

THE GAELIC MOVEMENT.



ONE can scarcely realize, without some examination of its elements, how deep and widespread is that feeling which for the past five or six years has taken form and colour in what is known as the Gaelic movement, or in other words, as the organized effort to revive the Irish language, not only in Ireland itself, but in that greater Ireland which has gone out from the old mother to the uttermost ends of the earth. For one thing, the movement has thus far commanded the respect and enlisted the sympathy of all creeds and classes in the old land and wherever else it has taken hold. In Ireland, the Hierarchy not only approve of it, but are amongst its most ardent supporters, declaring in regard to it at one of their meetings at Maynooth not very long ago, that in the districts in which Irish has ceased to be spoken it should be taught as an optional subject in the schools, and that in portions of the country where Irish is still the only spoken language, it be made the medium of instruction in the schools of those localities, which, as need hardly be said, constitute but a narrow fringe of the country along the western sea-board from Cork to Donegal. The press, with an unanimity little short of amazing, commends it, and offers it every encouragement practicable. Almost every man of prominence in Irish public life to-day favours it.

That was a memorable event which quite recently occurred in the north of Ireland, when at the opening of the Letterkenny cathedral amid circumstances that made the occasion a national as well as religious one, and which drew to it the eyes of the sea-divided Gael, one of the sermons of the event was preached in Irish by a distinguished member of the Irish Hierarchy, Dr. McCormick, the eloquent Bishop of Galway. It was published, appropriately enough, in the same number of the "Dublin Freeman" as contained the sermon in English which was delivered on the same occasion by the great Archbishop of Dubuque, a native of Donegal, who had been invited by the Irish Cardinal,—himself by the way one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the movement for the revival of Gaelic,—to preach one of the two