

America's Pledge

"There is a potent, real sympathy for the Irish cause among our people, who discern in the state of that island a condition very like that which would have befallen the American colonies had the revolution led by Hancock, Jefferson, Franklin and Washington failed of victory."—Editorial, NEW YORK SUN, April 11, 1917.

"We are fighting for the principles Ireland has struggled for . . ."—LLOYD GEORGE, June 26, 1918.

"Let us stand by the little nations that need to be stood by."—PRESIDENT WILSON, October 19, 1916.

"No people must be forced under sovereignty under which it does not wish to live"—PRESIDENT WILSON, May 26, 1917.

"Shall strong nations be free to wrong weak nations and make them subject to their purpose and interest?"—PRESIDENT WILSON, September 27, 1918.

"Ireland is a domestic question of England's."—PRESIDENT WILSON to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, 1919.

"The people of Ireland, in a peaceful and orderly manner, have set up a republican form of government. This was done by means of the ballot, under English law and the supervision of English officials.—IRISH REPUBLIC.

"Shall the military power of any nation or group of nations be suffered to determine the fortunes of peoples over whom they have no right to rule except the right of force?"—PRESIDENT WILSON, September 27, 1918.

IRELAND, TODAY, IS SUFFERING THE BARBARITIES OF ARMED INVASION AND PRESIDENT WILSON AS YET HAS NOT REACHED HER WITH HIS PERISCOPE. WHY?

GENERAL SMUTS' WARNING

Those smug friends of England who busy themselves in the United States trying to belittle the movement for Irish Independence are invited to consider the words of Lieut. Gen. Jan Christian Smuts on the subject.

Gen. Smuts represented the Union of South Africa on the British delegation to the peace conference. He has even been accused of writing the league of nations covenant.

Although the hardy Boer once did his best to whip England to a standstill, he now is counted as a loyal British subject, worthy of the highest trust and possessed of wisdom and vision valuable in the councils of the empire.

Mark well his reference to the United States in the following passage from his farewell message on leaving London:

"It (the Irish question) has become a chronic wound, whose septic effects are spreading to our whole system and, through its influence on America, is beginning to poison our most vital foreign relations. Unless it is settled on the great principles which form the basis of this empire, THIS EMPIRE MUST CEASE TO EXIST.

"Our statesmen in Paris dealt with racial problems resembling Ireland's, and in every way as difficult as the Irish problem, and they may not shrink from applying to Ireland the same medicine they applied to Bohemia and many other parts of Europe."

Short-sighted commentators upon President De Valera's visit pretend to believe it must be ineffective because it could only be effective if it involved our government in a racket with England.

The British press and many British public men do not seem to think so. Gen. Smuts is only one of a number of important men who view agitation of the Irish question in America as filled with troublesome possibilities for England.

Whatever the seventy controlling families of England may be called, they cannot be called fools. And they would be fools to underrate the importance of American public sentiment, expressed even by a minority of the population. We believe, however, that a great majority of the American people believe Ireland is entitled to the same liberty they themselves enjoy.

"Let the Shamrock of Ireland be entwined with the laurels of the American Revolution, and truth and justice, guiding the pen of history must write 'Eternal gratitude to Irishmen.'"—COL. WASHINGTON JOHN PARK CUSTIS, adopted son of George Washington.

Eighteen Reasons Why America Should Love Ireland

DO YOU KNOW:

THAT IRELAND is the cradle of liberty and the home of democracy, her sons have always loved freedom and always espoused the cause of the oppressed.

THAT, up to the coming of the French, there was ONE HUNDRED IRISH SOLDIERS TO ONE OF ANY OTHER NATIONALITY IN WASHINGTON'S ARMY, and after that, the Revolutionary Army was fifty per cent IRISH.

THAT, nine of the signers of the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE were IRISH.

THAT, an IRISHMAN named CHARLES THOMSON, born in Derry, Ireland, as Secretary of the Continental Congress, wrote the first copy of the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE from the draft made by Thomas Jefferson.

THAT, another IRISHMAN named JOHN NIXON, whose father came from the County Wexford, Ireland, was the first to read the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE to the citizens of Philadelphia, July 6th, 1776.

THAT, it was an IRISHMAN NAMED JOHN DUNLAP who came from the County Tyrone, Ireland, who was the first printer and publisher of the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

THAT, ARCHBISHOP CARROLL OF CARROLLTON, MD., the son of an Irishman and the cousin of one of the signers of the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, drew up that section of the constitution of the United States which assures religious liberty to all denominations.

THAT, the first naval battle of the American Revolution was won by the five sons of MATHEW O'BRIEN, who was born in Cork, Ireland, and that COMMODORE JOHN BARRY, the father of the American Navy, who commanded the Lexington, the first war vessel that sailed from Philadelphia and the war vessel that later bore the American Flag to victory, was born in County Wexford, Ireland.

THAT, JOSEPH REED, the son of AN IRISHMAN, was the first Aide-de-camp appointed by the immortal Washington.

THAT, AN ANTI-RECRUITING SOCIETY KNOWN AS THE "WHITE BOYS," was organized in Ireland for the purpose of preventing enlistments in the regiments selected for the American campaign and THAT, during the Revolutionary war, American Privateers were welcomed in Irish ports where they were supplied with provisions and information as to the whereabouts of the enemy war vessels.

THAT, the first woman to fight for American liberty and the first of her sex to receive a pension from the U. S. Government for services in the Revolutionary War was Margaret Cochran, an IRISHWOMAN born in Ireland.

THAT, the SON OF AN IRISHMAN, ROBERT FULTON, designed and perfected the first steamboat and so gave America priority in the conquest of the seas.

THAT, AN IRISHMAN BORN IN CORK, IRELAND, named CHRISTOPHER COLLES, was the first man to propose the linking of the Great Lakes with the Atlantic ocean by means of a canal, and THAT the project was carried out through the influence and under the direction of GOVERNOR DeWITT CLINTON, the GRANDSON OF AN IRISHMAN.

THAT, an IRISHMAN named HENRY O'RIELLY, built the first telegraph line in America.

THAT, an IRISHWOMAN named MARY HEALY was the first FEMALE SCHOOL-TEACHER in New England and perhaps the first in America.

THAT, in every crisis as well as every forward movement in the history of America, IRISHMEN and the DESCENDANTS OF IRISHMEN, have always taken a prominent part.

In 1779 Count Arthur Dillon petitioned Louis the 16th for permission to form an Irish regiment for the Irish exiles living in France. Permission granted. He sailed with 2,300 from Brest, and Washington ordered them to Island of Jamaica, the British Naval Base. Their help was most powerful to our cause.

Lafayette's regiment was partly Irish, also.

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