

his liberty and life? The chapter is a sad one, and McGee lived to regret his part in it.

Time will not permit me to go further into details. Enough to say that again in 1848 McGee turned his face to the western shores, the grief of his departure this time being heightened by the sad separation which he was forced to undergo from the young wife of his bosom. He arrived in Philadelphia on the 10th of October, 1848, and on the 28th of the same month he published the first number of a publication called the *New York Nation*, which was warmly received by his fellow countrymen, partly because of the fame he had already acquired as editor of the *Dublin Nation* and the earlier *Boston Pilot*, and partly, no doubt, out of sympathy for the sacrifices which he had made for the principles he had professed. The *Nation* had for a time a great success, but a conflict between the editor and a venerable prelate, Bishop Hughes of New York, provoked by McGee's accusation against the Irish hierarchy for their alleged supineness and inactivity during the uprising which so signally failed, caused such a diminution of his influence that in 1850 he deemed it wise to remove to Boston and begin the publication of the *American Celt*. It has been impossible for me to obtain access to the files of this paper or other antecedent journals conducted by McGee, but on the authority of his gifted biographer, Mrs. Sadlier, it may be stated that during the first two years of its existence, McGee's utterances were characterized by the same revolutionary tone which had pervaded all his previous political writings and speeches.

"There came, however, a time," to quote the words of Mrs. Sadlier, "when the great, strong mind began to soar above the clouds of passion and prejudice into the regions of eternal truth. The cant of fiction, the fiery denunciations, which, after all, amounted to nothing, he began to see in their true colours."

Thenceforward Mr. McGee seemed largely, and in later times completely, to have ceased from the policy of violent agitation, and to have tried less to achieve by force the accomplishment of a political upheaval in the old land, than to have essayed to better the condition of his people in America—to make them satisfied with their lot and content to enter into peaceful competition with fellow Americans in all the arts of industry and progress.

The *Celt* was once removed for a short time to Buffalo, but ended its career, so far as Mr. McGee was concerned, finally in New York in 1857. Let me say that during all this time, Mr. McGee had never ceased to lecture, not only in the States but in Canada, on literary and historical subjects, and had added laurels to the wreath which his efforts in the same field had previously won for him. More than that—by organizing associations of his countrymen for praiseworthy objects he had largely aided in imbuing them with lofty aims and aspirations, and in making