

position he occupied in Irish politics from 1848 until the day of his death. After a price being set on his head in Ireland, more fortunate than some of his confreres, he escaped in the garb of a Catholic Priest, and, after many trials and vicissitudes, succeeded in coming back to the United States. True to the instincts of his nature, no sooner landed than he entered at once on his labours for fatherland and his fellow-countrymen. For nine years after he successively edited the *New York Nation* and the *American Celt* with singular and ever-increasing ability. At no time did he render such signal service to Ireland's religion and people in a foreign country than during the reign of terror inaugurated by Know-Nothingism in the neighboring Republic. At a moment when millions of Catholic laymen in that country were struck dumb, and could scarcely utter a word in their own defence, Archbishop Hughes, Thomas D'Arcy McGee, and some very few others, came to the rescue, and but for their joint efforts at that critical period God alone can tell what may have been the consequences. I myself was eye-witness of many of the transactions of that period, and I unhesitatingly say that if it had culminated as many Bishops, and Priests, and intelligent laymen feared, and became an institution of the country, Irishmen and their religion would have been just as much persecuted there as they ever were in the penal times of Ireland. Happily we had some three or four giants in the legislature—on the political platform—in the press, and in the pulpit, to do battle for us; and nobly did D'Arcy McGee, first among lay Catholics, do his portion of the duty. Happily for us, through the goodness of God and the efforts of our few public apologists, this storm, like most storms in that country, passed over with comparatively little harm, and was not of very long duration.

It was probably at this period that Mr. McGee began to open his eyes, and to change his opinions on the respective merits of Monarchy *vis-a-vis* Republican Government. Be that as it may, after nine years of ceaseless excitement and literary and political battles,—and mark you, always for the cause of Ireland, her religion and her people,—fortunately for the Irish and all Catholics in Canada he came to settle there. And here commences the most brilliant, because the most rational, consistent and useful portion of his short but