

(Fr. O'Growney: cont'd.).

such as "The Wearing of the Green" and "Auld Lang Syne". His most noted work of this time was a series of four articles in Irish about Aran, published in 1889 and 1890 and titled "Ara na Naomh".

In 1891, he became the publisher of the Gaelic Journal. During the same year, he received the Chair in Irish at Maynooth, which he was to occupy until forced to resign, in 1896 on account of ill health. While teaching at Maynooth he had printed (but unfortunately not published) a summary of Irish grammar, two parts of a series of readers and one part of a manual of composition.

The Gaelic League was founded in 1893. Dr. Douglas Hyde was elected its first President and Euseby P. Cleaver its Vice President. Upon the death of the latter a few months later, Father O'Growney was chosen to fill this post.

It was upon the suggestion of the Archbishop of Dublin that Father O'Growney wrote his "Simple Lessons in Irish". The first two volumes of this series were published in 1894, having previously appeared in the Weekly Freeman and the Gaelic Journal. The third part was published the following year.

It is hard for the modern American student of Irish to evaluate these books. Even the title tends to downgrade them to students. In discussing them, I wish to make it clear that I am not even attempting to evaluate their linguistic content, as this is far beyond my knowledge of Irish. I will limit myself to a discussion of the lessons from a student's viewpoint.

Father O'Growney did not write the lessons only for English speak-

ing students. It was his intention also to enable those who could speak Irish already to learn to read and write it, since, as mentioned above, there were many native speakers who were literate only in English. He meant his lessons for as wide an audience as possible, and therefore he wrote his explanations in a very clear and simple style. An imitated pronunciation in a system of English phonetics is given with every word in the series, as well as a good deal of explanation of the principles of Irish spelling and pronunciation. The basic pronunciations and usages given are those of Connacht, but the forms of Munster and Ulster are given also.

The Individual lessons are quite short. They usually consist of about a dozen new words, two or three rules of grammar or pronunciation, about a dozen sentences in Irish and a dozen in English to be translated. No attempt is made to give the student a connected passage to read; in fact, the sentences themselves often border on nonsense. For example: "Ata Niall agus Peader ag dul sios do'n tobar, ata iolar mor ar an dun anois" (Lesson 25) and "Do bhi an duine beag chomh h-ard leis an bhfeur, agus do bhi a cheann chomh mor le h-ubhall." (Lesson 120), "Niall and Peter are going down to the well, there's a big eagle on the fort now." "The little person was as tall as the grass, and his head was as big as an apple."

This situation is not necessarily undesirable, however. It serves to eliminate guessing on the part of the