-Celtic poets (Wales), contemporary Anglo-Celtic poets (Manx), contemporary Anglo-Celtic poets (Cornish), modern contemporary Breton, the Celtic Fringe. Miss Sharp has accordingly travelled over a very extensive field in her desire to gather poetical flowers for her Celtic anthology. It is remarked in the preface, that the volume "is no more than an early, and in a sense merely arbitrary, gleanings from an abundant harvest."

Of recent years, we have had many works of the greatest value in Celtic ethnology, philology, history, archaeology, art, legendary ballads and romance, folk-lore and literature. In the national libraries of Great Britain alone it is estimated that if all the unedited MSS. were printed they would fill at least 1,200 or 1,400 octavo volumes. Though the songs and poems and ballads that the "Lyra Celtica" contains appear in an English dress, it is possible, however, for the student to discern the peculiarities of the mind and heart, of the thoughts and feelings, customs and manners of the various Celtic races. There are to be found side by side in the "Lyra Celtica" translations of the songs and poems that were wont to be sung and to be admired in distant days of Celtic warfare and exploits by Welsh and Cornish and Armorican Celts, and by Irish and Scottish Gaels and Manxmen. There must be those who, elated by the strong vitality which is pulsating now through the arteries and veins of the Celtic races, will call in question