

manner of handling his subjects, won the admiration and applause of thousands. At the end of the year he had so impressed the proprietors of the *Pilot* with his ability, and had so materially advanced the interests and character of the paper that he was offered the position and engaged as editor jointly with the late Mr. Walter J. Walsh. Now indeed commenced that brilliant career as a journalist which soon placed him in the highest and foremost rank of the "fourth estate" on the American continent. His writings were fresh, brilliant and telling; his pen soon became the dread of the enemies of his country and race in the United States; his boyish dreams were melting away before the heat of *Republican Liberty*, before the illiberality of Know Nothingism, before the cant and hypocrisy of Puritanical New England. Who, having read his articles published in the *Boston Pilot* of that day, does not remember the deep impression they produced on the public mind? Those were the times when the *Pilot* was looked upon as the great exponent of Irish views; it was read in every part of the United States and British America as an authority on all matters connected with the interests of the Irish people, and on the great questions of the time. Repeal, in the columns of the *Pilot* was advocated and defended in a most masterly manner, and the enemies of the cause detested, whilst the Repealers, the whole Irish people in America read it with enthusiasm and clung to its teachings as to Gospel truth. Mr. McGee still found time to deliver lectures on a great diversity of subjects directly or remotely connected with Ireland and the advancement of the Irish cause, and nothing more conclusive need be said as to the great success which rewarded his efforts in that most difficult career, than to state the simple fact, that he was hailed by all parties as one of the most popular lecturers of the day—that day when such men as GILES held vast audiences in charmed admiration, when BROWNSON spoke to men's souls and held thousands spellbound with his profound subjects. It was in fact the very strongest test of the young lecturer's eloquence and ability that can well be imagined, and he proved himself equal to the occasion, and established a name as a lecturer, which will live. In the meantime Mr. McGee's fame as a journalist had extended far beyond the reach of his voice as a lecturer; in the heart of Great Britain he was not unknown, his writings were read and discussed in the clubs, and the leading men of the day looked to the columns of the *Boston Pilot* for authority on the Irish question as viewed in America. Yet dearer to the young Irish exile's heart was the knowledge that in the capital of his beloved home, his efforts were known, felt and appreciated; at the Repeal meetings the great chief O'Connell referred to them with pride and gratitude as the "inspired writings of a young exile Irish boy in America."