An Appeal to the American People

—From the mothers and wives, fathers, sweethearts and friends of more than 1,250,000 soldiers of Irish blood in the American and British armies who gave their lives gallantly on every field from Chateau-Thierry and Ypres, and Guinchy and San Mihiel, to far off Gallipoli—who shed their blood that autocracy might be ended and the oppressed nations of the world be freed:

An appeal from the immortal dead of '76, who knew better than we what America owes to Ireland, and from the Congress of '78, which pledged itself to free Ireland.

Irish Friends of American Freedom

COMMODORE JACK BARRY, the dashing sailor-hero, who was the founder of the American Navy, was a native of Wexford, Ireland, a Gael of the finest type, keen, resourceful, audacious, and ardent.

The first naval engagement of the American Revolution was off Maine, fought and won under the direction of five sons of Maurice O'Brien, of Cork. The only naval battle on inland waters, in 1812, was won by Commodore Thomas MacDonough, son of an Irishman.

The first American officer to raise the American flag over a fortress in the Old World was Lieutenant O'Bannon, of the United States Marines, in the Tripolitan War of 1805.

GENERAL ANTHONY WAYNE—General Henry Lee, in his Memoirs (1808) writes of the Irishry of "Mad Anthony Wayne" and—"the native temper of the troops he commanded. They were known by the designation of the Line of Pennsylvania, whereas they might have with more propriety been calded **the Line of Ireland**. Bold and daring * * * the general and his soldiers were singularly fitted for close and stubborn action, hand to hand, in the center of the army."

PATRICK HENRY—Shall Ireland alone of all the civilized nations of the world remain in subjection to a foreign power?

"The thought is tragic—in the light of Ireland's long unceasing struggle **for liberty, in the story of Easter, 1916, and in the ardent hopes of 20,000,000 of Irish blood overseas.** For in the hearts of each of these is an echo of **the ringing call of Patrick Henry, whose Irish blood prompted the cry that was Virginia's tocsin to revolution in 1776:**

"'AS FOR ME, GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH.'"

19 GENERALS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY were of Irish origin—11 of these born in Ireland, Sullivan, Lewis, Wayne, Montgomery, Conway, Noylan, Thompson, Maxwell, Irvine, Hand, Butler, Stewart, Knox, Clinton, Moore, Reed, Nixon, Cochran, Armstrong.

10 Signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish blood: Carroll, McKean, Rutledge, Hart, Thornton, Smith, Taylor, Reed, Paine, and Lynch.

Seven States had as their first governors men of Irish blood: Sullivan, in Massachusetts; Boyle, in Illinois; Clinton, in New York; Houston, in Georgia; Bryan, in Pennsylvania; McKinley, in Delaware; Denver, in Kansas—while Sir William Johnson, first governor of the Indians, was properly a MacShane, a sept of the O'Neill family.

The great majority of the first American teachers were Irish, because the penal laws forbade them teaching in Ireland. Approximately the names of one thousand of them have been taken from authentic American records. Between 1775 and 1784 few of these teachers were at their desks. They were fighting for American freedom.

John Hancocks first teacher was Peter McLeuth, of Maynooth, Ireland. Daniel Webster's was William Evans, of Sligo, and John Dickinson, of Maryland, "the Penman of the Revolution," owes his forceful style to his Irish teacher, William Killen, who came to America in 1737 as a redemptioner.

Another Irish teacher, John Sullivan, of Limerick, was the father of two Governors, one Judge, an Attorney General, a Major General, and four officers in Washington's army.

Charles Thompson, who made the first copy of the Declaration, and John Dunlap, who first printed it, were born in Ireland. General John Nixon, who first publicly read the Declaration, was a son of an Irishman.

General Andrew Lewis was the son of John Lewis, of County Donegal, who killed his landlord in resisting an illegal attempt to eject him from his home, and with three sons he came to Virginia in 1732, being the first white settler in Bellefont, Va.

Irish Aid to American Liberty

AMERICA OWED A DEBT TO FRANCE AND SHE HAS PAID IT. WHAT ABOUT HER DEBT TO IRELAND?

"Lafayette, we are here!" said Pershing at the French hero's tomb, with the thought of America's debt in his mind. * * *

"Ireland, we're standing by, and we'll see you through!"

Can America say anything less now to Ireland in the throes of her final struggle?

IRISH RELIEF FOR AMERICA.

The first trans-Atlantic Hurleys and Hoovers were Dublin men.

In 1675 "King Philip's War" laid New England waste. The only country in the world that sent relief to America then was Ireland!

An Irish relief ship sailed from Dublin for Boston on July 28, 1676, with a generous cargo which gave relief in 500 settlements.

Dublin Corporation sent three commissioners with the ship to attend to the distribution of what is known in New England annals as "The Irish Donation."

IRISH MONEY FOR AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

America's Rebellion was prompted by the eternal spirit of Sinn Fein in the hearts of the people, and in that bleak winter at Valley Forge, when the Rebels were enduring indescribable hardships and Congress was unable to raise the money, it was a group of Philadelphia gentlemen who subscribed the money to supply the army with provisions and clothing. Of the total amount subscribed, £315,000, close to one-half, was subscribed by Philadelphia Sons of St. Patrick and Hibernians.

Much has been said in history of Robert Morris as "financier of the Revolution," and how he later occupied a debtor's prison because of advances made to the Government, but we never hear of Oliver Pollock, a native of Ireland, who settled in Carlisle, Pa., in 1760, who made advances to the sum of $300,000, over $100,000 of which had not been returned to him at the time of his death; nor of Edward Fox, a native of Dublin, who was ruined by the large advances made to Robert Morris and associates. In 1797 these gentlemen still owed him $900,000. (Supreme Court, Pennsylvania, 2, Norris reports, 512.)

"General Lee informed me that he believed fully one-half of the Rebel army was composed of Irish."—Major General Robertson to English Committee of Enquiry, 1779.

"The names and places of their nativity being taken down, I can answer the qustion with precision. They were scarcely one-fourth natives of America, one-half were Irish, the other fourth English and Scotch."—Ex-Speaker Galloway of Pennsylvania testifying before same committee. (Royal Gazette, Oct. 27, 1779.)

The first troops to sail from France to America's aid were four regiments (all Irish) of the Irish Brigade, under command of Count Dillon.

Irish emigration increased as talk of American independence grew. After Franklin's mission to Ireland, emigration leaped to 18,500 yearly, mostly men of every class, whose direct purpose was to bear arms in the Revolution.

While Burke and Barre pleaded in England for America, AN ANTIRECRUITING 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 American privateers were welcomed in Irish ports, where they were supplied with provisions and information as to the whereabouts of the enemy war vessels.

"The most conclusive evidence of the prominence of the Irish race in the accomplishment of America's independence is to be found in the abundance of Irish names in the lists of soldiers of the Revolution."—Maginnis.

...*"Let the Shamrock be entwined with the Laurels of the Revolution!"*---*Custis*

GEORGE WASHINGTON recognized the aid of the Irish in the American Revolution.

"I accept with **singular pleasure the ensign of** so worthy a fraternity as that of the Friendly Sons of **St. Patrick—a society distinguished** for the firm adherence of its members **to the glorious cause in which we are embarked."** (December, 1781, when elected an honorary **member of the Friendly Sons** of St. Patrick, of Philadelphia.)

Again in 1790:

"I hope **ever to see America amongst** the foremost nations in examples of justice **and liberality, and I presume** that your fellow citizens will not forget the patriotic part which you took **in the accomplishment of their Revolution and in the establishment of their government."**

George Washington Parke Custis, adopted son of Washington, said in 1828, in an address upon an appeal for aid from Ireland:

"And why is this imposing appeal made to our sympathies?

"It is an appeal from that very Ireland whose generous sons, alike in the day of gloom and of our glory shared in our misfortunes and joined in our success; who, with undaunted courage breasted the storm which, once threatening to overwhelm us, howled with fearful and desolating fury through this now happy land; who, with aspirations deep and fervent for our cause, whether under the walls of the Castle of Dublin in the shock of our liberty's battles, or in the feeble expiring accents of famine and misery, amidst the horrors of the prison ships cried from their hearts, 'God Save America.'

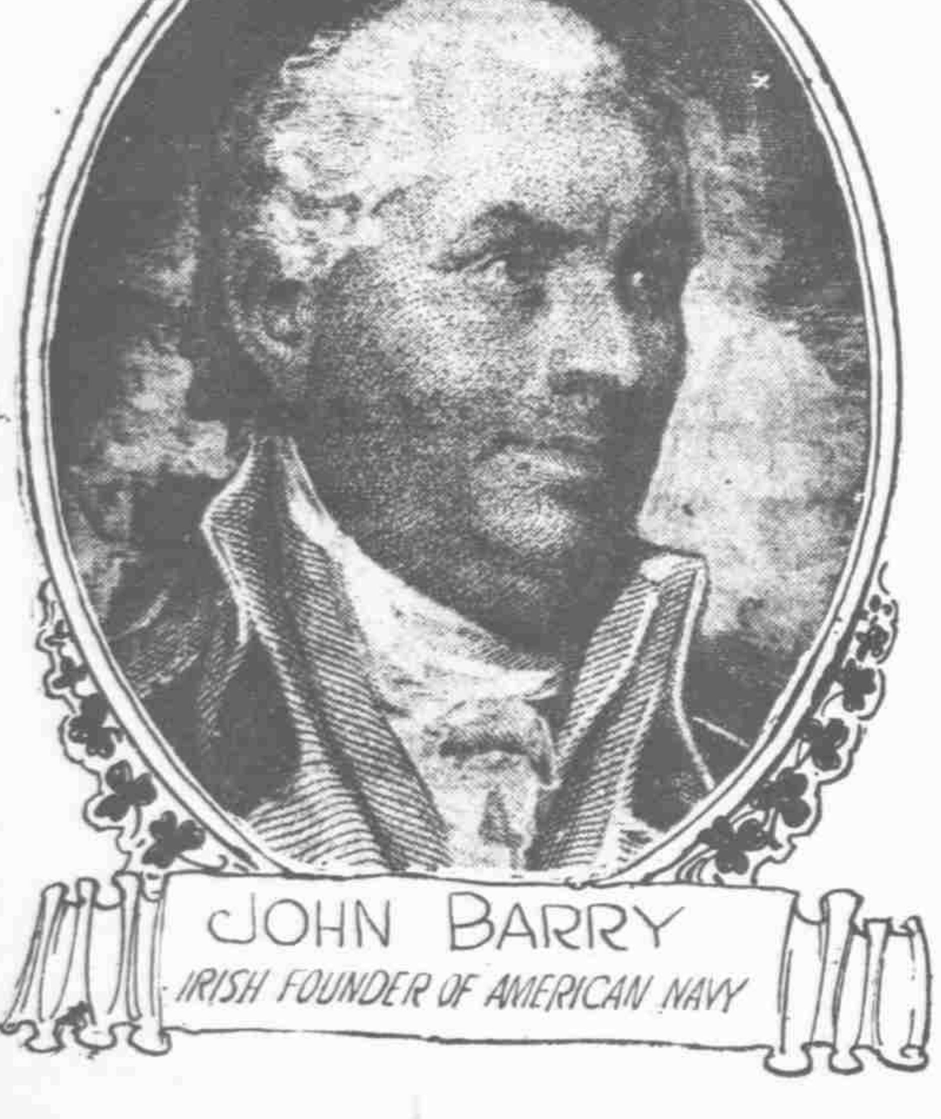
"Tell me not of the aid which we received from another European nation in the struggle for independence; that aid was most, nay, all, essential to our ultimate success, but remember, years of conflict had rolled away. Of the operatives in war—I mean the soldier—up to the coming of the French, **Ireland had furnished in the ratio of one hundred for one of any foreign nation whatever.** Then honored be the old good service of the sons of Erin in the War of Independence. **LET THE SHAMROCK BE ENTWINED WITH THE LAURELS OF THE REVOLUTION, AND TRUTH AND JUSTICE GUIDING THE PEN OF HISTORY INSCRIBE UPON THE TABLETS OF AMERICAN REMEMBRANCE 'ETERNAL GRATITUDE TO IRISHMEN.'"**

The Marquis de Chastellusi, a major-general in Rochambeau's army, wrote in his "Travels" (Paris, 1786):

"An Irishman, the instant he sets foot on American ground, becomes, **ipso facto**, an American. This was uniformly the case during the whole of the late war.

* * * Indeed, their conduct during the late Revolution amply justified this favorable opinion for whilst the Irish emigrant was fighting the battles of America by sea and land the Irish merchants particularly at Charleston, Baltimore, and Philadelphia labored with indefatigable zeal, and at all hazards to promote the spirit of enterprise, to increase the wealth and maintain the credit of the country.

"Their purses were always open, and their persons devoted to the common cause. On more than one imminent occasion Congress owed their existence, and America probably her preservation to the fidelity and firmness of the Irish."



An Appeal to Congress

Gentlemen of the Congress:

Will you not redeem the pledge of the Congress of 1778?

Ireland appeals today to the world and particularly to America to support her claim for Self-Determination.

Americans of Irish and Scotch blood—and millions of Americans besides—TRUST THE CONGRESS OF TODAY WILL REDEEM THE PLEDGE OF THE CONGRESS OF 1778.

"I am charged to assure you, that means will be found to establish your freedom in the fullest and amplest measure," said Franklin in his Address to the Irish People, on October 4, 1778, writing out of the fullness of the powers delegated to him by Congress.

The Committee of Foreign Affairs of Congress has this month by a vote of 13 to 4 recommended the adoption of a Concurrent Resolution, desiring the Peace Conference to consider favorbly Ireland's claim to the right of Self-Determination.

We appeal to you to pass that Resolution unanimously, that Ireland may be freed and that it may be forever recorded in History to the lasting honor of America and of you, Gentlemen of the Congress.

Ireland has the most ancient continuous nationhood of all the countries of Western Europe.

Yet the Irish people today are the only Caucasian people held subject by an alien people against their will.

In the elections of last December, although all their leaders but two were held in jail in England without charge or trial, and three successive Election Campaign Directors similarly held—the people of Ireland, Protestant and Catholic, gave over two-thirds majority vote to the new National Party of Sinn Fein, which has consistently agitated for admission to the Peace Conference and Ireland's right to a full and free process of Self-Determination.

In every generation since 1172 the sons of Ireland have sacrificed their lives for Irish freedom. In every generation they have repeated the protest of Donenail o' Niall, High King of Ireland in 1258, who denounced the invaders and declared that until the day of Ireland's freedom dawned the Irish people would unceasingly struggle "to recover our Independence, which is our national right."

A roll of nations will shortly be called in that world-moulding Conference at Paris.

"America!" "England!" "France!" "Belgium!" and on through the list of peoples, free and being freed.

"Finland!" "Esthonia!" "Ukrainia!" and the rest. Each of these can answer "Here!"

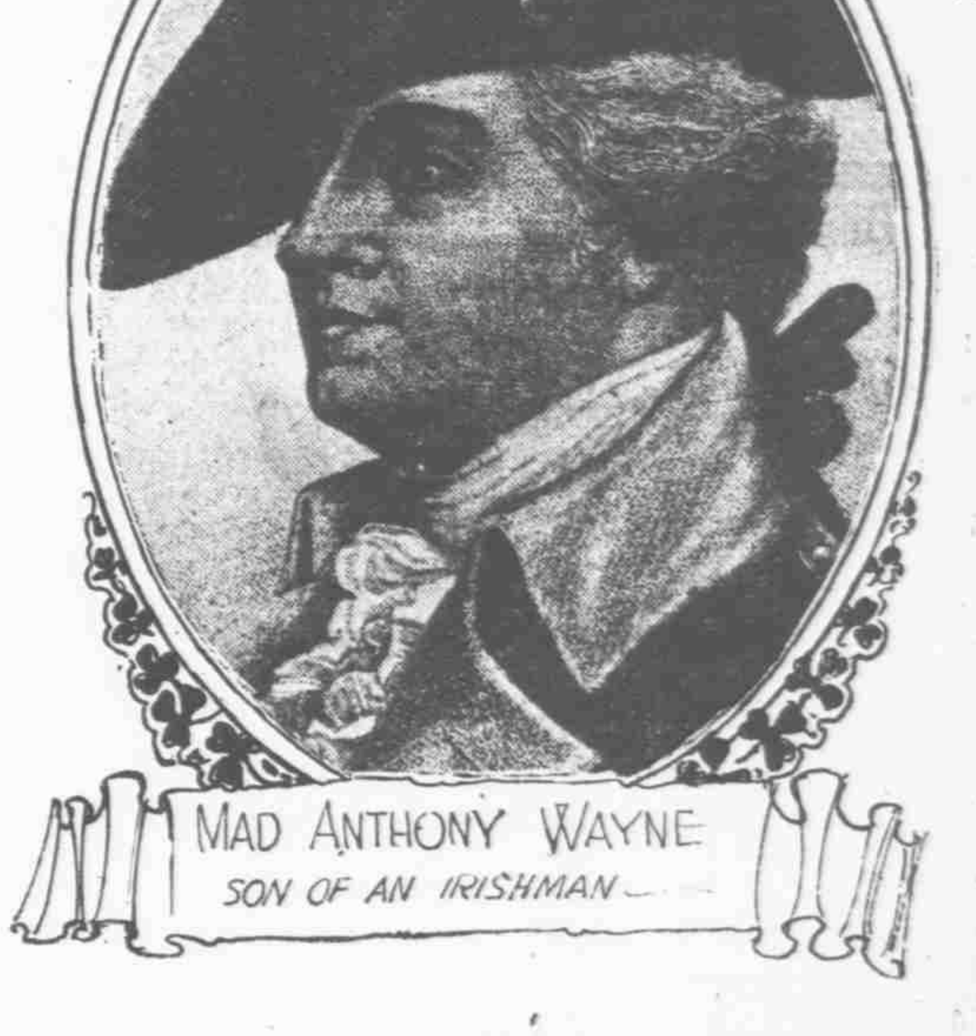
When Ireland's turn has come, who will reply to the call?

Gentlemen of the Congress, America's support today to the Irish Nation, so valiantly enduring, **WILL REDEEM THE PLEDGE OF CONGRESS IN 1778**, and help to free America's first friend and ally.

Were Congress to refuse this support, it would not alone break faith with all that is highest in American tradtions, and with the definite obligations laid upon this country by George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and their glorious associates, but it would break faith with some more near, with the heroes who sleep n Flanders fields, and who now say:

"I gave my life for Freedom; this I know.
FOR YE WHO SENT ME, TOLD ME SO."

"No people must be forced under a sovereignty under which it does not wish to live!"—President Woodrow Wilson in his speech to Congress, when asking from that body a declaration of war, April, 1917.



"Eternal Gratitude to Irishmen."
—Geo. Washington Park Custis.

Advertisement.