

faith in God, who will one day, in His own good time, release the throat of Ireland from the cruel hand of her oppressor.

Now can any one suppose that the whole people of the great cities, and of the towns, and of the villages of the lands wherein dwell the banished Irish, can be made witnesses of the fact that Ireland is a nation by a poorly attended lecture in a hall, or by a few hearty suppers in a cozy restaurant.

On each recurring St. Patrick's Day, Irish patriotism forces the whole civilized world to stand still—to pause in life's battle and witness the repetition of our vows of fealty to the land of our birth, and our devotion to the sacred emblem of Christianity which St. PATRICK planted with his own hands. Worldly-wise men may scoff at the expenditure of money in such celebrations, but there are far nobler considerations in the matter than that of gold. A nation's honor and a nation's history are far dearer than all other earthly treasures, and the matter of expense should not be calculated when they are at stake. Were it not for those national celebrations—were it not for the assiduity with which Irishmen agitate the cause of their native land, they would now be numbered as things of the past, while their genius, worth and manliness would be credited to their hereditary enemies.

But discussion on this point is at present out of place. We should devote ourselves more directly to the past, present and future of our country. We should glean from the past the most judicious action for the present, and act in the present that part best calculated to enhance our condition in future. Bickerings and quarrels should be thrown aside, and united action should be our motto. No matter whether or not we belong to the same society or owe fealty to the same head, we are all Irishmen, and should work, though it may be in different ways and under different auspices, for the benefit of our common land.

We are all Irishmen, and should take a common pride and a common interest in everything that advances our country and makes her brighter in the world's eyes. We have in the past indulged too freely in quarrels and recriminations. Let us now on this recurring national anniversary forget those quar-

rels, take a deep lesson from the disasters they brought about, and act so in the living present that we can in the future look back with just pride on our work.

But there are bright examples in the past, which, while we look with sorrow on our mishaps, we can draw down for our guidance and example. We can point to the actions of a BRIAN, an O'TOOLE, a SANSFIELD, a FITZGERALD, a TONE, an EMMETT, an O'CONNELL, an O'BRIEN, a DAVIS, and hundreds of other proud names, and take from their life-history brilliant examples of what we should do. We can point to their work and to the devotion with which our people clung to the principles they enunciated even through the direst persecution. We can look with the highest gratification on the sublime devotion with which the Irish nation adhered to the Christian principles implanted by St. Patrick in times when none but those sent from Heaven could gain a hearing or count a triumph. We can look through all the dark ages from the time that the perfidy of McMURROUGH invited English interference and English cruelty, down through the centuries until we see the red sword of CROMWELL unsheathed in our land—past the wars of bloody WILLIAM when SANSFIELD so nobly upheld the National honor, and over the bloody page of the Penal days when men were gibbeted for the expression of the noblest thoughts, and we can find not alone in every epoch, but in every year, nay in every day, sacrifices worthy of Spartan heroism and martyrdoms as glorious as any since the Birth of Christ.

On the whole, then, in humble hope of the Day of the Lord, let the Green Flag float in the air. To our eyes, as well as to those of others, it brings unbidden tears of hope and joy.

Let it float over men—men at once Catholic and Irish. As Heaven is above earth so is God above the Nation; hence we are Catholics first and Irish after.

So, too, as we come of a gentle, noble, and heroic race, it is also good for us to inscribe on our banners: "We are gentlemen first and Irishmen afterwards." For the good Irishman is not brutal or vulgar; such a one cannot be a good Irishman.

Let it float, then, as in the days of old, and God bless all who march beneath the well-beloved Green and Gold.