

mansion, all roof and windows. Phil Redmond's feelings, as he gazed on the home he had never known save by hearsay, were of a varied and conflicting nature. He had pictured it a feudal stronghold towering over an extensive lake such as America boasts of—a diminutive ocean—a battlemented castle, with keep and moat and drawbridge, ivy-grown in the interests of the picturesque and plated in the interests of modern sunlight.

"Good heavens!" he exclaimed involuntarily, "how unlike what I conceived it to be. What a cruel disappointment!"

So rudely were his ideas shattered, and so bitterly the pride of baronial halls mortified, that the poor fellow's heart felt quite crushed. Whether Miss O'Byrne saw this or whether Doaty saw it is not the question here; but *certainly*, that admirable little brute gave a loud neigh as a trumpet-call to Redmond's scattered senses, and evinced for the first moment during the preceding half-hour a desire to proceed upon his homeward journey.

"Papa does not visit, Mr. Redmond," said Miss O'Byrne, as she grasped the reins upon resuming her seat in the basket upon the wheels; "but I shall ask him to call upon you, when I may hope for something like a formal introduction. How half an hour flies upon the wings of *sans ceremonie*!" And with a delicious inclination of the head, half-saucy, half-dignified, and wholly *piquante*, she disappeared at the turn of the road leading into the valley.

"Heigho-h!" sighed Philip Redmond of Ballymaeedy.

(To be continued.)

INVERCARGILL CATHOLIC LITERARY SOCIETY.

THE usual weekly meeting of the above Society was held in the Boys' School, Liddell street, on Thursday, the 23rd ult. The chair was occupied by the president, Mr P. Reid. There was a fair attendance. Mr. R. Cowley and Mr. C. Decy were unanimously elected members, and the last named gentleman was initiated. After some routine business had been dealt with.

The programme intended for the evening was to be a Court Case, but owing to the plaintiff (Mr. Lawlor) not being present, the case could not be proceeded with. Nevertheless that being a failure, the programme that was got up and given during the evening was not a failure; but was, perhaps, one of the most enjoyable entertainments given at the meeting for some time previous. The first part consisted of an essay on "Good Reading," which was given by Mr. Gilfedder in a very able manner.

Mr. Gilfedder said: "You are all aware, no doubt, that reading is a subject of very much importance, as it is the great medium through which we hold communication with the outer world, and the means by which we obtain an acquaintance with matters which lie out of the sphere of our own direct observation. How unhappy must be the state and how superficial the knowledge of the man who cannot read, for his ideas must be limited to what little he can obtain from oral instruction, and from personal experience and observation; but happy is the lot of the man who can read all literature open to him—in fact, he has the key of all human knowledge in his possession. He can make himself acquainted with the researches of the historian the imaginations of the past, and the investigations and discoveries of the philosopher. It is undoubtedly a great acquisition to the mental faculties to be able to read, yet a grander gift to intellectual refinement is the ability to read well; and as society regards bad reading as a sign of inferior education, we should persistently endeavour to improve in this simple mechanical art. The chief characteristics of good reading are fluency, intelligence, and expressiveness. Fluency depends upon accuracy ease and distinctness combined; Intelligence upon a clear insight into the subject read; and expressiveness upon fluency and intelligence as well as upon intellectual refinement and sympathy with the author; and in order to secure these results we must read with due deliberation, with unaffected and natural tone and with distinct and forcible enunciation. It is a great folly indeed to endeavour to read too rapidly, as many people are inclined to do. A distinguished educationist says "Learn to read slow; all other graces will duly follow in their proper places." A good reader will regard the sense of what he is reading and pause and emphasize accordingly; by reading deliberately and pausing judiciously he is enabled to read for a longer time without fatigue, to give each word its proper pronunciation, and to keep sufficient breath in store for the emphatic words and aspirates when they occur; he is also able to let his eye run in advance of his voice, and thus he can better comprehend the meaning of what he is reading and be better prepared to grapple with difficult and jaw-breaking words when they appear. But he who reads too rapidly deprives himself of all these advantages. However, on he glides, regardless of laws, clause or pause until some polysyllabic teaser abruptly checks his headlong career, destroys the equilibrium of his equanimity, and blasts all his hopes of a reputation as a good reader. He quoted several instances in which most ludicrous blunders have been made on account of indistinct reading, and concluded by stating that whenever we hear a person read deliberately giving each word a distinct and correct pronunciation, with intellectual refinement, expressing sympathy with the author, with animated spirit and moderated voice, observing all the emphatic words and pausing judiciously at all the stops, and, finally, reading on with the same fluency and facility through difficult sentences as through the easy ones, we may fairly and rationally conclude that that person is a good reader.

Mr. Marlow in complimenting Mr. Gilfedder on the style of his paper, would concur with all the assertions contained in it, and thought that the members would be very much benefited by the essay. Mr. Cusack also congratulated the writer of the paper. In his opinion there was nothing contained in it that could be criticised; it was simply up to the standard of perfection.

Mr. Gilfedder received a hearty vote of thanks for his able composition.

The next part of the programme consisted of a debate.—"Is the Pledge necessary to the Cause of Temperance," was opened in the affirmative by Mr. Marlow, who gave a grand and fluent address in

its favour. He gave several instances of men who before taking the pledge had miserable homes, and whose children, he had seen to his own knowledge, to be shoeless, hatless, ragged, and neglected, and who were also strangers to the school, and by means of the pledge they had freehold sections now, and their children were respectable. He briefly referred to the benefits derived through the Rev. Father Hennebery during his mission throughout the Colony in that cause. He also spoke of the many attempts some men had made not to drink and failed, yet when these men took the pledge and had it to fall back on, they could keep sober, and strongly insisted that moderate drinkers should take the pledge to help on their weaker brethren. He (Mr. Marlow) was supported by Messrs W. J. McMillan, M. Gavin, B. Bradley, and M. O'Brien, while the negative side was supported by Mr. D. Brady, who gave a lengthy and earnest address, which perhaps could not be more elaborate had the subject been premeditated and which gained the appreciation of the majority of the members on being put by one vote and was supported by M. P. Mulligan, N. Gilfedder, J. Cusack, and J. McIntyre, several of the members who voted for the negative, did not vote conscientiously, but owing to the arguments brought forward in favour of its negation, being stronger than those produced by the affirmative, consequently they voted for the negative side.

As these two foregoing subjects did not fully occupy the time of the meeting, Mr. Gilfedder contributed a recitation, "Bingen on the Rhine," and considering this was his first attempt at the meeting he was very successful. He was followed by Mr. Cusack, who gave a reading from Irish History in his usual excellent style. Mr. Marlow rendered, "Somebody's Mother," and though a little nervous, owing to its being his first attempt, he succeeded in giving the recitation a fair interpretation; he moderates his voice to perfection almost. Mr. P. Reid gave the last item, a recitation, the "Power of the Sword" by T. D. Sullivan. It is not necessary for me to comment on that gentleman's abilities as an elocutionist, as he is an experienced elocutionist. He will not feel flattered by my notice of the fact, that he is quite a treat at the meetings of the Society, and no matter what the recitation may be that he undertakes to render, he is quite a master of it.

The programme for the next meeting will be a debate on "are Chinese detrimental to the prosperity of the Colony." Mr. Marlow and Mr. J. Crowley will support the negative side, while Mr. Cusack and Mr. O'Brien will support the affirmative side.

The meeting was closed in the usual form.

THE DIALECT PLAGUE.

JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS, author of the delightful "Uncle Remus" stories, has protested against the stream of rubbish printed in papers and magazines as "dialect" prose and poetry, by writers who think that bad spelling and worse grammar make up for the total lack of wit, humour and naturalness. Many besides Mr. Harris have groaned under the affliction of the ignoramuses, on the stage or in print, who, while unable to write or speak a sentence of decent English, fancy themselves able to "take off" the lingual lapses of other uneducated people.

There are yet others who think, like Mrs. Plornish "Little Dorritt," that broken English is a sort of tongue in itself, a *lingua franca* which all "foreigners" should understand in common. An educated man, and a Bostonian, recently applied to the Pilot Office for a point of information on Irish punctuation. To explain the purport of his question he showed a poem in the customary broken-English attempt at brogue, which he honestly believed to be the oral and written language of the Irish people!

As a matter of fact, it requires, genius, and genius of a high order, to reproduce any dialect. In addition to genius there must be sympathy. The writer who aims to ridicule is certain to overshoot his mark. Thackeray came nearest of any Englishman to catching the subtleties of the Irish speech, and anybody who has studied his *borgue* will readily see how much truer to nature it is where he only indulges in good-natured banter or affectionate humour than where he is actuated by national prejudice and hatred. In trying to ridicule O'Connell and the men of 1848 he loses the good temper, and consequently the artistic fidelity which he brought to the creation of his imaginary Irish heroes and heroines.

Where Thackeray failed, the more generous-souled American, George W. Cable, succeeds. The latter easily leads all writers in the English language in his wonderful versatility of dialect. His Irish is almost, if not quite, perfect. The same may be said of his Creole French. He is equally at home in German and Italian dialect, and the finely-shaded *patois* of the West Indian natives.

The reason is simple. Mr Cable has not only great genius but also great powers of observation and a sweet human sympathy which saves his unconscious subjects from absurdity. It delights him to follow in its finest shade the jastoning freaks of Creole, Irish or Dutch mispronunciation. To reproduce or parody it for the purpose of ridicule would revolt him as much as the mockery of a personal infirmity.

Jefferson's "Rip Van Winkle" and Boucicault's "Shaughraun" ought to drive forever from the stage the hideous monstrosities that have passed for "Dutchmen" and "Irishmen." So the perfect dialect of Cable if it do not find successful imitators, may at least succeed in abolishing the dreary and weary race of literary "nigger minstrels."—*Pilot*.

At a meeting of the Corporation of the City of Cork, the Nationalist members demanded to know of the Mayor why he dared to invite the Duke of Edinburgh to visit the city. The Mayor gave them no answer. The Nationals stated that the Mayor had misrepresented the feelings of the citizens of Cork in extending an invitation to the Duke of Edinburgh to visit the city. Great confusion ensued, and the Mayor, together with the Conservative members of the board withdrew. The National members then elected Alderman Madden as chairman, and several speeches were delivered denunciation of the course of the Mayor.