

And for the rest of this vast northern continent, the other vast Britannie possessions, the immense territory beyond the limits of our Dominion in every town and settlement of which, what is, is due to the children of him who are celebrating to-day in the largest city, and in the lowest hamlet the memory of the great one whom we all so dearly love. That vast Republic which fifty years ago had but one bishop, sixty-eight priests, and eighty churches and missionary stations, and now has sixty-one bishops, two thousand five hundred priests, and nearly four thousand churches and stations, and a Catholic population of five million and a-half; ask of the lips of every bishop and priest you meet, they whose "lips keep truth and are to utter knowledge," let them be Irish, French, German, of what nationality you will, ask who has ministered to his wants? Who has built these numberless churches, colleges, asylums, hospitals, schools? Their answer is but one. It manifests, I think, the fulfilment of the decrees of God. It is "the children of St. Patrick."

As the heavenly Father willed to expatriate St. Patrick; to send him away from home and parents in advancing youth, that he might become the apostle of his cross, so has he seemed to will it for his children. They are to plant the church, to nurse, to be themselves the germ of the seedling tree which is to take vigorous root in the virgin soil of newly discovered lands, whose branches are to spread over the whole world that in them may safely nestle those who seek refuge from its storms. They are to show clearly to the world that in catholicism is to be found every virtue; that patriotism, that benevolence, that love for religion for which the Irish are so renowned; that deep love for home and kindred which has sent to Ireland from north America alone in one year (1854) \$8,650,000, which in fifty years has sent to Ireland over \$70,000,000 and perhaps as much again of which no record has been kept; that faith which has caused ten times this sum to be expended for the furtherance of religion in adopted lands.

The feast of Ireland's patron Saint is truly the feast of faith. There is not a page in the history of Ireland, however dark and disastrous in other respects, that is not brightened by the heroic fortitude, the generous self-sacrifice, the perseverance which has been exhibited in the defence and propagation of the faith. Its