

contrary, take up their mission just where English aggression cut it short seven centuries ago, and leap to their feet as buoyantly as though the whole hideous tragedy of the intervening ages were but the nightmare of an uneasy dream (applause). The same sanguine blood bounds in their veins; the same hopes, here and hereafter, inspire them, the rosy freshness that suffused the morning sky of the race, still kisses the hill tops of the future, as tranquilly as though its radiance had never been buried in the lightnings and the blood-red rain of ghastly centuries (cheers). There is here no taint of intellectual or physical degeneracy. The same faith that once inhabited the ruined shrines is rebuilding them. The same passion for valor, beauty, spirituality, learning, hospitality, and all that is adventurous abroad and affectionate at home is still the badge and cognisance of the Celtic race. They are the same passionate, stormy-souled, kindly-hearted, fighting, worshipping, colonizing and lightning-witted race of Ireland's golden prime, with this substantial difference, that instead of being a million of people in scattered pastoral clans, buried in this island, they are now twenty millions, doing the work and the soldiering and the statesmanship and the sacred shepherding of three continents, and whether in the Australian mines or in the Canadian woods bound to this small island by stronger links than if Ireland were a despot that could stretch out a world-wide sceptre to enforce their allegiance (cheers). The Celtic race is to-day in fact as conspicuous a factor in human society as the Teutonic. It is little less in numbers; it is as distinct in type; it has as rich a range of capacities, sympathies, and ideals of its own; its fine susceptibilities and ærial genius are capable of exerting a potent and saving influence upon an age which seems only too ready to accept this world as a gross feeding-trough at which happiness consists in greedy gorging. There are signs that English statesmen are beginning to realize that a race such as that may be conciliated, but may by no possibility be blotted out (cheers). There are