

successful exertions. If we are true patriots let us proceed to this practical work at once. Let us no longer lose time in trying to persuade others, who are unwilling, to go along with us. If we wait till all are convinced we shall never begin. Let each man commence with himself. If deficient in learning let him increase his knowledge; if irregular in his habits, let him become more steady and careful in the future; if intemperate, let him become sober; if wasteful and extravagant, let him practice economy. No people ever become great or prosperous without the virtue of self-denial. For, what will avail the most laborious industry if it merely suffice to keep us from day to day—living from hand to mouth, as our countrymen idiomatically express it.

We, of the Irish race, have much to learn, but, we have also much to unlearn. That unyielding tenacity which clings to absurd customs in spite of conviction is the worst species of bigotry, for, it is based on the lowest form of selfishness, that perseveres because it will not acknowledge error, and suffers inconvenience rather than give pain to self-love. There are some timid spirits who have too little moral courage to lead the way in a reformation of this kind; but the immense mass will be easily influenced if they see that others are in earnest. Example is contagious for good as well as for evil; and our people, whatever may be said of their poverty in other regards, are rich in the wealth of good moral feeling. In physical and mental endowments they are not inferior to any; for intellectual rivalry they are supremely gifted. Why, then, do the Irish people—at home and on this Continent—lie despairing while they ought to be up and active. Let them only believe they can do something and then make the attempt to do it.

It shall be our duty, hereafter, to point out some of the modes by which individuals may reduce their patriotism to practice—not wasting energies in antiquated follies and differences about nothing—not in promotion of, or resistance to, those observances handed down from thoughtless sire to son, bringing ruin, and hate, and death, as their accompaniments; but in a genial and

generous recognition of every Irishman's right to worship his God according to conscience, and serve his country without the distinction of parish or county limitations. Many, we know, will sneer at all this as chimerical. But their number is small compared with those who will receive the advice gladly and determine to follow it, but afterwards, influenced by the excitement or impulse of a moment, return to their false gods of bigotry and exclusiveness, or, at best, slacken in their zeal and finally fall away in indifference. This is to be expected. It would be against our experience of human nature were it otherwise. We cannot, in a day or a year, remove the evils that have been accumulating for centuries: but we should not, therefore, say they are irremediable. Our faults have sprung out of our misfortunes; they are not such as to make us ashamed of ourselves or our history. We may boast a noble country and a noble people—this truth is acknowledged by all. That country and people have the sympathy of the world in their favour, albeit the annual ebullition in some quarters of unseemly bile and billingsgate. Ireland's degradation cannot last much longer—civilization will not suffer it—and the practical patriotism we would again enforce is, that it is important above all things Irishmen should have the principal hand in their own improvement.

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Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox, and hatred therewith.

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He that hath no rule over his own spirit, is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

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Can we esteem that man prosperous, who is raised to a situation which flatters his passions, but which corrupts his principles, disorders his temper, and finally oversets his virtue?

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How many have had reason to be thankful, for being disappointed in designs which they earnestly pursued, but which if successfully accomplished, they have afterwards seen would have occasioned their ruin!