

Two years after being admitted to the Academy, Joyce submitted papers on his proposed history of Irish place-names, and, being encouraged in the work by Petrie and Todd, brought out the first volume of this great work in 1869. It was the first really detailed and scientific analysis of place-names ever to be published and its success was immediate. The second volume was published in 1875 and the third and final volume in 1913, a month before his death.

Doctor Joyce was as prolific and versatile a writer as he was a popular one. His first book, "A Handbook of School Management . . ." was issued in 1863, and was the standard text on the subject for close on thirty years. There followed, as well as the history of place-names, a "Grammar of the Irish Language" in 1881; a "Short History of Ireland to 1608," in 1893; "Old Celtic Romances," in 1894; "A Child's History of Ireland," which sold 86,000 copies in 1898; "A Social History of Ancient Ireland," in two volumes, in 1903; "A Smaller Social History," in 1906; "The Story of Ancient Irish Civilisation," in 1907; "Outlines of Irish History," which sold over 70,000 copies, in 1905; "English as we Speak it in Ireland," in 1910, and "The Wonders of Ireland," in 1911. What a life of industry!

From his youth Joyce had been interested in the old Irish music and folk songs and, as a young man, he gave Petrie many Munster airs for his famous collection. In 1909 he himself published a collection of 842 Irish airs and songs. He retired from the Department of Education in 1893 and devoted his whole time to the study of Irish literature. He was at work on a new edition of what is probably his greatest work, "The Social History of Ancient Ireland," when he died on 7th January, 1914, in Dublin, at the ripe old age of 87.

Joyce was a scholar of the old school, the last link with those giants of Irish research, O'Curry, O'Donovan and Petrie; and in addition to his scholarship, he had what they lacked, i.e., the knack of writing in a popular manner and giving to the common people the fruits of his serious and scientific research work.

ROBERT DWYER JOYCE

Robert Dwyer Joyce, poet and ballad-writer, was born at Glensheen, County Limerick, in the year 1830. He was the younger brother of Patrick Weston Joyce, and like him, was educated privately and afterwards became a national school-teacher. Tiring, however, of this profession, he went to the Queen's University, in Cork, where he took out a science degree and graduated M.D. in 1825.

Joyce had already begun his patriotic ballad-writing and while in Cork many of his songs appeared in the "Nation," "Harp," "Dublin's Saturday Magazine," "Celt," and "Irish People." He usually wrote under the pseudonym, "Feardana,"

sometimes as "Merulan," and his only book to be published in Ireland, "Ballads, Romances and Songs," was published in Dublin in 1861.

In 1866 Joyce emigrated to America and established himself in Boston where his patriotic writings soon ensured him a good medical practice among the American-Irish. In 1868 he published "Legends of the Wars in Ireland," dealing with the traditions of the North of Ireland, and his next work "Irish Fireside Tales," which appeared in 1871., was a book of similar nature.

In 1872 he reprinted his first work, with additions, under the title, "Ballads of Irish Chivalry," and four years later "Deirdre," his finest and most successful poem appeared. Within a few days more than 10,000 copies were sold, a colossal circulation for a long narrative poem, even in those days. It is a free version of the old Irish tale, "The Fate of the Children of Lir," told in heroic rhyming verse. Joyce was the first of many modern Irish writers to be attracted to that saddest of Irish heroines, Deirdre of the Sorrows.

His last work, "Blaid," was published in Boston in 1879. In this he used the same method as in "Deirdre" to tell us the story of the death of Curoi, the King of Desmond, and his captive maid, Blaid, and the long narrative passages are broken up by short melodious lyrics.

Joyce fell into bad health and returned to Ireland in September, 1883. He died on 24th of the following month in Dublin at the early age of 53. Dr. Sigerson wrote of him:—"It might be said that the spirit outwore the scabbard, but what an honour for the scabbard to have sheathed and preserved unsullied so pure, so bright, and so chivalrous a spirit." In Limerick Joyce will always be remembered for that spirited ballad of the siege, "The Blacksmith of Limerick."

BENJAMIN KIDD

Benjamin Kidd, sociologist, eldest son of Benjamin Kidd of the Royal Irish Constabulary, was born in Clare on 9th September, 1858. He received a poor education and entered the Civil Service in a very minor capacity in the year 1877, where he worked in obscurity for seventeen years. He spent all his spare time in study, and in 1894 his first published work, "Social Evolution," brought him fame and financial success.

The book was translated into ten different languages. It was a philosophical work based on the theme that religion is the hub of humanity, and that reason, which was both selfish and short-sighted, gave no help whatever to mankind in the more important crises of life. Unfortunately the book was written in a style "more suited to sensational journalism than to the exposition of philosophical ideas," and it contained a vital