

genius developing itself year by year without other aids than a day-school in Wexford afforded, the higher advantages of education being as yet beyond the reach of the middle classes in Ireland, unless a religious vocation called their sons to Maynooth. But the boyish years of the future statesman and historian were not passed in mean or frivolous pursuits. His love for poetry and for old-world lore grew with his growth, and by the age of seventeen he had read all that had come within his reach relating to the history of his own and other lands. He had read of Washington, and of the great country beyond the Atlantic where Freedom had established her throne, and where the oppressed of all nations found a welcome, a home, and equal laws for all. He knew that many of his race had there found fame, and wealth, and honor; and seeing little prospect of advancement at home, he emigrated to America, with one of his sisters. He was little over seventeen when, after a short visit to his aunt in Providence, R. I. (the only sister of his much-loved mother), he arrived in Boston, just at the time when the "Repeal movement" was in full strength amongst the Irish population of that city, warmly aided by some of the prominent public men of America of that day. It was in June, 1842, that our young Irish poet arrived in Boston. When the 4th of July came round, the roar of artillery and the gladsome shouts of the multitude, the waving of flags, and the general jubilation of a people who had freed themselves, fired his youthful imagination. It seemed to him that what he saw that day was but the foreshadowing of similar scenes in his own beloved land.

Thomas D'Arcy McGee addressed the people that day, and the eloquence of the boy-orator enchained the multitudes who heard him then, as the more finished speeches of his later years were wont

"The applause of list'ning senates to command."