

went to Boston, when the agitation for the repeal of the union in Ireland was at its height. I always had what is vulgarly styled the "gift of the gab," and soon acquired a small reputation for my speeches in favor of the movement. In a short time I was offered, and accepted, a situation on the Boston *Pilot*, and in two years I was editor. I had some success, and in 1845 was offered and accepted the editorship of the Dublin *Freeman's Journal*. I imagine O'Connell did not know what a youngster I was when he made me this offer. The *Journal* did not prove advanced enough for my ideas, and I joined Gavan Duffy in editing the *Nation*. At this time I wrote most of my poetry dealing with the early history of my people. We were hot-blooded and visionary, and the famine, which now laid Ireland low, seemed to us the trumpet call to action. I was sent to Scotland to arouse my compatriots there. I had no sooner arrived than I learned of the collapse of our insurrectionary movement, and that a reward was offered for my arrest. After many narrow escapes I reached the American shore once more, disillusioned, a sadder and, I believe, a wiser man. At Philadelphia, in 1848, I started a newspaper called the *Nation*. [evidently a mistake—the *Nation* was started in New York], but in the bitterness of my spirit at the lukewarmness or coldness of the Irish clergy towards our recourse to arms, I soon became embroiled with the bishop [Bishop Hughes of New York], and my paper had to succumb. I undertook the publication of the *American Celt*, in Boston, in 1850, and continued this until I was invited to Montreal in 1857." (The Vansittart Memoirs, p. 119 et seqq.)

We now come to the period when Mr. McGee was invited by that important section of the Canadian population which was of Irish extraction, to make Canada his home. He cheerfully responded to the call, and removed his family to Montreal in 1857. From this dates the most important period of McGee's life—to us, and perhaps to himself. We can now watch the action and important part he played in "The Making of Canada."

The time which elapsed between his arrival at Montreal and the issue of the first number of his newspaper, *The New Era*, was brief enough; but it was nevertheless of sufficient length to enable Mr. McGee to sketch through its columns a policy which harmonized with its name. He earnestly advocated, and ever continued to ad-