

whose greatness is largely of their making, and where the blood streams of a dozen races have by the mysterious alchemy of God, been harmoniously blended, and where that consummate flower of civilization, the God-fearing, liberty-loving American has been evolved, and where religious liberty and equality of opportunity afford scope for the uninterrupted pursuit of every ambition, there have the Irish shown their worth and there has that worth been appreciated.

The enthusiastic reception accorded the Irish envoys during their recent visit to the United States was a glowing tribute to the loyalty of the Irish-American for his native land, from which he has been banished quite as effectively by the marching orders of hunger, and eviction, and want of work, as he could have been by the command of a most tyrannical government.

At this moment the Irish in the United States are playing an important part in determining the destiny of Ireland. It has become evident to the English statesmen that Irish-Americans desire self-government for Ireland quite as much as do the Irish at home, and that until the English government meets the demands of the Irish people for legislative independence there shall be a continuance of that seemingly ineradicable hostility to Britain which pervades the whole Irish-Catholic population, now so large and potent a factor in the politics of the United States.

When the English government is prepared to meet the wishes of the Irish people, with a generous measure of home rule, granted without grudging, suspicion, or patronage, then and then only may she anticipate the establishment of an alliance with the United States.

The next toast was that of Soggarth Aroon. The toast-master introduced the speaker as follows: We are celebrating to-day the festival of the first Irish priest and father of that long line of pastors and missionaries who have preserved the faith at home and laboured for its embellishment abroad. It is no exaggeration to say that in the case of Ireland the fire of patriotism has been kept alive by the lamps of religion carefully tended and trimmed by the hand of the Irish priest. To Soggarth Aroon then, gentlemen, I propose a toast, to which is coupled the name of Rev. Father Murphy.

**Soggarth Aroon.**

Father W. J. Murphy in a splendid and witty tribute to the Irish clergy, replied to the toast.