

country. I will, in order to be brief, quote from Mulhall, the eminent London statistician. "If you make a survey" he says "of mankind in ancient or modern times as regards the physical, mechanical and intellectual force of nations we find nothing to compare with the United States at the present time."

And while we have all that could be desired for our material welfare, we have also all that should stir the artistic soul of the painter or the poet. True, we have no ruins, nor do we care for any just yet, but we have nature in her most gorgeous dress. The snow-capped mountains of New Hampshire studded with myriad picturesque lakes; the green hills of Vermont; the pride of America, our lovely Hudson; the mighty Niagara, whose possession we share with your fair country; the stately Mississippi; and our garden of wonders, the Yellowstone Park, are all scenes, which for beauty and grandeur are unsurpassed in the world.

Our beautiful land, ever watchful of her inheritance, keeps a jealous eye upon the least encroachment. She has given notice to her friends across the water, that this continent is not to be considered as open for future colonization. Briefly stated, the American doctrine is, "You mind your affairs and we will attend to ours." America is at all times the friend of the poor and oppressed; she extends a helping hand to poor Venezuela, with as much readiness as she would to powerful England. She is as anxious to arbitrate with the small republics of South America as with the great nations of Europe. The United States has from the very first been in favor of arbitration, and it is to be hoped that the treaty before the American Senate, will, with certain amendments, be passed, and that the other European countries will arrange similar treaties with the United States. America respects all nations; she fears none.

Irishmen and their descendants

have a special reason to feel proud of this glorious republic. For, from the earliest days, the relations between Ireland and America have been most close. In 1676, when Massachusetts was suffering from the terrible effects of King Philip's war, the generous people of Ireland sent over a contribution for our relief. Everyone knows what an important part they took in the War of Independence. One of the most striking figures in that military history is the gallant Irishman, General Anthony Wayne. The first naval encounter was by the five O'Brien brothers of Maine; the brave Barry, the founder of the American navy, was an Irishman. General Sullivan, Colonel Fitzgerald, Washington's favorite officer, and many others I might mention, contributed towards winning American liberty.

When Washington's army entered Boston, after relieving Putnam, on the 17th of March, 1776, with drums beating and colors flying, the watchword of the day was "St. Patrick." The good St. Patrick came into Boston with George Washington. And he came to stay. During the War of Independence, America always considered Ireland as her friend, as we see from the address of John Jay to the Irish people. Ireland furnished us with the great hero of New Orleans, the gallant Jackson, and the most brilliant general of the late war, General Phil. Sheridan. She has given us three of our presidents, Jackson, Arthur, and our present ruler, President McKinley, whose grandfather was one of the Irish patriots of '98.

Deep in the hearts of the young Irish-Americans is the love for their country and the sentiment of that noble, young hero O'Neil, who, when dying in defence of the Union said— "Let the American flag be wrapped about me, and put a fold of it under my head. Tell my mother I wish I had two lives to give for my country."