



TOMÁS BAIRÉAD PAPERS

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Galway County Council Archives

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ANGLO-IRISH

To the Editor, THE IRISH PRESS.

Dear Sir,—In Dr. O'Kelly's reply, published to-day, he fights shy of backing up his theories, or rather hopes, in a practical way and considers it spectacular.

We were over a hundred years speaking English before we had a literature in English. We are not speaking Irish, and hence it is impossible to say when we shall have a substantial literature in Irish. We shall, of course, have a Tomas Balread here and there, just as we had our Goldsmiths in English, but that should not satisfy us if we are sincere in our hopes.

The Government has done its part, but voluntary effort is needed to stimulate enthusiasm, so that those capable will use Irish on all occasions instead of at certain functions. We cannot hope for a substantial literature in Irish unless it becomes a living language. Dr. O'Kelly's policy of leaving it to the Government retards progress.

At least one virile weekly is necessary to stimulate enthusiasm and act as a vehicle for those who can write in Irish. I indicated a means of founding such a publication, and I feel certain it can be done if we are willing to make half the sacrifice those who brought us so far made.

In reply to Dr. O'Kelly's question, I may say the Dail Loan was not subscribed *entirely* by the admirers of Yeats, but the leaders of that movement in America were justly proud of him. But is it not superficial piffle to judge the life's work of Yeats by such a standard?

There is and should not be any conflict between those writing in English and those writing in Irish. Both serve Ireland and that is enough. Those who want a literature in Irish should be prepared to make sacrifices for it, and unless they do, anything else is cheap talk which might be useful only as practice in a debating society. Let it be spectacular, but again I invite Dr. O'Kelly and 48 others to subscribe £100 each to found a weekly entirely in Irish. I invite Dr. O'Kelly to concentrate on that and allow the so-called Anglo-Irish and their admirers go their own way.

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