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### PRACTICAL PATRIOTISM.

Now, that the hot blood of the July excitement has cooled off, it would be well if the romances of the "misummer madness" of party were to pale before the realities of practical patriotism. Some one has pithily said that distrust is a radical vice of the Irish character; it would not take much time or trouble to prove that want of faith in our fellows is not a fault altogether peculiar to Ireland. There is, it is said, a tendency of an opposite kind in the Irish character which shows itself in rashly engaging in projects without having perfectly considered the attendant hazards, or made provision for pursuing the speculation successfully. It is a fault—a great fault, undoubtedly—a natural result, perhaps, of the ardent national temperament which too often looks to the goal without sufficiently calculating the toils to be encountered on the journey. But we doubt very much if this charge against our countrymen is well established; at any rate, we are convinced it does not exist to the extent that is stated. Many an undertaking fails with Irishmen, not from want of forethought and care, but solely because the pecuniary resources at command are so inferior to those of their rivals. It is no use to say "Why make the attempt without, at least, a reasonable prospect of success?" A drowning man will grasp at a straw; and it is notorious that, as a people, life with the Irish at home is merely a struggle for existence. And what nation is the most ready to encounter hazards of the same kind?

The English. Their business is carried on with all the resources of gamblers, and they have failures innumerable as their Bankrupt and Insolvent lists daily testify.

But it is also said by another class of objectors that the genius of the Irish people is unsuited to commercial enterprises; that their artisans have not sufficient skill to excel in manufactures; that their manner of doing business is unaccommodating and clumsy; and, in short, that nature only intended them for hewers of wood and drawers of water for the benefit of their sublime lords and masters of other nationalities. There is just one way of proving that these charges do not apply to the Irish as a people. They must show the world by actions, not words, that the allegations are untrue. Instead of waiting for a national movement or government measure to assist, each man and each woman must act for himself or herself—must go at once about his or her business just as if the fate of themselves and their children, and the character of the whole nation were involved in their individual success or failure. If an example to encourage be wanting, we have it in that greatest wonder of modern times, the Temperance Revolution—a stupendous moral miracle achieved by the earnest philanthropy of one man with no extraordinary personal endowments to fit him for the mission; but inspired for the occasion by the greatness of his task, and sustained in his labor by the prospect of the mighty benefit for his country and mankind, which was sure to follow his