

Ireland was to distinguish herself as a fighting race. For three hundred years the Danes invaded the Isle. Year after year fresh armies of these northern barbarians poured into Ireland, the Irish people standing at bay, sword in hand. But in the eleventh century Ireland arose as one man, and drove her enemies from her shores. Those Danes, who were able to subdue England, and all northern France, and to leave the marks of their sovereignty in Scotland, were repulsed by Ireland. And, as Irish historians affirm, the secret of her supremacy lay in the magical sound of the name and faith of St. Patrick. These barbarians had come forth openly avowed to wipe away Ireland's faith, but it was this that nerved and united her, and resulted in that final glorious victory at Clontarf. Let me ask you: What other people can boast of such an achievement, after three centuries of constant invasion, to finally come forth with all its pristine vigor and faith intact? History gives us no similar example. And, therefore, have I said that Ireland is singular among the nations.

But if the Irish people are singular in their glories, they are likewise singular in the wrongs that they have suffered. After four more centuries of war, Ireland, to save her nationality, was called upon to lay down the sword, the sword that for seven hundred years had never seen its sheath, and on bended knee to transfer it to the tainted hand of Henry VIII of England. But, alas, the deal was barely finished when the news arrived that England had changed her faith, and demanded of Ireland the surrender of her divine inheritance. And then commenced that era which brings to every true Irish heart a sense of compassion and sorrow. Where, in the history of nations, is there a people who have undergone the persecution the Irish people have? For three centuries the strongest nation on the earth sought to extinguish, by Irish blood, the light of Irish faith. But Ireland fought for her freedom, and in the name of faith triumphed.

True it is, Ireland lost her national parliament. Nevertheless, the national sentiment, contrary to the belief of English ministers, has not yet been extinguished, and never will be extinguished. Irishmen at home yet cling as devotedly to their nationality as at any former period. This is evident in the conduct of the Irish national party, whose whole history is one of the most unselfish patriotism. Abroad, especially in the American Republic and this fair Dominion of ours, Irish sentiment beats high. And the en-