

ded to celebrate? Did Ericson discover America? Be it so. Ericson was a Catholic. But Columbus and Ericson only touched upon our borders. It was for other Catholics, missionaries and explorers to press onward to the interior. The northern lakes were discovered and made known by Champ-lain, a Catholic. The Mississippi valley and all this fertile western country might not, even yet, have been opened to you and me and our children after us were it not for the intrepidity and self-sacrifice of such men as Hennepin, Duluth, Joliet, Marquette, La Salle—Catholics every one of them. One of the greatest Republican clubs in this country, the Marquette Club, of Chicago, was named after Marquette, the Catholic missionary and explorer. Catholic missionaries were preaching to the American Indians as early as 1526, long before a Protestant had ever set his foot on American soil. It was full one hundred years later that our Pilgrim Fathers landed in the Mayflower, honest, hard-headed, obstinate, opinionated, uncomfortable old duffers, from whose loins I have the honor to be descended. They were constitutionally opposed to being happy themselves or permitting anybody else to be happy.

At the battle of Bunker Hill, that real first test of heroic patriotism, there were engaged on the American side 1,500 troops, and of these 20 per cent at least were Irish Catholics. Why, America's first commodore was a Catholic, who, to the demand of a British man-of-war as to who or what he was, sang out: I'm Jack Barry, half Irish and half Yankee. Who are you?" But American patriotism, American valor, American prowess, enlisted as they were in righteous cause, could not of themselves have brought our republic into being. Those were times to try men's souls. Freedom staggered and groped wildly in the dark. Her naked feet left their bloody imprint in the snows of Valley Forge. Patrick Henry, with the trumpet voice of a prophet, had declared to the Virginia delegates, "We shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations, and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us. What is a friend,