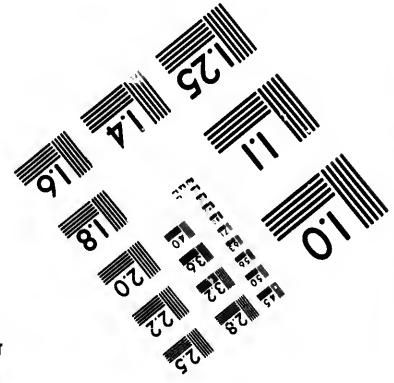
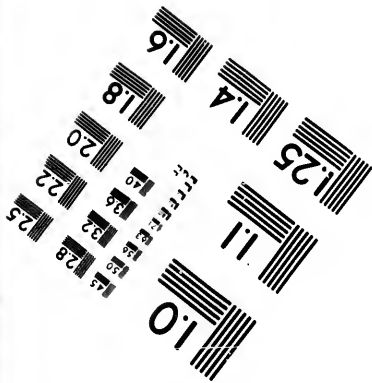
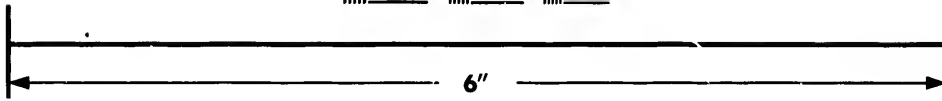
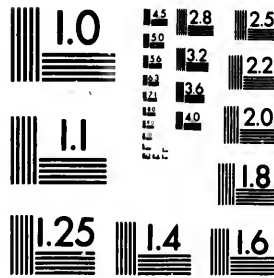


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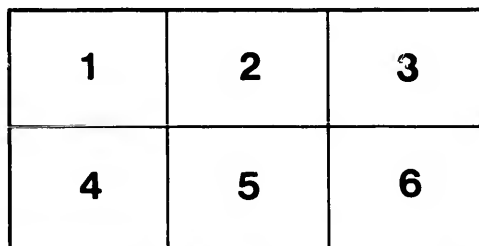
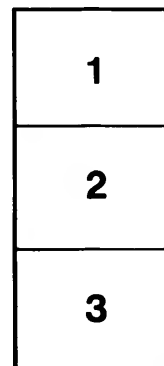
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L'exemplaire filmé fut reproduit grâce à la générosité de:

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Les images suivantes ont été reproduites avec le plus grand soin, compte tenu de la condition et de la netteté de l'exemplaire filmé, et en conformité avec les conditions du contrat de filmage.

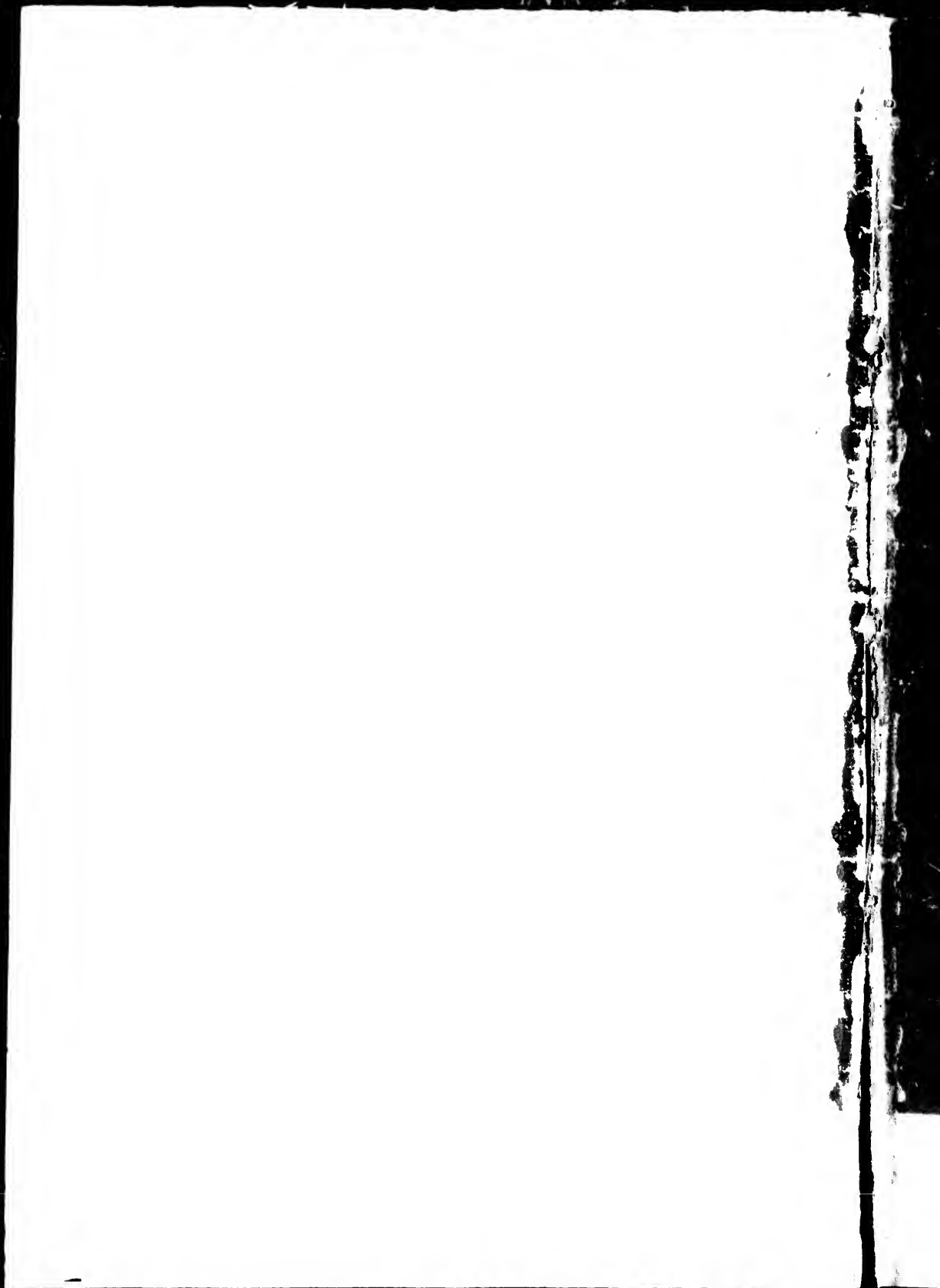
Les exemplaires originaux dont la couverture en papier est imprimée sont filmés en commençant par le premier plat et en terminant soit par la dernière page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration, soit par le second plat, selon le cas. Tous les autres exemplaires originaux sont filmés en commençant par la première page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration et en terminant par la dernière page qui comporte une telle empreinte.

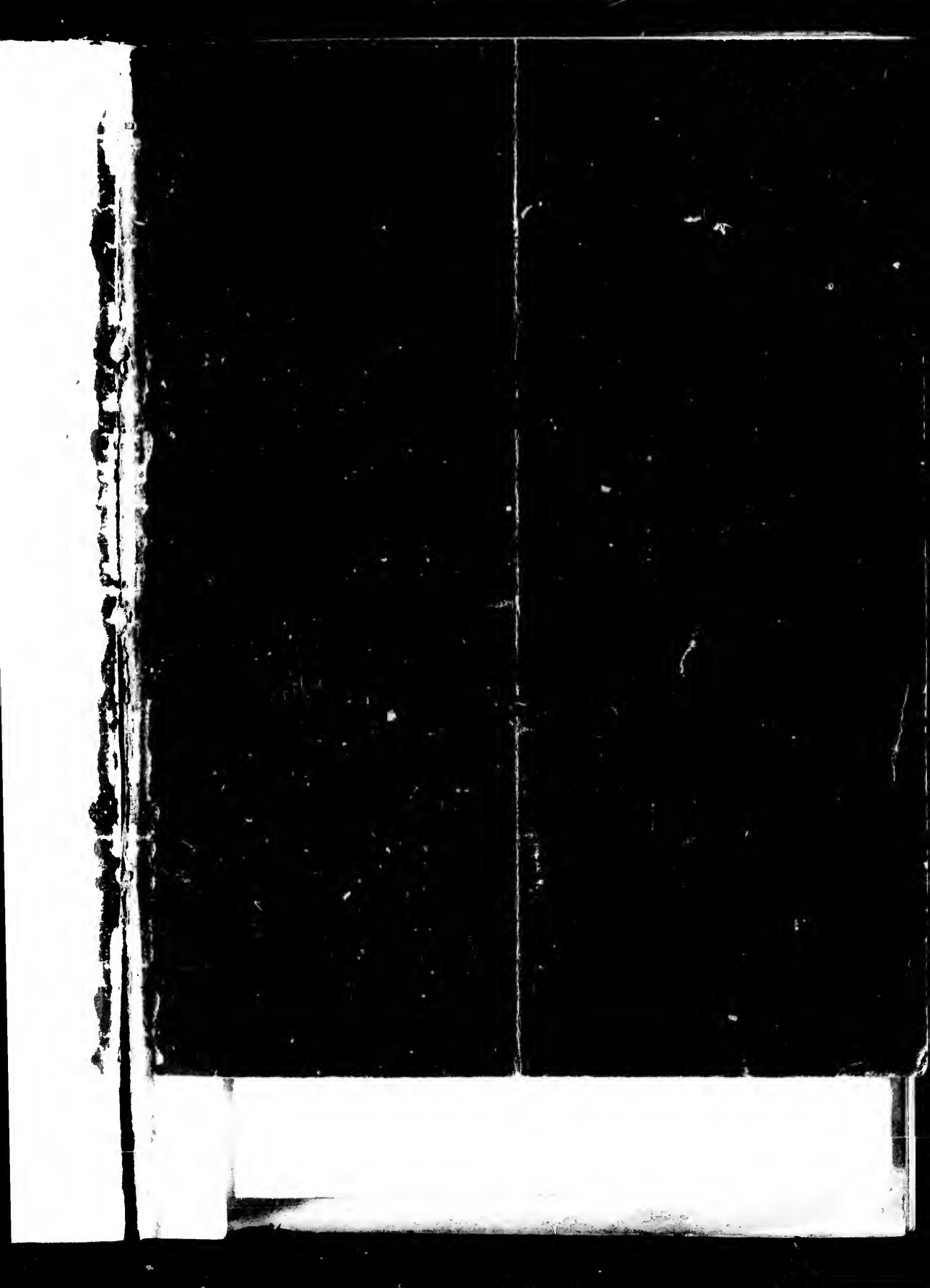
Un des symboles suivants apparaîtra sur la dernière image de chaque microfiche, selon le cas: le symbole → signifie "A SUIVRE", le symbole ▽ signifie "FIN".

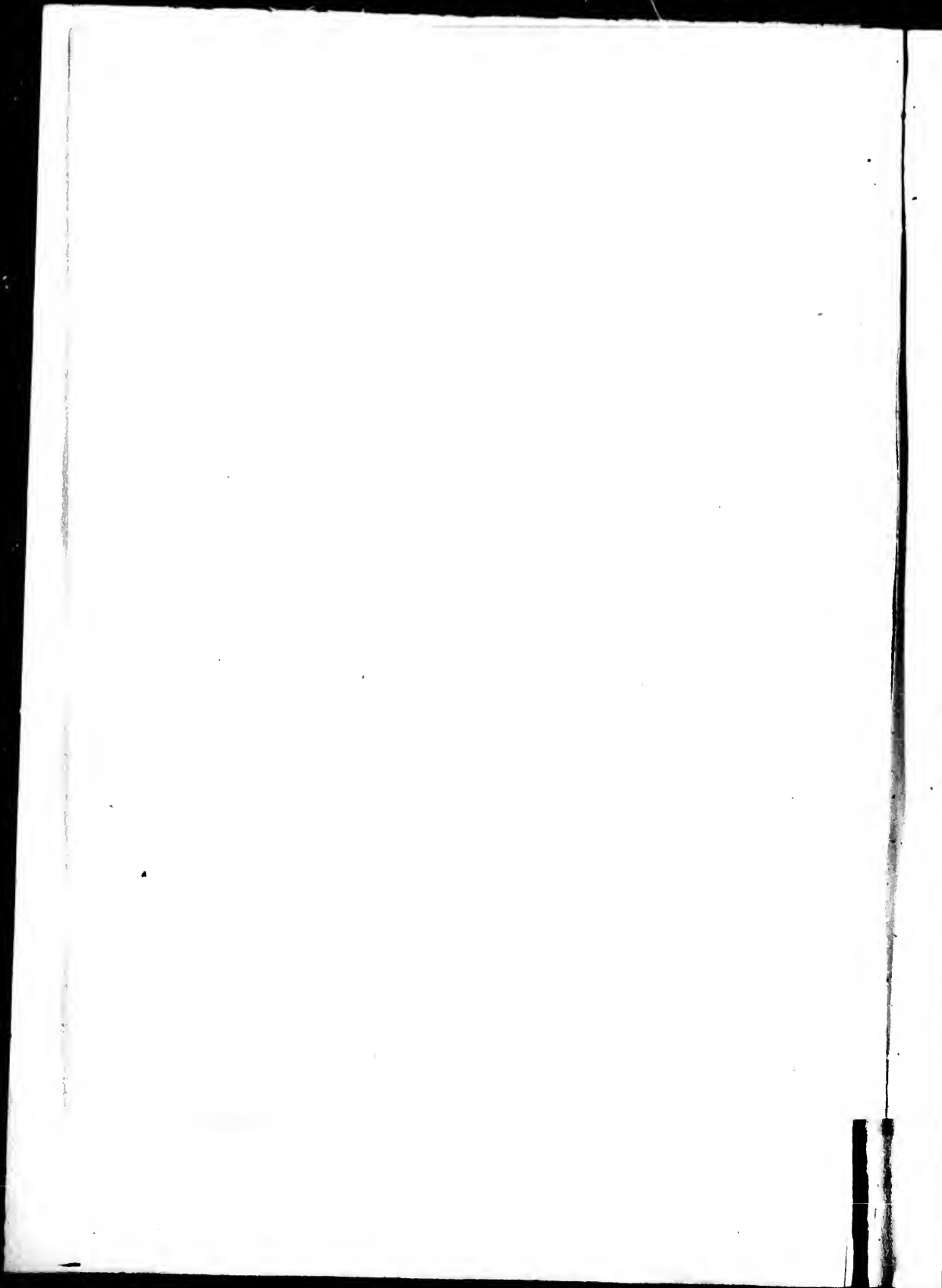
Les cartes, planches, tableaux, etc., peuvent être filmés à des taux de réduction différents. Lorsque le document est trop grand pour être reproduit en un seul cliché, il est filmé à partir de l'angle supérieur gauche, de gauche à droite, et de haut en bas, en prenant le nombre d'images nécessaire. Les diagrammes suivants illustrent la méthode.

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ALBION AND ERIN.

A VOICE FROM THE

ENGLISH SIDE OF THE IRISH QUESTION.

ADDRESSED TO
THE IRISH NATIONAL LEAGUE,
OF
AMERICA.

BY

GEO. AMBROSE M^CNEILL

OF

NEW BRUNSWICK, B. N. A.

AT TOLEDO, OHIO, U. S.

JAN. 1886.

NOTE. * * * * * Communications
may be addressed to the author of this pamphlet
at, London, Ont. B. N. A.

TO THE
IRISH NATIONAL LEAGUE,
OF
AMERICA.

Mr. President:

I would respectfully refer, to the Irish National League, this little pamphlet in advocacy of *the English* side of the Irish question.

Heretofore not a voice has been heard, nor a sentence published in any American journal in behalf of Great Britain, refuting the charges made, and anathemas hurled against her by her enemies in the United States. Having closely studied the Irish situation and England's Irish policy, I feel that I am prepared to discuss from an unbiased standpoint, the merits and demerits of the Anglo-Irish controversy. I know full well the opinion of every

land-leaguer on the subject of English supremacy, and Irish independence: and I know too; that when a people once becomes saturated with the fallacious doctrines of revolution, naught but the strong arm of law, or the mighty hand of Providence can ever subdue them into loyal subjecthood.

The Irish in America and their sympathizers have always had full scope to express their bitterness and hate against England; here in this—free to plot—country, the disturbing element of the whole world seems to have concentrated and resolved itself into a huge monster of revolution: with all due respect and regard for the feelings of Irishmen, I frankly confess that, with the uneasy spirits of Anarchism I class the so-called “Irish Cause,” the motives of which I consider sordid, and the principles of which biased, bigoted and false.

It is not biased, bigoted and false to be poor and wretched, nor is it always thus to be patriotic; but when starvation and wretchedness is *in part* the product of bigotry, and patriotism of religious and race hatred; then, the motive is sordid, the principles false, and the cause a self-inflicting curse upon the

heads of its unfortunate dupes. You say that one of the principal causes of poverty and starvation in Ireland is high rent—true it is; you say that, the sole cause of high rent is British rule—that is false. Your first proposition is true, but not all embracing. High rent is *only one* of the principal causes of starvation—to those who can not pay it—but it is not the *only* cause. The *Celtic* Papist has always hated the *Protestant* Saxon, it is a traditional fact; you may charge the origin of Saxon hatred to feudalism, but I charge it to religious bigotry: No people on the face of the earth have ever been so crushed and cursed by church domination as the unfortunate people of Ireland. Whilst you are cursing the landlords—you forget the lords of the church, who, in fact have ever been your hardest masters. The devotion of the Irish people to the Church of Rome I hold as worthy of the admiration of the world; but it has cost them more than the Church of Rome can ever restore, were she to deliver to them to-morrow the keys to the vaults of her untold and fabulous wealth. *If* the Irish are slaves under “landlordism” and British rule; it is because

Rome *and she alone*, has kept them so completely under the *tyranny* of her own domination.

You may say that this is the sentiment of protestantism ; but allow me to remind you that, even to-day *not one* of your speakers can deliver an address without a thrust at the Orangemen. Ah ; it is the same old theme ; this time it is under the guise of patriotism, along with the cry of " Liberty for Ireland." You flaunt the bloody flag of religious intolerance. Why is it thus ? I will tell you, the Church of Rome has ever instilled into the mind of Catholic Ireland that it *should not live under a protestant crown* : This is the *bigotry* I refer to, and out of it springs *another of the principal causes* of Irish poverty and starvation.

In refutation of what I have stated, you may hold up the fact that, the present leader of the Irish league is a protestant, and that you have elected protestants to a seat in Parliament ; again allow me to remind you, Mr. President ; that, it is not the first time in the history of Ireland that the tail of the devil has been used as a weapon against her opponents. Having stated as frankly as possible ;

without, I assure you, Mr. President, any intended offense; I would now state *other* truthful *reasons* for *another* cause of Irish misery—*attributed* to English rule and landlordism. Ireland is over populated; and a very great portion of the country is untillable and sterile, too many persons must live from the products of too small a portion of land; this alone, if every landlord was to leave the island forever, and all the land equally divided among the people, would, considering the uncertainty of the seasons, make even a fair living precarious: Taking these facts into consideration, and bearing in mind too; that season after season of failure in crops has been succeeded by a heavy importation of farm produce from America, flushing the English and Irish markets at prices utterly ruinous, not only to the Irish producer—but also to the producer throughout Great Britain; any fair minded person ought to be able to see an *inevitable cause* for high rent: And after such a prolonged period of unfavorable conditions, a cause for *such* high rent as would make it impossible for one class, and completely discourage another, to rent at all; and the disparagement of the landlord

who must have *high* rent, or else give out the land at such rates as would entail aught but worry and loss; now you curse the landlords of Ireland for doing just what the capitalist and large farmer in America is doing every day, and you forget too that; some of the most *avaricious* and *domineering* of that class in this country are Irishmen, who when in Ireland "could not stand landlordism." You say that the landlords in Ireland are *all* cruel and overbearing. That statement is biased, and needs qualifying; but I ask, Have the Irish people ever done anything to make them otherwise? Have not the Irish tenantry, fired by race hatred and religious prejudice for generations past—aye; for centuries—lived in constant antagonism toward the landlord? always threatening violence, and frequently carrying out their threats; never working with fidelity and good will, their holdings, for the common good of both parties; forever opposed to every reform of English origin, steeped in bitterness against the owners of the land whether *native or foreigner*, and buoyed up with the treasonable and communistic idea that they may some day, even if they have to wade through rivers

of blood, get the land for nothing, save the trouble of driving the landlords into the sea;

You can not deny it, Mr. President, I have heard you talk; and besides, the attitude of the people of Ireland in refusing *now* to buy land when offered them, and spurning the propositions of a *truly generous* land purchase act, warrants the assertion. Irish sovereignty, like state sovereignty, is a *fallacy*; Ireland *has no more right to secede from the sovereign kingdom of Great Britain, than a state has to secede from the Union of the United States*: and like those states that attempted to secede, Ireland shall certainly—should she attempt rebellion—bring down upon her already suffering people, all the miseries of war, and the woes and bitterness of the most ignominious defeat. There is but one course for Ireland; and for the sake of her poor, unhappy children, I would to God that she might pursue it; it is that of tranquility, through completely ignoring all political agitation and religious prejudice; acting in perfect harmony with every measure intended for public good, abandoning the old and ruinous follies of independence, spurning the voice and counsel of

ambitious and selfish agitators whose highest aim is *self-aggrandizement and personal gain*. England is not a hard government to live under; and no nation on earth is so prompt to protect and defend the rights of her subjects, regardless of race, color or station in life. England is the mother of religious liberty and human rights; she was the first to strike asunder the chains of oppression that galled the flesh of human slaves. When the protestant religion ascended the throne of England, the banner of religious liberty and freedom to all mankind was unfurled to the world. Loyalty to Great Britain is the key to the banquet hall of plenty and content; It is a pernicious falsehood that old Britannia hates her Irish children. She has long been grieved by their ungrateful conduct, and she longs to hold them in the paternal embrace of protection and equality that she gives to all her children; whilst in devotion she bows at the shrine of her established church; she *respects* and *protects* the *right* of those of her children who worship at a Romish altar.

O, Innisfail! when I think how in blindness you have been led into misery and wrong by heart-

less aspirants, and accursed intrigue, my heart bleeds with pity. And my soul shrinks at the thought of the unhappy fate, that *surely awaits you*, if you pursue the gaunt spectre of rebellion, and the *ignis fatuus* of independence.

GEO. AMBROSE M^C NEILL.

To MR. PATRICK EGAN,
President, Irish National League,
of America,
 Lincoln, Neb., U. S.

