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The Life of John Banim, the Irish Novelist; with Extracts from his Correspondence, General and Literary. By Patrick Joseph Murray. (Lay.)

THE literary life and personal fortunes of the Author of 'Damon and Pythias,' and the originator of the 'Tales by the O'Hara Family,' ought to have made a better book. Mr. Murray has not wanted sympathy with his subject,—he has taken some pains in collection of mater al: but his style of narration is heavy and tasteless, his literary remarks are pointless and insufficient as regards knowledge. To instance, when he desires to exalt Banim as the first Irish novelist, he begins by stating that in 1821, "Miss Edgeworth was in the full possession of the public taste as the best and only Irish novelist." Long ere this time 'O'Donnell' and 'Florence Macarthy' had appeared. But this is not his sole mistake: our critic having ignored the existence of Lady Morgan, goes on to call 'Castle Rackrent' an "elegant drawing-room portraiture of Irish life and character"; and to point out that Miss Edgeworth "wanted many, very many attributes peculiar to that phase of genius which can obtain and keep secure the title of the Irish Novelist."



Banim, John, bai'-nim, an Irish author, who, under the pseudonym of Barnes O'Hara, wrote the greater part of the popular novels known as the "Tales of the O'Hara Family," which on their appearance were immediately recognised as works of genius. He was also the author of the celebrated tragedy of "Damon and Pythias." The greatest defect, perhaps, in his writings is a degree of overstrained excitement, which he generally produces by calling to his aid the operations of the worst and darkest passions of human nature. B. 1800; p. near Kilkenny, Aug. 1, 1842.

D. near Kilkenny, Aug. 1, 1842.

Banim, Michael, the elder brother of the preceding, who wrote part of the "Tales of the O'Hara Family," under the pseudonym of Abel O'Hara. His latest novel is the "Town of the Cascades." B. near Kilkenny, about

1798.