

Manx have suffered more phonetic decay than the Irish, and have lost almost all of the case-endings. All three bear the same relationship to the old Aryan as Italian does to Latin, though of course not to the same degree; whilst the British group bears the same relation to the old mother-tongue as French does to Latin. Owing to the isolated position of Ireland and the high degree of civilisation and learning to which the early Irish had attained, the Irish is the most perfect of the Celtic languages. Many inscriptions on bronze and stone discovered on the Continent bear a nearer relationship to Irish than to any of the other sister Celtic tongues, and this relationship becomes closer the older the inscriptions are, thus suggesting a probability that originally there was only one Celtic language spoken by the Celtic race, and that the Irish-Gaelic.

THE HABITAT OF CELTIC SPEECH.

The writer of the article on the Celtic revival, already quoted, gives an interesting paragraph on the *habitat* of Celtic speech. He says that Gaelic was the language originally of Cisalpine and Transalpine Gaul. All modern scholars are now unanimous on this point; in fact the nomenclature of all the countries in north-western Europe bear unmistakable proof of the race that originally inhabited them. We have, for instance, Rome derived from *Ruadh-Abhan*, the Red River. We have the Alps from the Gaelic *Alp*, still used in the modern language and meaning a peak or mountain. We have the Garonne from *Garbh-Abhan*, the Rough River. If we pass over into England we have all the names of towns containing the affix or prefix *Avon*, so many remnants of the original names given them by their Celtic founders.

RICHNESS OF IRISH GAELIC

THE value of Irish Gaelic to the philologist and scholar may be gathered from an extract culled from the address of Professor Boerig to the New York Gaelic Society in 1884. Professor Boerig is one of the ablest living linguists. He says "The Celtic is extremely rich in words which have come down to us with all their primitive freshness, in their unadulterated original form, and that from the remote ages of dim pre-historic times, when it still presented in Asia something identical with the primitive Aryan speech as Sanscrit. Moreover the luxuriant growth and richness of the Irish language, that brightest flower of the Celtic branch, becomes apparent by the fact that should all the existing glossaries, old and new, be added together, we should have at least thirty thousand words—besides those printed in dictionaries—a richness of vocabulary to which perhaps not a single living language can bear even a remote example. . . . None of the other Celtic tribes or nations have given us so important and ancient a literature as the Irish, and the Celtic antiquities and writings are to all appearance much more abundant in Ireland than elsewhere. But the literary productions in Irish are not only very numerous—they extend also to a wonderful variety of subjects and departments of mental conception and activity, such as poetry, history, laws, grammar, etc, and it is a well-known fact that many legends of French and German poets in the Middle Ages derive their origin from Irish and other Celtic songs."

On 21st June, 1896, the Holy Father will celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of his first communion. ANOTHER PAPAL JUBILEE CELEBRATION. The 21st June is the Feast of St Aloysius Gonzaga, the patron of Catholic youth. Cardinal Ferrari of Milan has promoted a committee for the purpose of worthily celebrating the event. The suggestion is made that there should be a general parish communion on the Feast, that all the communions should be offered to the Holy Father, that albums containing the names of all who have approached the altar should, with an offering of Peter's Pence, be presented to Leo XIII.

ODDS AND ENDS.

A CONTEMPORARY, says the London *Tablet*, tells the following story:—What has been rather appropriately described as an improved version of the "Judgment of Solomon" was lately supplied by a justice of the peace at a place called Pervenchères, in one of the Western Departments. This magistrate was called upon to decide between a knife-grinder and a rag-picker, who both laid claim to a splendid dog of Danish breed. It is needless to say that the disputants were unable to produce documentary evidence as to their titles to the ownership of the animal, nor could they furnish any satisfactory account of how they came by it. The justice ordered the dog to be handed to a court usher, and told the claimants to stand near the door and whistle. At a sign from the magistrate the usher let go the dog, who, glad to be released, contemptuously bounded past both and was soon in the street and out of sight. "That's conclusive," observed the magistrate, gleefully rubbing his hands at the success of his stratagem: "the dog was stolen and belongs to neither of you." The claimants left the court crestfallen, not to say uneasy at the prospect of a charge of theft being brought against them.

The Marquis di Rudini, the Italian Premier, who succeeded Crispi, is described as a tall man with broad shoulders, not yet 60, wearing a bushy yellow beard and an eye-glass. He is the leader of the Right in the Italian Parliament, and is a Sicilian nobleman.

Khalifa Abdullab el Taashi, the ruler of the Soudan, is nearly sixty years of age. He is said to be a tall, stout man, with grey hair, a large beard and slight moustache, and a face pitted by small-pox. Unlike the Mahdi, who was a scholar—as scholars are counted in the Soudan—the Khalifa is a man of exceptional ignorance, who neither reads nor writes. He is intensely vain, "sly as a fox," and has summary methods of dealing with any who oppose him. His palace at Omdurman is crowded with slaves, eunuchs, and young boys who wait upon him, and his wives number some hundreds. The present ruler of the Soudan is sometimes spoken of as the Mahdi. But Mohammed Ahmed, the Mahdi, died in June, 1885, a victim of his dissolute mode of life.—Contemporary.

Mutum in parvo.—Born, welcomed, caressed, cried, fed, grew, amused, reared, studied, examined, graduated, in love, loved, engaged, married, quarrelled, reconciled, suffered, deserted, taken ill, died, mourned, buried, and forgotten.

It was a ready re-ort that the Irishman made to a bigot who told him that Washington once gave the order, "Put none but Americans on guard to-night!" "Yes, but Washington said more than that. He added: 'Let the Irish sleep, for I shall need them for fighting to-morrow.'"

Madame Sarah Bernhardt, the famous actress, uses neither wine nor any intoxicating liquor, and never did use them; and she largely attributes to her abstinence the remarkable preservation of her mental powers and her physical strength, which are unimpaired. Madame Bernhardt drinks but little tea or coffee, confining her beverages to milk and water. She is liberal with her baths and takes abundant exercise. This accomplished actress, though a grandmother, still holds her place on the stage with undiminished brilliancy.

Every Catholic woman (says an eminent author) should find time to participate in social endeavours of parochial organisations. One of the weaknesses of the Catholic body is the absence of this social spirit. On the other hand it is the vital principle of Protestant cohesion.

"I am persuaded," says John Ruskin, "that the worship of the Madonna has been one of the noblest and most vital graces of Catholicism, and has never been otherwise than productive of true holiness of life and purity of character. There has probably not been an innocent cottage home throughout the length and breadth of Europe in which the imagined presence of the Madonna has not given sanctity to the humblest duties and comfort to the sorest trials of the lives of women."

IRELAND WINS THE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

By defeating Wales at Dublin on March 14, Ireland won the International Championship for the season 1895-6. The following is a summary of the matches:—

- Jan 4, at Blackheath—England beat Wales by 25 points (2 goals 5 tries) to *nil*.
- Jan 25, at Cardiff—Wales beat Scotland by 6 points (2 tries) to *nil*.
- Feb 1, at Leeds—Ireland beat England by 10 points (2 goals) to 4 points (1 goal).
- Feb 15, at Dublin—Ireland and Scotland drew; no score.
- March 14, at Dublin—Ireland beat Wales by 8 points (1 goal 1 try) to 4 points (1 goal).
- March 14, at Glasgow—Scotland beat England by 11 points (1 goal 2 tries) to *nil*.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS.

	Won.	Dn.	Lost.	Pts.	Score.					
					For.			Agst.		
	G.	T.	Pts.	G.	T.	Pts.	G.	T.	Pts.	
Ireland	2	1	0	5	3	1	18	2	0	8
Scotland	1	1	1	3	1	2	11	0	2	6
England	1	0	2	2	3	5	29	3	2	21
Wales	1	0	2	2	1	2	10	3	6	33

Judge Pryor, of the New York Divorce Court, in concluding a month's experience, remarked:—"It is a singular thing that of more than 45 divorce cases I have tried this term in not a single instance was one of the parties concerned Irish. I would not have taken note of this fact were it not that almost every nationality except the Irish has been represented on one side or the other in these cases. There must be some controlling influence. This month's record is a great credit to the Irish."

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