

"IRELAND'S PATRIOTS."

A toast to those of the past and present of Erin's patriotic sons and champions was introduced in these words:—

"In dwelling upon the past history of our Fatherland, let us not forget our debt of gratitude to those noble patriots that on the battlefield, or on the public platform, or in the halls of Parliament, or through the inspiring productions of their poetic genius, have rendered services beyond measure to the cause of Irish freedom and Irish nationhood. May their noble deeds be an inspiration to future generations of Irishmen. To them we shall drink a toast, and Mr. L. J. Guillet will respond."

Mr. Guillet's reply was as follows:—

"Patriotism has been defined as the love of one's country. How the world and human government could have reached to even the slightest degree of perfection without the existence of that lofty quality of patriotism would be a mystery whose solution must be sought elsewhere than in the ordinary channels of wisdom where the minds of men are wont to labor. To me it is a conviction that patriotism is morally necessary for the existence of organized authority upon this earth, and an All-Wise and Providential Creator, to bring about the accomplishment of his designs, has placed in the heart of man this excellent quality.

"Love for one's country, for the place of one's birth, to which ever elings the memory of the heroic deeds of departed forefathers, and to which are attached the fondest hopes for future prosperity and happiness, is a sentiment so natural to man that it has existed even from the beginning down through the long ages, and at the present day still flourishes, as it will in time to come. Calling forth only what is good and admirable in man, patriotism is truly a noble passion. It lifts man above himself, and inspires him to lofty deeds, in whose accomplishment often death itself and the surrender of his dearest possessions are involved.

"Turning over the pages of history, we find at every glance evidences of patriotism and the deeds of patriots, but not in all the records of the world have we another example in which the virtue of love for one's native land appeared in a more crystallized form than in that little island of Ireland. The valor and genius for patriotism, which has always marked the Irish race, developed to such a degree that the nations of the world have looked on in wonder at the heroic deeds of Irishmen struggling for the freedom of their native land. In spite of the awful misfortunes through