

Before concluding, let me exhort you to nourish a lifelong recollection of the land which was sanctified by the prayers, tears and labors of our national Apostle. Whatever lot may befall you, may its emerald verdure be always fresh and bright in your memory. Be true to Ireland in all circumstances, and generous in promoting her welfare. She is preparing to enter upon an epoch which will be greatly indebted for its inauguration to Parnell and Gladstone—an epoch which has been ardently desired by generations after generations and predicted in such telling verse by the poet priest of the South.

“ Yes, give me the land of the wreck and the tomb,  
There is grandeur in graves, there is glory in gloom ;  
For out of the gloom future brightness is born,  
As after the night comes the sunrise of morn ;  
And the graves of the dead with the grass overgrown,  
May yet form the footstool of liberty's throne ;  
And each single wreck in the war-path of might,  
Shall yet be a rock in the temple of right.”

I will not ask you to disentomb the spirit of our glorious past, the spirit for which our ancestors were remarkable. It has suffered no decay and never would it commingle with the dust of the grave. It lives and is immortal.

“ The great old Irish houses, the proud old Irish names,  
Like stars upon the midnight, to-day there lustre gleams.  
Gone are the great old houses, the grand old names are low.  
That shed a glory o'er the land a thousand years ago ;  
But whereso'er a scion of the great old houses be,  
In the country of his fathers, or the land beyond the sea,  
In city or in hamlet, by the valley, on the hill,  
The spirit of his brave old sires is watching o'er him still.”

You are not strangers to this spirit. It animates you as it does all the genuine children of St. Patrick. May every Irishman cherish it with his heart's love and develop it to the full extent of his ability. Under the influence of such a spirit the noblest achievements are possible. Under this influence the most brilliant and lasting triumphs are only questions which time will solve.