

THE SPECTATOR.

Parva Magni Nominis Umbra.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY DURING THE SESSION.

VOL. III.

ST. LAURENT COLLEGE, MONTREAL, MARCH 4, 1882.

No. VIII

ERIN'S ISLE.

D. E. M.

There's an island in the ocean,
'Neath the British tyrant's sway,
And the sad and piteous moaning
Of its people wends its way
' Cross the broad high-waved Atlantic,
And it rolls along the spray,—
Swelling 'bove the tempest's fury,
Sounding louder every day.

Now 'tis crossed those threatening waters,
And the shore is reached at last,—
Now the whistling winds have caught it,
And they bear it onward fast :
List!—a bleeding people's groaning,
'Tis a groaning never past,
Always coming, never going,
It is heard in every blast.

Why this plaintive moaning coming
From that land beyond the sea ?
Would'st thou know it, kindly reader ?
Listen, then, awhile to me :
Many years have come and vanished
Since our Emerald Isle was free,
Then it prospered, aye, 'twas happy,
For 'twas filled with freedom's glee ;

But a tyrant trampled on it,
And its grandeur took its flight—
Fled as fast before his footsteps
As the day before the night ;
And its soil became as barren
As the hardened syenite,
While lank famine crushed the country,
And Death swayed with mad delight.

Millions died ! Still, thousands dying !
Shall it be forever so ?
Was a nation e'er created
To experience naught but woe,—
Ne'er to taste the sweets of freedom,
Ever trampled by her foe ?
Hark ! great Heaven, nay, loudly answers,
Wakening Justice echoes—no !

NATURE'S NOBLEMEN.

B. W.

In this our age of progress and enlightenment it may seem old-fashioned to speak of those homely virtues which formerly were much practiced, but which in our day are sadly neglected. Smartness seems to be a characteristic of these times ; not that quality which bespeaks uncommon ability or extraordinary genius, but rather a species of cunning which often is mistaken for shrewdness. While a certain amount of this latter useful quality is indispensable if one would not be imposed upon, yet to

many it seems to be their principal stock in trade, and is oftentimes another name for open deception. The tendency of the present day is to depart from the old land-marks and guide-posts erected by our forefathers, and to stray into devious and winding paths which are beset by many perils. Unless this headlong, dangerous course is checked, unforeseen disasters may cause the rising generation to reflect whether they are treading, and cause them to retrace their wayward steps. From day to day the public prints contain accounts of men, occupying high positions, who fall from their lofty eminences, with good name and reputation lost, future prospects blasted, on account of their unavailing efforts to keep up appearances, or their weakness in resisting temptations. It is refreshing to turn from these to another class, whom it is a pleasure to designate as Nature's Noblemen.

True nobility of nature springs from a kindly heart, from one which beats in sympathy with all that is good and noble. Nature's noblemen are those whose hearts are touched by distress, whose lips are ever ready to speak an encouraging word, whose hands are ever prepared to extend kindly aid, who shrink not when their adherence to principle have cost them many sacrifices, who scorn to take a mean advantage in order to further their own interests ; they are those who throw the cloak of charity over the imperfections of others, knowing that a brother has but stumbled in the path which they in weakness trod ; who are not always on the alert to detect a flaw in the character of another, who hold the reputation of others as something sacred, who see in the world some goodness and beauty, not all evil and deformity. Nature's noblemen may possess wealth and titles or they may be humble, obscure toilers, yet the seal of true nobility is stamped upon their brow, and their influence, silent, yet no less potent, is always exerted for good. They are not vain of the gifts which God has given them, but rather employ them for His honor and glory and for the good of their fellow-men. They are benefactors who alleviate human misery, who are satisfied if their good deeds are seen by One All-Watchful Eye ; finally, they are men who live for a purpose, and who, therefore, live not in vain.

Greatness is ever allied with simplicity. History affords numberless examples of those