

macy of the English kings, and scoffed at the authority of the pope, had they accepted the new religion, regardless of the dictates of their conscience, they would have escaped the wrath of Henry VIII, the crafty and cruel policy of Elizabeth, the barbarity of the Cromwellian era, and the ingenious atrocities of the penal laws. They would have obtained many temporal advantages, but they would have obtained them at the expense of their faith; in their opinion, and that of millions of their fellow-Catholics, they would have forfeited their right to heaven, and the Irish have always been so unreasonable as to prefer heaven to earth.

But let us turn from the contemplation of these woeful times. A brighter day has dawned upon Ireland, and now her sons, though still oppressed in many ways, are allowed the free practice of their religion. And what is the result? Their faith to-day is as strong as it was centuries ago; the intense vitality displayed by this so long down-trodden people is amazing. In the short time that has elapsed since Catholic Emancipation, the Irish nation has been living, active, working and doing wonders. Her altars, her religious houses, her asylums, everything holy that was in ruins—all has been restored. Not satisfied with working so energetically on her own soil, she has crossed over to England, where the great Catholic revival which has struck so much fear into the hearts of sectarians is in a great measure due to her. Cross the broad Atlantic and the vast Southern Ocean, contemplate Irish activity in North America, Australia, and all the English colonies, and tell me if Ireland is not making rapid strides towards the spreading of Catholic doctrine throughout the world. Considering all this, is it any wonder that we feel an honest pride in proclaiming to all nations that we, too, cling to that faith which our ancestors preserved unscathed through centuries of un-

mitigated persecution and bloodshed? Is it any wonder that we reject with indignant scorn the too prevalent idea that the Irish are a lowly, despicable race, and that we rather consider them, as they really are in the eyes of God, the truest, grandest, noblest in the world?"

The toast to the United States is always heartily received by the students of Ottawa University, so there was a royal reception given Mr. McGee when he proposed:—

THE EAGLE; Response by T. Ryan, '99.

The sentiment was honored with a rousing chorus, "The Star Spangled Banner." Mr. Ryan's response was equal to the occasion. He spoke as follows:—

Fain would I sound the praises of my native land, but only too well do I realize how unworthy I am and how noble is my theme. But I know that I am among indulgent friends, and I know that deep in the heart of everyone of you there is a warm place for your republican sister. And why should it not be thus? Are we not joint heirs to a proud heritage? Are we not joint possessors of the greater portion of North America, and have we not a common destiny?

The greatest title in the ancient world was "Civis Romanus Sum," but prouder, and greater, and better is the modern one, "I am an American citizen," for while the former signified power, might and force, the latter stands for justice, equality and right. God has given a special mission to every nation, and he called the American State into existence to solve forever upon a basis of justice and equity, the most momentous social and political problems.

The extensive fields of cereals, the cotton and sugar plantations, the delightful orange groves, the mines of gold and silver, of coal and iron, and in fact of almost every mineral, are all sources of wealth which God in His goodness has bestowed upon us, to a greater degree than upon any other