

THE SCOTCH-IRISH.

(Address read by Dr. W. E. McKinley, pastor of the Bellefonte Presbyterian church, before the Bellefonte Chapter of the D. A. R.)

(Concluded from last week.)

The testimony of another strong American is worth quoting—that of another ex-President of our Republic, Theodore Roosevelt. In his "Winning of the West" he says "Along the western frontier of the colonies that were so soon to be the United States, among the foothills of the Alleghenies, on the slopes of the wooded mountains, and in the long trough-like valleys that lay between the ranges, dwelt in 1774 a peculiar and characteristically American people. They were of a mixed race, but the dominant strain in their blood was that of the Ulster Irish—the Scotch-Irish, as they are often called. Full credit has been awarded the Roundhead and the Cavalier for their leadership in our history; nor have we been altogether blind to the deeds of the Hollander and the Huguenot; but it is doubtful if we have wholly realized the importance of the part played by that stern and virile people, the Irish whose preachers taught the creed of Knox and Calvin. These Irish representatives of the Covenanters were in the West almost what the Puritans were in the Northeast and more than the Cavaliers were in the South. Mingled with the descendants of many other races, they nevertheless formed the kernel of the distinctly and intensely American stock who were the pioneers of our people in their march westward. They were a truculent and obstinate people, and gloried in the warlike renown of their forefathers, the men who had followed Cromwell, and who had shared in the defence of Derry, and in the victories of the Boyne and Aughrim. The West was won by those who had been rightly called the Roundheads of the South, the same men who before any other declared for American independence."

Let us come down from generalities, and see if facts of historical knowledge substantiate these claims of Froude, and Lecky, and McKinley, and Roosevelt.

There has been a good deal of controversy as to the birthplace of American independence—was it in New England, the home of the Puritan, or was it in Virginia, the home of the Cavalier?

Bostonians contend that the first gun of complete independence was fired in the old Town House in Boston in the month of February, 1761. James Otis shouldered the gun, and with deadly aim shattered the "acts of trade" recently formulated by the British Parliament controlled by King George, the Third.

But what of Virginia's claim? According to the testimony of Thomas Jefferson, as quoted by William Wirt, "Mr. Patrick Henry gave the first impulse to the ball of the revolution." "He was our leader in the measures of the Revolution in Virginia, and in that respect more is due to him than to any other man." Thus Virginia claims to have given birth to the child Independence, which in fifteen years—in 1776—grew up to manhood, and declared itself free.

What of these claims? John Adams, who supports the claim of Boston, was born in Massachusetts and was a New Englander through and through. Thomas Jefferson, the supporter of Virginia's claim, was born in the State of Virginia and was a typical son of the Old Dominion colony.

Suppose we turn to history of the United States—not a history of Virginia or even of New England. Bancroft is a recognized authority, and both by training and make-up was well fitted to give us an unbiased account of the whole matter. His history has received the highest commendation from men entitled to respect. Here is his view of this matter, "The first voice publicly raised in America to dissolve all connection with Great Britain, came not from the Puritans of New England, nor from the planters of Virginia, nor from the Dutch of New York, but from the Scotch-Irish."

Col. A. K. McClure, the famous Philadelphia editor, has left on record "It was the Scotch-Irish people of the colonies that made the declaration of 1776. Without them it would not have been thought of except as a passing fancy. The action of the Continental Congress voiced the teachings of the Scotch-Irish people of the land. They did not falter, they did not dissemble, they did not temporize. It was not the Quaker, nor the Puritan, nor the Cavalier, nor even the Huguenot or the German; it was the Scotch-Irish of the land whose voice was first heard in Virginia. In the valley of Virginia, in North Carolina, in Cumberland and Westmoreland counties in Pennsylvania, the Scotch-Irish had declared that these colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent. They had taught this not only in their public speeches, but at their altars, in their pulpits, at their firesides, and it was from these there came that outburst of rugged and determined people that made the declaration of 1776 possible. They were its authors, and they were ready to maintain it by all the moral and physical power they possessed. They meant that Scotch-Irish blood was ready to flow on the battle field, and come weal or woe they would maintain it with their lives."

In the Colonial Assemblies of 1775 the relation of the colonies to Great Britain was discussed in each one of them. While all deplored the arrogant and iniquitous conduct of Britain, not one of them voted for a complete break with the mother country. The tenor of all the colonies might be summed up in the words of the New York provincial convention for that year. It reads "The turbulent state of this colony does not arise from a want of attachment to the King, from a desire to become independent of the British crown, or a spirit of opposition to the ancient and established form of government to which we have been subjected; but solely for the oppressive acts of the British parliament."

In contrast with this statement of relationship considered what is known in history as the Mechenburg Declaration. The North Carolina Convention had formulated a judgment much the same as that of New York. The citizens from the county of Mechenburg demurred from that judgment, and determined to give to the world their conception of the situation. In May of 1771 the Scotch-Irish of this county and contiguous territory had resisted the oppression of the British crown as unjust. The Governor of the colony had treated them as outlaws, and sent an army against them and shot them down, and took captive and hung thirty of their number. This was the first blood of the Revolution—shed by the sons of Ulstermen. It is known in history as the war of the Regulators. Bancroft says of it "The blood of the first rebels against British oppression was first shed on the branches of the Cape Fear River." We can easily understand what would be the feeling of these citizens of Mechenburg when they heard of the doings of the minutemen of New England in the battle of Lexington. It did not take them long to act. A summons was issued to send their representatives to Charlotte, North Carolina, in conference for May 21st, 1775. There were twenty-seven delegates, and every man a son of Scotch-Irish parents.

They formulated a Declaration of five propositions. To understand their decision on the relationship that ought to exist between Britain and these colonies we have only to read number two. It says "Resolved, 2nd, That we the citizens of Mechenburg county, do hereby dissolve the political bonds which have connected us with the mother country, and hereby absolve ourselves from all allegiance to the British crown and abjure all political connection, contract, or association with that nation, which has wantonly trampled on our rights and liberties, and inhumanly shed the blood of American patriots at Lexington." This was the first recognized public convention which called for a complete severance from the British crown. It antedated the Philadelphia Declaration of Independence one whole year. It was in toto an assembly of Ulstermen, and historians of today are giving it its rightful place in the evolution of our national independence. "Wallace Bruce, a man with a double Scotch name and a double Scotch nature, honors the event of Mechenburg in verse:

Manhattan and Plymouth and Jamestown
Can boast of their heritage true,
But Mechenburg's fame is immortal
When we number the stars in the blue;
The Scotch-Irish Puritan Fathers
First drafted the words of the free,
And the speech of Virginia's Henry
Is the crown of our Liberty's plea."

Ulstermen were the first who dared to resist British oppression in these States of ours, with the sword; Ulstermen were the first to shed their blood for the liberties we now enjoy; and they were the first to announce openly to the world that we ought to be an independent people—a republican government, of the people, for the people, and by the people. History has richly justified their wisdom.

Had we time, what names we could bring forward to show the spirit and calibre of the men of Scotch-Irish blood. One prefers to quote the verdict of others rather than give his own conception of things. Says Dinsmore, "During the war the Scotch-Irish were incomparably the most effective element in Washington's army."

It was from this race that George Washington got Henry Knox, a member of his cabinet, and the first Secretary of War in the American Republic. It was from this race that Washington got Rev. James Caldwell, the chaplain of the First Brigade. Caldwell was more than chaplain; he was at one time the assistant commissary-general. Washington esteemed his services as invaluable. Thomas Jefferson is the recognized writer of the American constitution; he was a son of this race. Professor McCloskie, Princeton University, says the Declaration of Independence, as we have it now, is in the hand writing of a son of this race; it was printed by another son of this race, and a third—Captain Nixon—first read it publicly to the people.

This race also claims Patrick Henry, among the first to sound the tocsin of war in that great sentence of his "give me liberty or give me death." Madison is claimed by more than one member of the Scotch-Irish Society. He is known as the father of the American Constitution. Seven Governors out of the thirteen original States were either Scotch or Scotch-Irish. In the words of Douglas Campbell, a lover as well as a writer on the Puritan "The Scotch-Irish gave to New York her first Governor, George Clinton." To Pennsylvania they gave her first Governor, Thomas McKean, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

SEVERAL WAYS TO SAVE SUGAR—WHICH IS YOUR WAY?



To Delaware they gave her first Governor, John McKinley To Virginia they gave Patrick Henry—part Scotch and part Scotch-Irish—the great war Governor, and also civil leader, who, supported by his Scotch-Irish brethren from the western counties, first carried and then held Virginia for the cause of Independence. To North Carolina the Scotch-Irish gave her first Governor, Richard Caswell, and to South Carolina they gave another signer of the Declaration of Independence, Edward Rutledge, and another great war Governor in the person of John Jay, of French extraction; the second chief justice was John Rutledge, of Scotch-Irish descent. Two of the original associate Justices were of this race—Wilson and Iredell.

Scotch-Irish blood predominated in at least seven of our Presidents—Jackson, Polk, Buchanan, Johnson, Grant, Arthur, and McKinley. There was also a goodly stream of Scotch-Irish blood in the veins of Jefferson, Monroe, Madison, Taylor, Lincoln, Hayes, Harrison, Cleveland and Wilson. Alexander Hamilton was Scotch and Scotch-Irish.

In the naval wars of 1776 and later the Scotch-Irish gave such command as Samuel Nicholson, Richard Dale, Alexander Murray, Matthew Galbraith Perry, Oliver Perry and others equally famous in their day.

Among American generals a few may be mentioned: Andrew Jackson, U. S. Grant, James B. McPherson, George B. McClellan, Stonewall Jackson, James Longstreet, John F. Reynolds, Winfield S. Hancock, Frederick Funston, etc.

In politics we have such men as John C. Calhoun, Alexander H. Stephens, Marcus A. Hanna, White-law Reid, W. McVeagh, Stephen A. Douglas, Stephen B. Elkins, etc. In American literature we find of this strain such men as Lew Wallace, Marion Crawford, Thomas Nelson Page, and Maurice Thompson.

Hanna tells us that, "in law and theology they outclass all other nationalities." Of the Sixty Judges of the United States Supreme court, it is said that one-half have been of Scotch or Scotch-Irish blood. America's prominent business men have been of the same grain. Witness A. T. Stewart, Robert Stuart, John I. Blair, James Lenox, Andrew Carnegie.

During the first hundred years of our existence as a nation historians seemed to see no further than New England or Virginia. Everything

was credited to the Puritan and the Cavalier. The Hollanders in New Amsterdam, the Huguenots in New Rochelle; the Quaker in Pennsylvania; and the Scotch-Irish everywhere—these were forgotten, neglected, passed by. But there has been a wonderful change in this respect in the past forty years. These other factors in American Republicanism are coming into their rightful heritage. As one has said "The eyes of the public are being opened, and the result is, there is an honest and a popular demand that American history be rewritten from alpha to omega, and that the uncredited heroes be enthroned in the midst of their lawful rewards, and that every omitted chapter be inserted in full." When this becomes a reality we believe those historians will only expand on a statement made by William McKinley in the address referred to, "The Scotch-Irishman comes of mighty stock—that we know—descending from those who would fight, who would die, but never surrender. He is the perfection of a type which is the development of the commingling and assimilating process of centuries. In the American Scotch-Irishman we behold the personification of liberty and law. His thoughts have been widened with the process of suns, and the civilization which he has helped to secure has added light and sweetness to the stern faith of his fathers. To the distinctive qualities of this type has been added the humanizing and fraternal influence of the American spirit of toleration and equality. He will stand forth as a fair prototype of the coming American."

—A company at Moss Landing, Cal., has established a packing house for whale meat and will soon supply consumers on the Pacific Coast. The whales are caught with trollers and harpoon guns. The flesh is sold in steaks and roasts, free from bone and gristle, at 8 to 10 cents a pound, and resembles good beef in flavor, texture and appearance.

Took a Preparatory Course.

That auctioneer seems to know his business. Yes, knocking down is his specialty. He used to be a pugilist.—Boston Transcript.

Boastful.

"I know that he is bragging." "Why?" "He says he knows all about the income tax law."—Detroit Free Press.

CASTORIA.

CASTORIA.

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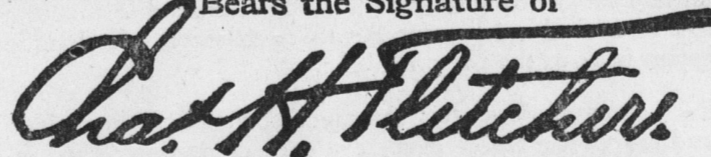
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