

## IN MEMORIAM.

Rev J. J. HAYES, LL.D., the beloved Curate of  
St. Michael's, died Oct. 24th, 1890.

Oh! gentle, true, and kindly heart,  
That lately throbb'd with youthful life,  
Too soon has Death cut short thy part  
In this world's wayward strife.

The pleasant now,  
The gale that was still;  
And we are as in grief to bow  
To God's almighty will.

No more thy cheering smile shall break  
On sorrow's silent grief;  
No more thy words of comfort speak  
Sweet solace and relief.

Alas! too soon in Life's young glow  
Has Death pealed up thy years,  
And left us here to mourn below  
With sympathy's sweet tears.

Still in our hearts shall live thy love,  
And pleasant memories glow,  
To link celestial life above  
With mortals here below.

Oh! may thy teachings touch each heart,  
And bear of grace such store,  
That only for awhile we part,  
To meet on yonder shore.

R. W. S.

Limerick, October 26th, 1890.

## THE EDUCATING POWER OF BOOKS.

(FROM THE SPECTATOR.)

In opening the new public library given by Mr Livesey to the parish of Camberwell last Saturday, Sir E. Clarke took occasion to enlarge on the educating power of books, and especially of books of fiction; these he seemed to regard as in many respects fuller of educating force than almost any other class of books. As to that, we should be disposed to agree with the Solicitor-General, only adding that the same class of books—fictions,—including many of the worst as well as many of the best of educational influences. Books have some great advantages for the education of men, as compared with actual life, but also some great disadvantages. For books are apt to select the interesting parts of life and to deal only with them, while life necessarily contains something like three-quarters, not to say nine-tenths, of what is not specially interesting. Surely only from one-quarter to one-tenth-part of life would be thought specially interesting by any one who had not a very keen delight in mere living, however dry may be the function which falls to his lot. And it seems to us that this power, on which literature depends, of selecting only the most interesting parts of life, and of neglecting the rest, constitutes the special advantage and the special danger of the education which books give. We should call those books powerful for good which succeed in eliciting and strengthening the noblest and most vivid elements of man's life in their readers, in increasing the range of their true experience, and so making them altogether

vouring to do so, really shows y kernel of it. The latter professes to endure the hopelessness of life, a really kindles the most inextinguishable poetry at all,—that can be regarded as ornament. It is because poetry sense has something of the raw material about it, that it strengthens of true life, instead of distracting fancies which are disturbing and away their energies. Indeed, the test for the educating power of after all, hardly affect directly more though a steadily increasing part of human race,—whether they be books of poetry, or of travel, or of science, or of art,—Do they strengthen sight into life and their power of in life, or do they spread a bewilderment over life, and attenuate men's wisdom in it? If they do the former if they do the latter, they paralyze millions of men have become true the aid of books; and millions of men, for years, without the aid of books alone will never educate men not teach how to live. It is life And it is only those books which truly which educate in the same as too many books which teach us to live in a half-and-half fashion, with question without helping us to solutions, to wish without obtaining that which is not bread, and thirst satisfieth not. Such books do not deteriorate the mind; and of such are probably many more than to raise it.

### MR BALFOUR INTERVIEW

A Dalziel's cablegram, dated 1 day, says:—The *New York World* prints a three-column interview in which the Chief Secretary is made the following statement to respondent:—

"There was not the slightest Dillon and Mr O'Brien should have did. They were under bail, and failed to appear it was my duty to until they did fail to appear then prevent them from going to Q boarding the first steamer for New could have done this even if an arrow had been at their heels. I could not them, and I should have brok attempted to do so."

Asked about the condition of possibility of a famine, Mr Balfour "There is no way so far as I can this periodical distress except by holding of tenants in the congested by the spending of money on improvements which shall be a lasting country. In the Land Purchase be introduced in Parliament an attempt will be made for the first Government to provide a mach