

sermons set down for the ceremony. The newspaper mentioned devotes a column or more of its space weekly to the publication in Celtic type of articles, legends, and short stories written in Irish.

As in a similar but a restricted attempt a half century ago, one of the most conspicuous figures in the movement,—indeed its president,—is a Protestant, Dr. Douglas Hyde, who, though not so strong or popular a poet as his prototype, Thomas Davis, is yet a distinguished man of letters. He is a graceful and forcible writer, a frequent contributor to the leading magazines and the author of several fine works, notably, "The Literary History of Ireland," which is a mine of wealth for the Gaelic student. He speaks and writes Irish with as much ease and force as English. He was born and brought up in Irish-speaking Connaught, and in an environment which has left its impress upon his work, for of present-day writers, he is the most Celtic we have. Like Davis, also, he is a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin. To both, however, the spiritual, no less than the literary, treasures of the Irish language have, clearly, appealed, their writings showing a breadth and Catholicity of view, which are not a characteristic of their *alma mater*. Davis's well-known essay on "Our National Language," and Hyde's recent contribution on the same subject to *The Pilot*, London, wherein he argues that a knowledge of the old tongue differentiates, in certain intellectual traits, the people of the Irish-speaking districts from the vast majority of their fellow-countrymen in other parts of Ireland, have much in common. The limits of the present paper forbid a formal comparison of the two essays, but a few short extracts from Dr. Hyde's, to indicate the grounds upon which he bases his argument, are essential here.

"There are," he says, "exclusive of the variations produced by blood and locality, three broad classes of Celtic peasants to-day, who, although of the same stock, history and environment, are in consequence of artificial training, of wholly different intellectual complexion and capacity.

"There is first the Celtic peasantry of the eastern counties, whose native language has been English for two or three generations, and from whose minds the schools established by the English Government have made a clean sweep of past tradition and native