

has literally thrilled the country. His movement has become more than a mere language movement. He aims at a rebirth of the imaginative and aesthetic life of Ireland, the moulding anew of Irish national ideals, and the stamping out of the cheap, vulgar books and vulgarer songs that were coming to Ireland from England. There is a new intellectual life in Ireland and the fame of Douglas Hyde's great work has gone abroad and has attracted the attention of scholars and has thrilled the hearts of Irishmen in many distant lands. His devotion to his ideals has been an inspiring spectacle in an age that seems to worship only money and material success.

Possibly nothing could better express the spirit animating Dr. Hyde and his associates than the following lines of Walt Whitman:

"Will you seek afar off? You surely come back at last,
In thingst best known to you finding the best, or as good as
the best;
In folks nearest to you finding the sweetest, strongest, loving-
est;
Happiness, knowledge not in another place but this place—not
for another hour but this hour."

He does not believe that material progress is all a nation should strive for. He believes in a return to the best national traditions. He is a master of language. He has the eloquence, the enthusiasm, the optimism of his race, an intense and great idealism. In Ireland his voice is heard clear, strong, hopeful, inspiring. His life has been a successful life. He has saved a noble language. He has inspired a people. He has laid the foundations of a new literature and himself has written undying poetry and created a new form of Irish drama. All the charm and beauty of his native land, all that is enchanting in its past, all the best in the ideal sense that may be hoped for its future, is expressed in his ideals and the ideals of his associates. He has striven to lay broad and deep the foundations of an Irish Ireland, to realize his dream of a new and beautiful Ireland and he has succeeded beyond his fondest dreams.

Such a poet and such a leader of men is rare in the history of a nation. Such success of purpose and of achievement as has fallen to his lot is rare in the history of a race.

"Dr. Douglas Hyde is so decidedly a Force, and one of such peculiar charm and appeal—one that inspires so much affection,