

educative illustrations imply a vast amount of knowledge and research. He has no fear of running counter to O'Curry, O'Donovan, Petrie, or others, when the facts give him warrant, and the reader has the great satisfaction of realising that he knows the truth and tells it. 'Following trustworthy authorities,' he wrote, 'I have tried to present a true picture of ancient Irish life, neither over-praising nor depreciating. I have not magnified what was worthy of commendation, nor suppressed, nor unwarrantably toned down, features that told unfavorably for the people; for though I love the honor of Ireland well, I love truth better.' His account of the government, military system, laws and social grading of pagan and Christian Ireland, its learning, literature and educative methods, its arts, music, medicine and social customs, its family relations, industries, trades, commerce, assemblies, sports, pastimes and external influence, not only does honor to his country, but furnishes valuable information to the students of all countries, shedding helpful light on not a few of the problems of our day.

His interest was not restricted to ancient Ireland, for he could say with truth: *Nihil Hiberni a me alienum puto*. While poring over the past he was carefully noting down the customs and idioms of his time, and the result of his siftings is that most instructive and humorous book, replete with wit and wisdom, *English as It Speaks it in Ireland*, in which 'for the first time the Anglo-Irish dialect is subjected to detailed analysis and systematic classification.' In his book of Irish *Wonders*, proving that for marvels 'no other country in Europe could hold a candle to Ireland,' he includes short lives of 'Our Three Patron Saints,' for, he says, 'I wish to spread as widely as possible the knowledge of Patrick, Brigid, and Columkille.' To widen likewise the knowledge of the high civilisation and the civilising and missionary activities of ancient Ireland he issued at popular prices two graded abridgments of his *Social History*, three of the *General History*, one of the *Names of Places*, and a *Reading Book of Irish History*; and in their form, illustration, style, and choice of material, the hand of the expert educationalist is everywhere visible. Intended to stimulate the general 'awakening of interest in Irish language and lore hitherto unparalleled in our history,' they meet the requirements of young and old alike, for skilfully interwoven with the simple narrative is a variety of interesting information gleaned from the literature and customs of many peoples.

Dr. Joyce founded a distinguished family in the Dublin Lyre-na-Grena, and it may be that his early wish to rest his head in the grave of his fathers has not been realised: but whether it be in Glasnevin or Glensheen, thousands of grateful readers in many lands will pray that 'Irish earth may lie light upon his breast, and that the good God may have mercy on his soul.'

Huntly

February 28.

Miss W. J. Ralph, who is shortly leaving the district to take up her residence in Auckland, gave a farewell 'At home' to a number of her friends at her residence in Ralph street, on Monday evening, February 8. As a hostess, Miss Ralph excelled herself, the comfort and enjoyment of her guests being her chief consideration. After an excellent supper had been partaken of, all stood up and sang 'Auld lang syne,' thus bringing to a close a very enjoyable evening.

On Tuesday, 16th inst., the usual fortnightly meeting of the H.A.C.B. Society was held in the school-room. At the meeting the advisability of forming a debating and literary society was discussed and decided upon. Those appointed to hold office were:—Mr. J. Robertson (president), Mr. A. E. Woiwod (secretary), and Mr. T. McGill (treasurer). To be a member of the society does not necessitate one becoming a Hibernian, as membership is open to the whole Catholic community of Huntly—ladies and gentlemen. The membership fee for ladies is 1s, and for gentlemen 2s, for the season.

Last Saturday, 21st inst., his Lordship Bishop Cleary arrived in Huntly by motor car. On Sunday morning his Lordship celebrated Mass at 8 o'clock, and

preached at the 11 o'clock Mass, after which he formally opened the new school and priory.

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