

JOHN SULLIVAN'S ANCESTORS.

Was Born in Limerick in 1690—He First Came to This Country at the Age of Thirty-Three.

At the first annual field day of the American Irish Historical Society, held recently at New Castle, N. H., Mr. Bernard Corr, of Boston, read an interesting paper, giving the following account of the first Sullivan:

Two or three years ago a gentleman of my acquaintance, while conversing about the Irish settlers in New Hampshire and Maine, made the remark that most of those who bear Irish names were Scotch-Irish; at least that all the most prominent families were of that mythical race. I undertook to dispute his statement, and instanced General John Sullivan, of Revolutionary fame, who, I told him, sprang from the genuine Kerry and Cork stock, and was related to the oldest Irish families in Munster.

This he stoutly denied, so I hunted the matter up, and soon presented facts which convinced him there was nothing Scotch about the Sullivans of New Hampshire, and, too, without reflecting on the character of the brave Scottish Gael.

In this way I became particularly interested in the family history of Gen. Sullivan's father and mother, and when I told my neighbor and friend, Dr. John Sullivan, the great grandson of the General, that I would like to get all the facts about the old folks, he cheerfully gave me permission to read all the books and papers in his possession bearing on the genealogy of the family. From these I took copious notes and extracts, and will present a few of them here this evening.

John Sullivan, the old Berwick schoolmaster, or more properly, Owen O'Sullivan, for that was his name before he came to America, was, according to most reliable accounts, born in Limerick, Ireland, June 17, 1690. But in Ardea, in the County of Derry, was the family estate, and as Major Philip O'Sullivan, his father, was an officer in the Irish army, fighting

against the Prince of Orange, and was serving under Sarsfield when the garrison surrendered in 1691, his mother may have been with her husband in Limerick for the time being. At any rate, it was about this time and amid these stirring scenes that the founder of the noted New Hampshire family was born.

I need not go into any particulars here about the siege of Limerick, or the surrender of the gallant patriotic army, or basely the terms of the treaty were observed, "the treaty broken ere the ink wherewith 'twas writ could dry." Such Catholics as were unwilling to abandon their religion and swear allegiance to the government of William of Orange were allowed to depart for France or any place outside of Great Britain. Major O'Sullivan was one of the noble band that preferred poverty and exile to living in their native land under such conditions, and with the brave Sarsfield and his army of about 1,300 men he crossed over to France, where the Irish exiles, in other wars, made England bitterly repent the lost services of the noble patriots.

It was George II., I believe, who said, after hearing of the defeat of the English at Fontenoy, "Cursed be the laws that deprive me of such subjects."

With the large number of exiles who left Ireland at about this time went the wife of Major O'Sullivan and her baby boy, it is supposed, but nothing definite is given of her in history after that time. The Major died in France some years afterward, from a wound received in a duel with a French officer.

The future American schoolmaster was carefully educated in the schools of the Continent and it is said was intended for the church. But for some reason that idea was given up and we find him in 1716, when he was about twenty-six years of age, engaged in an effort to restore the Stuarts to the throne of England.

He was next heard from in Ireland, where it appears he was mixed up in another patriotic intrigue in 1721. Having become disgusted with the condition of affairs in his native country, like many others of his kind,

he decided to emigrate to America. He must have been without money, for the records state that he pledged his services to one Mr. Nowell, of Newburyport, for the payment of his passage, and he landed at York, Maine, in 1723, when he was about the age of thirty-three.

One of his fellow passengers was a poor friendless little girl from Cork, about nine years of age, whose services were also pledged for the payment of her passage money. She, like O'Sullivan, was a "redemption," a term applied to those who had not the ready cash but were willing to pledge their services for a time in America until the debt was paid. It seems that in this manner a great many of the early Irish emigrants found their way to this land of promise.

O'Sullivan and this little girl were hired by the person in York, and from this time he never lost his interest in Margery Brown, as she was called, and when she grew into womanhood he sought her for wife. Here are materials for an interesting novel, but as a plain reciter of facts I will leave the story for some imaginative writer.

Sullivan, who dropped the O and called himself John, soon found that hard labor was not to his liking, and he wrote a letter, it is said, in six languages, to the minister of the town, the Rev. Samuel Moody, who, no doubt, was impressed with the scholarship of the redemptioner, for he loaned Sullivan money enough to pay his passage debt and become a free man.

The good minister also obtained for Sullivan the post of schoolmaster at Berwick, and here he settled I believe for the remainder of his life. His salary as schoolmaster was small, but

had the distinguished honor of being parents to the hero of the War of Independence, Gen. John Sullivan, and afterward Governor of New Hampshire; of Daniel, the brave militia Captain of Frenchman's Bay, and of James, who was Attorney General in 1817, and Governor of Massachusetts for two years. Eben, their fifth son, was an officer in the Revolutionary army and a lawyer by profession. Mary, the sixth child and only daughter, was the ancestress of Gov. Samuel Wells, of Maine.

AMERICA'S GREATNESS.

It Consists of the Principle of Natural Right and Justice—Dr. Stafford's Eloquent Sermon.

The Rev. D. J. Stafford, D. D., preached an able and eloquent sermon in St. Patrick's Church, Washington, D. C., on Sunday, July 10, taking for his subject President McKinley's proclamation recommending the people to offer thanks for our victories in the war. Dr. Stafford said:

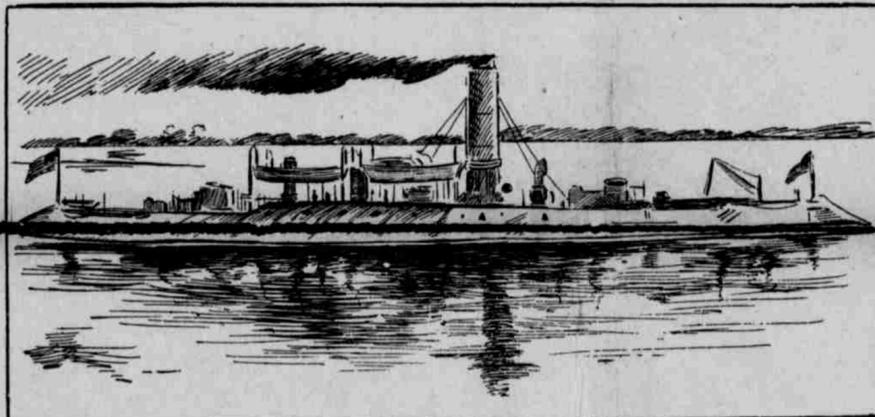
"These words of the Chief Magistrate of the nation scarcely need comment; they are as beautiful as they are patriotic, and as patriotic as they are religious. At a time of strife, when the worst passions of the human heart are called into action, the head of a great people does not forget that God holds the nation in the hollow of his hand, and asks us to pray that peace may return to our dear land and that the domain now ravaged by the cruelty of war may speedily be blessed with the priceless boon of security and tranquility. It is a great example,

There are greater things than territory; greater things than multitudinous population; greater things than armies and navies, glorious as these are. Greater than all these is justice; greater than all these is the right.

"Now it is this idea of natural justice and right with which we began that made us a great people, and were we bounded by one State, or did our national limits extend no further than the District of Columbia, we would still be the greatest nation in the world, provided we guaranteed to every one his inalienable right and protected him in the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness. Right, not territory, makes a great people.

"So there is a logical growth and evolution of nations which, if the nation is to be great, you must not interrupt. You can not force it, you can not change it, though direct it you may, and when that law of growth is interrupted, then you must sustain the nation by force—repression within, resistance without. But no nation sustained by force is a strong nation. The history of empires proves this. Alexander conquered half the world, but his empire did not outlive himself. The Romans conquered all the world, but when they arrived at universal conquest the barbarians were knocking at their gates. Napoleon conquered all Europe, and kings knelt at his feet to receive their crowns, but empires passed away like the baseless fabric of a dream. And even now nations that seem strong are really weak, and look about for some accidental means to add to their life and increase their power.

"Now the greatness of America—and we should remember it now above all times—does not consist of territory,



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he wrote deeds at a shilling apiece and did other clerical work, at times it is said acting as religious instructor in the little meeting house, although he had been brought up a strict Catholic.

Soon he earned enough to liquidate his debt to the Rev. Mr. Moody, and also to redeem his little charge, Margery Brown, who was toiling in a farmhouse and who became his special charge. Although he had never seen her until he met her on board of the vessel on his way to America, and had no knowledge of her family, he attended to her instruction, and when she bloomed into maidenhood, strong and handsome, and consulted him about an offer of marriage she had received from a youth of the town, he told her that he wanted her for himself. She consented to become his wife. Of their progress in Berwick as man and wife and of their six children I need not say much here. The histories of New Hampshire and the nation tell much of them.

Mrs. Margaret Brown Sullivan was a woman of great strength of character; quick, generous and impulsive, like all real Irishwomen, and of sturdy build. She performed most of the outdoor labor for her family, in order that her husband might devote his time to his teaching and studies. It was no uncommon thing to see her working in the field with one or two of her children by her side. In this way the two future Governors, John and James, were initiated into the affairs of life.

John Sullivan taught school for over fifty years in Berwick, and died in 1796, at the age of 106 years. Margaret, his wife, died in her eighty-seventh year, in 1801, five years after her husband. Both lived through the exciting times of the Revolution, and

for which every Christian man should be grateful.

"Yesterday the country was divided. There were many opinions as to war in general and this war in particular. Today in the breast of every loyal man there is room only for one. Whatever may be our opinion of war in general or this war in particular, when once the supreme authority of the nation has declared that it is necessary to begin the combat, dreadful as it is, then no loyal man can hesitate. It is the plain duty of every citizen to aid by all physical and moral means in his power, to give his treasure, his substance, and, if need be, his life, to carry the flag to victory. When action begins discussion ceases.

"The country has not failed in its duty. From the North and the South, from the East and the West, from every race, condition, class, creed and party of men, the country has answered with a magnificent unanimity which will make us the stronger at home and the more respected abroad. Never, in the history of our country, has the guidance of heaven been so much needed as at the present time, and the President does well to point us to higher considerations.

"The atmosphere is surcharged with change. There are rumors afloat and indications of radical departures, new and untried measures, policies, which, in a very great sense, would be a repudiation of the past, an entire reversal of all our history, of which there is no precedent or warrant in our national life. I will not discuss these here, as they may be called party questions. But if change must come, God be with us, and God direct us. God grant that we may always be right and always just.

population, exhaustless resources, the bravery of her children, though we are blessed with all these. But the beginning and the end, and the center and circumference, the alpha and omega of all things American is in that principle of natural right and justice with which we began and which we have proudly asserted in every phase and contingency of our history. It made us a great nation from the beginning, and when we were but a handful of people, scattered over a great continent and battling with the elements for life, we were already a great people, for we had natural rights and justice for a foundation and the surpassing greatness of an universal idea to ennoble and to elevate.

"Oh, let us not forget it. Where that principle may go, let us go; where it goes not let us not enter, for if we should forget it and if we should forsake it, then America has ceased to be, and God save the people and God pity the world.

"This is our principle. To wrong one man is to violate it; unjustly to acquire one foot of territory is to destroy it. Europe may call it visionary, but it is ours. We are committed to it; we began by it, and have grown strong with it. On the field of battle and amid the dash of fleets we have maintained it. In the hour of disaster we have still appealed to it, and still found strength in it. It is our glory and our greatness. God protect it.

"Whatever change come then, may we be right, and while we render thanks to God for the victory vouchsafed our arms let us beseech Him to be with us still. Oh, God, in whom our fathers trusted, be with us still. Look down upon the tented field and turn the hearts of our soldiers to thee.

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It is a fact worth noting that Cincinnati, Boston, Baltimore, Cleveland, Chicago and Pittsburg went South for spring practice, while the other teams did their practice work near home.