

tion which it has possessed for so many men of genius; and Duffy made his first entrance into public life as a reporter in the now extinct *Dublin Morning Register*. While connected with the *Register* young Duffy made for himself a name not alone for marked ability, but for sturdy independence, which was afterwards one of his marked characteristics. After a brief time spent on the *Register*, he was invited to Belfast to conduct the *Vindicator* newspaper. Belfast and Ulster soon discerned that, in the paper which he directed, there was a force of thought and expression which was not limited to questions of sect or province, but extended to the consideration of a country's welfare. There the young editor must have first beheld the *Emancipator*, coming now for another purpose into the cloudland of the North, where the storm his first work had raised burst against him. "The Philistines are upon thee, Samson." The year following, at Newry, Mr. Duffy welcomed another Regenerator in the person of Father Mathew, who, unshaken by fear of injury, came, and, with a more than human power allayed the tempest, harmonised the warring elements, and accomplished his God-given mission. His very presence seemed a benediction. Blessing all men, without respect of parties, as children of one Father, he won a greeting from the hostile land and a blessing from cursing lips. He was the true Liberator of Ulster, for he taught the Protestant to esteem a priest, the Catholic to forgive a foe, and both the brotherhood of man.

In 1842 Duffy came to Dublin for a brief visit. The young provincial editor, rapidly rising into note, met in the metropolis other men as young, as ardent, and as brilliant as himself. One of these was a lawyer, just called, with a great passion for archeology. His name was Thomas Davis. Another was John B. Dillon, whose loss we have years since mourned. A notable idea was started by one of the friends. It was acted on at once, and, in a few days afterwards, a new weekly paper, with Charles Gavan Duffy as its editor, appeared in Dublin. The name of that newspaper was the *Nation*. It rose at once into enormous circulation and popularity, and Charles Gavan Duffy became one of the most famous men in Ireland. He flung himself heart and soul into the cause of Repeal, and the Government, on a memorable occasion, paid a signal tribute to his services. In 1843, together with Dr., now Sir John, Gray, of the *Freeman's Journal*, and Mr. Barrett, of the *Pilot*, he had the honor to be included in the same indictment

with the great Tribune, and to share his imprisonment in Richmond Bridewell. Of the nine who underwent that "hundred days' captivity," but three—Duffy, Gray, and Ray—survive. The Liberator and his son, Fathers Tyrell and Tiernan, Barrett and "honest Tom Steele," are gone. The prose of the long State trial was diversified by some ringing poems extracted from the new journal. This element had been given it, not by poetic southerners, as an English writer might fancy, but by the Ulster editor, who having begun the attempt in Belfast, had now set his heart upon it. It was time. The voice of Moore's muse fading away in melodious music, now thrilling, now plaintive, like Killarney echoes, had ceased. The spirit of song awoke again; the "pulse of the bards" once more throbbed high with the vigour of new life. Poems of all kinds abounded. In March, 1843, some of the *Nation* poems were gathered into a small book; in the autumn of 1844, another followed. Some of the finest poems were from Duffy's pen. His famous ballad, "The Rising of the North," excited the most passionate interest, not alone in this country, but in England, and was honoured with an article of the *Times*, in which its tendencies were denounced and its genius lauded to the skies. The marvellous success which attended their appearance encouraged the Young Ireland party to publish a quarto edition, with music, which became immediately popular wherever the English language was spoken. In the summer of the same year appeared another volume of verse, "The Ballad Poetry of Ireland," an excellent collection, to which was prefixed an admirable introduction by Mr. Duffy, dealing with the question of the popular poetry of the country. In December he edited a selection of the Essays of Thomas Davis, whose labour had done so much to create a new spirit and a new literature in the land, and whose early death smote with sorrow the hearts of all men. The works named formed part of a series projected by Mr. Duffy for the higher education of the country. The learning and intellect of Davis had given it a potent impulse, and the devotedness of other able writers made it possible and crowned it with success. These publications must always be cited as one of the principal permanent results of the stir and bustle of their times.

In the meantime, while the bards and writers of the *Nation* were gaining for that journal a world-wide reputation, the drama of Irish poli-