

modes of thought and expression I cannot say," he points out, "that I have been very fortunate in coming across, amongst those peasants, people whom I have personally found interesting. It has always seemed to me that those characteristics which are most worthy of recognition amongst them have clung to them from the past, and remained with them in spite of their present training—training which, in defiance of history and common sense, is exactly the same in character as that bestowed upon the townsmen of Birmingham, or the cockneys of London. I do not think that three generations of this teaching have succeeded in making intelligent Englishmen out of the natives of the Bog of Allen; but I am quite certain it has entirely spoilt their spontaneity of intelligence and naturalness of expression, and cramped and warped in a curious psychological way a people whose instincts are strongly Irish, but whose training and models are foreign and English."

The second class of peasantry Dr. Hyde finds to be those who, whilst residing on the Irish-speaking borderland, are yet exclusively English-speaking in spite of the fact that the older section of the population still use the Irish language as the ordinary means of verbal communication. "These," he declares, referring to the former, "are, perhaps, the stupidest and most ignorant people in the British Isles. They have lost all that their parents had, and the National School system . . . has been utterly unable to replace it by anything of value."

According to the President of the Gaelic League, the third class of peasantry comprises the bi-linguist and purely Irish-speaking people, of whom he has this to say:

"These have all conserved the traditional traits of their race, and, so far as my observation goes, they alone possess an interesting inner life, cherish an almost universal love of song, story and music, and possess a great facility of picturesque expression. They make use of the pointed sayings and astute aphorisms which the Irish language abounds in, and delight in conversational repartee. It is amongst those people, "he acknowledges," I have been chiefly successful in gathering folk-lore and folk-song, which they possess to an almost incredible extent. It is nothing for a man who can neither read nor write to repeat dozens of poems,