

children in comparison. They do not know what the words 'poetry' and 'poet' mean." These are strong words, but they are buttressed by such striking examples, obviously the fruit of full knowledge and experience of what he advances in his essay, that we cannot refuse the man who uses them our assent. For compare any of the examples he cites with the mass of what passes as songs of the Irish peasant, where a dozen stock-words in a brogue never heard off the stage or met with outside the pages of a vapid novel, are made to do service over and over again, and you are at once struck by the superiority of the original.

Following the lead of the Hierarchy and appreciating the intensity and popularity of a movement which in a quiet but inevitable way had drawn to it the brightest minds and clearest thinkers of the country, the Irish Parliamentary Party have pressed upon the attention of the British Government, not wholly in vain, the claims of their national language to recognition in the *curricula* of the primary and intermediate schools of the country. Then everyone has heard of that scene, not altogether grotesque, in the House of Commons last session when Thos. O'Donnell, one of the members for Kerry, addressed the speaker in Irish, and suffered expulsion for his persistence in continuing his speech in what he termed "the tongue of his country." The incident gave a perceptible impetus to the movement, for it roused public attention to a degree to which it had never been roused before in regard to the subject. Mr. O'Donnell's scheme to utilize the presence of certain of the National School teachers at four sea-side resorts in his county as teachers of Irish classes during the last vacation may prove as successful as it is novel.

In addition to classes in schools and colleges, numerous branches of the Gaelic League, as the movement has come to be designated, have been formed, and at these the old language is systematically taught. The recent recognition of the language by the Government, as an optional subject in the scheme of Intermediate Examinations, and in the National School course, has given the movement a status; and, what is more to the point, it has strengthened a vital element of the project,—its permanency.