

striking the imagination of his own people with a sense of romance, and even magic—that fully to make clear his position and significance to the outside reader is a task of subtle difficulty. When all his distinction and achievements as scholar, poet, folklorist, and, in a very striking sense, national interpreter and leader, are recounted, there is still lacking the vital something which makes the real romance of the story.

It is best to begin at the beginning. It is, indeed, fitting and necessary. He now represents a movement, or if one may so describe it, a national frame of mind, which nobody could have foreseen in his youth; yet in his very childhood all unconsciously he prepared for it. The son of a Protestant clergyman in North Connacht, he was drawn, wonderingly, as a little boy to the firesides of the Catholic peasantry around him, and the songs and stories in the Irish language that shortened, as the saying is, the long Western nights. Soon he fared to firesides and storytellers farther afield, waking at once the surprise and affection of the people. They called him '*An Craoibhin Aoibhinn*' (an Kreev-cen Eev-en), 'the delightful little branch,' a designation which he afterwards adopted as his pseudonym, and by which he is affectionately known all over Ireland. At that time neither his own class nor the vast majority of Irish folk of the national persuasion, or of literary predilection, took the slightest interest in the Irish language, the literature, traditions, the lights and shadows of the 'race mind' enshrined in it. It was a 'Celtic fringe' of no particular import, most even of those who betrayed an intellectual interest in it treating it as an antiquarian study. The boy Hyde, however, came in contact with it in Roscommon and Sligo as a living reality, and the natural expression of a life whose ways and moods and character were after his own heart. When he went to Trinity College, Dublin, where he achieved high scholastic distinction, he still remained, in the imaginative order, a child of the Gaelic-speaking West. A college friend—now well known in the London political world—tells of his astonishment the day he discovered that his brilliant associate, till then identified in his mind with classic and modern culture, was addicted to 'dreaming in Irish,' and even writing poetry in that tongue for some of the Irish-American papers.

As undergraduate young Hyde gained first honors in German and French, and first prize in Celtic and Italian. He won gold medals in modern literature, in Celtic literature, in English composition, in history and in oratory. He took the degree of B. A., LL.B., and LL.D., (1887), leaving T. C. D. with a brilliant repu-