

THE SCOTCH-IRISH IN AMERICA.

PROCEEDINGS AND ADDRESSES

OF THE

THIRD CONGRESS,

AT

LOUISVILLE, KY., MAY 14 TO 17, 1891.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF

THE SCOTCH-IRISH SOCIETY OF AMERICA.

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THE SCOTCH-IRISH IN AMERICA.

PART I.

THE THIRD CONGRESS.

BY A. C. FLOYD.

It is the intention of our Society that our annual volumes shall contain a complete record of all the important facts relating to the organization. Many of these facts cannot well be included in the formal report of proceedings, and, therefore, it is necessary that each yearly volume shall contain a supplementary article similar to this.

The origin and objects of the Society, and its history up to the time of their publication, were included in our first and second volumes. It is unnecessary, therefore, that this sketch should deal with those subjects.

The report of the Executive Committee for the year ending with our Louisville Congress contains a general review of our progress during the period which it covers. From this report, it will be seen that our executive plans have been reduced to a satisfactory system, and that our advancement has been very gratifying in every respect. It will also be seen why Louisville was chosen as the place for holding our third Congress in preference to San Francisco, Charlotte, or Atlanta—all of which sent us pressing invitations. Louisville is about the center of our membership, and, indeed, of the whole Scotch-Irish population of this country.

In Kentucky, as in Tennessee and Pennsylvania, the Scotch-Irish constitute the most numerous and influential part of the population. Daniel Boone, the first explorer and settler of the State, and the people who followed him to Central Kentucky, were from the Scotch-Irish settlements of North Carolina. The great body of the immigration which poured into the State during the years immediately following this original settlement

Mr. Bonner:

We have been listening with great pleasure to a statement of the achievements of our fathers and grandfathers of Scotch-Irish blood. I now have the pleasure of introducing to you a distinguished representative of the race, who was born and educated in Ireland. I refer to Dr. John Hall, of New York.

(For Dr. Hall's speech, see Part II., page 187.)

Mr. Bonner:

Col. Echols, of our Executive Committee, has some announcements to make before we adjourn.

Col. Echols:

Scotch-Irish Men and Women: I am glad to see such an audience here to-night, and we only trust their interest will continue through the meeting. To-morrow morning at 10:30 o'clock, after the usual opening exercises, we will be favored with an address from the Rev. Thomas Murphy, of Philadelphia, whose subject will be "The Scotch-Irish Among the Nations;" and after that speaker a paper that has been sent forward by one of our members, who cannot be with us, will be read to you, entitled "The Pioneers of California;" and I can assure you from what I have heard regarding that paper that it will be most interesting and entertaining, setting forth the trials and struggles of the pioneers of California, amongst whom were a goodly number of our race, and the important position that California has taken amidst her sister States. We thank you for the large audience of the evening and for their attention.

Mr. Bruce then repeated the announcements concerning the reception at the Galt House, which occurred immediately after adjournment.

Mr. Bonner:

The Congress now stands adjourned, to meet to-morrow morning at 10:30 at the Masonic Temple.

MORNING SESSION.

SECOND DAY, Friday, May 15, 1891.

Mr. Bonner:

The Congress will now come to order. We will be led in prayer by the Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, of Louisville.

Dr. Witherspoon :

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we humbly invoke Thy blessing upon this Congress as it gathers together in its second day's session. We give Thee thanks for the good rest of the night, for its refreshing sleep, and for this beautiful morning. We beseech Thee, most merciful Father, give us the grace of Thy Holy Spirit to guide us in all our deliberations, in all our thoughts, in all our words. Deliver us, we beseech Thee, from all evil; inspire us with a love for those great principles of Church and State which were formed by the men whose memories are brought before us now. We worship reverently before Thee, and invoke Thy blessing upon us; upon the distinguished speakers who are to guide our thoughts to-day, that their thoughts may be guided by Thee; upon all the officers of this association, and the associations that are connected with it; and so bless and prosper the objects for which this association has been formed, that it may be a power for great spiritual good throughout all our land and throughout all the world, and the glory shall be to Thy great name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mr. Bonner:

We are now to have the pleasure of listening to an address on "The Influence of the Scotch-Irish Among the Nations," by Rev. Thomas Murphy, of Philadelphia, who has made a special study of the Scotch-Irish.

(For Dr. Murphy's address, see Part II., page 123.)

Mr. Bonner:

By special request, the band will play a Scotch-Irish march which was composed specially for this occasion.

Band plays.

Mr. Bonner:

Mr. Montgomery, our Vice-president for California, has brought with him a paper—"Scotch-Irish Pioneers of California"—and has requested the Rev. Dr. MacIntosh to read the paper for him, and I think you will be satisfied in a few minutes that he has made no mistake in the selection of a reader.

Dr. MacIntosh:

Mr. President, Ladies, and Gentlemen: This is a paper prepared by a gentleman in San Francisco, Mr. Masterson, who desired himself to be present with the Congress and to present his own paper; but being

EVENING SESSION.

Mr. Bonner :

The convention will now come to order. We will be led in prayer by Rev. Dr. Richmond, of Louisville.

Dr. Richmond :

Lord, Thou has been our dwelling-place in all generations. We adore Thee as the God of creation, the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the God of Moses and the prophets, the God of the Bible and of the Church in all ages, the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and our God forever and ever. Bless, we beseech Thee, Thy servants assembled here, and those whom they represent. Grant, O God, that we may receive in the spirit humility and meekness for the welfare of our own soul, for the advancement of Thy kingdom in the world, and the glory of Thy great name. Grant, O Lord, to guide us this night; may Thy blessing rest upon this assembly; prepare us for the duties of the coming Sabbath; may we be in the spirit on that day, and may the approaching service in connection with this Congress be the crowning glory of these meetings. And when Thou art done with us here on earth, receive us into Thy general assembly on high, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mr. Bonner:

A poem entitled "A Scotch-Irish Welcome," written by a Louisville lady, will now be read by Prof. Hawes, of the Baptist Theological Seminary.

Prof. Hawes :

The poem which I will read, entitled "The Scotch-Irish Race," has been written by Mrs. Sophie Fox Sea, and is dedicated to the Rev. T. D. Witherspoon, of this city, who is a lineal descendant of John Knox.

THE SCOTCH-IRISH RACE.

BY MRS. SOPHIE FOX SEA.

[Dedicated to Rev. T. D. Witherspoon, D.D., LL.D., a lineal descendant of John Knox.]

Fair, fair, those historic hills and valleys
 Where the shamrock and thistle grew,
 Where over the slopes and battle-crowned heights
 The breath of the heather blew,
 And a green isle shone clear as a jewel
 In a setting of crystal dew;
 But fairer the light of immortal deeds
 That shineth eternal through.

Illumined, in the fane of ages,
 God's thinkers and workers stand.
 He calleth them, as the chieftain calleth,
 Trusty ones in his command,
 To lead in the thickest of the combat,
 With foes on every hand.
 As such we cry: Hail, comrades, and welcome,
 Welcome to our dear Southland!

Yes, hail to the race whose childhood saw
 God's truth like a rush-light shine,
 Till Iona's grim walls on Scotia's shore
 Glowed with effulgence divine.
 Still that light shines like the star's fixed splendor
 Still the great heart of mankind
 Reaches to it through the mists of ages,
 Claims its heritage sublime.

True hearts of old Irish fire, was your flame
 Kindled at Tara's shrine,
 And nourished by Scottish strength of will,
 Rare union of soul and mind;
 Something akin to the power that holds
 In check the wave and the wind,
 Was that dauntless race no fear could tame,
 No earthly fetters bind.

Worthy they of all hearts' true homage,
 Worthy they that which is best
 And grandest and noblest in words that burn
 In thoughts to this sad earth blest.
 Statesmen, warriors, God's thinkers, God's workers,
 To-day they stand confessed
 As men, in manhood's broadest manliness,
 Women, by womanhood's test.

O land, our land, withhold not thy fullness
 Of honor: to death they wore,
 Like a garment well-fitting, thy purpose,
 For thy weal their blood did pour.
 Withhold not thy love: those spirits of fire
 Upward like eagles did soar,
 Those wills of iron kindled the flame
 Of liberty on this shore.*

* The fate of the Declaration of Independence was trembling in the balance. Witherspoon rose to his feet and said in solemn, earnest tones: ". . . . To hesitate is to consent to our own slavery. That noble instrument upon your table, which insures immortality to its author, should be subscribed this very morning by every pen in this house. He that will not respond to its accents, and strain every nerve to carry into effect its provisions, is unworthy of the name of freeman." This eloquent burst of patriotic fervor, there is every reason to believe, bore with telling effect upon the fate of the Declaration, which was passed two days after, settling at once the momentous question of the nation's independence.—*Dr. William P. Reed, Centennial Address, 1833.*

Still the fire burneth, we thank Thee, O God,
 Truth, virtue their guiding star,
 Tenderest when humanity calls them,
 Sublimest in needs of war.
 Hail, hail, Green Isle in thy crystal setting,
 Hail, stern rock-bound coast afar,
 Our birthright of historic memories
 That glorious, eternal are.

Mr. Bonner:

No man has worked harder, or devoted more time, or brought more intelligence to the building up of the Scotch-Irish Society of America than the Rev. Dr. John MacIntosh, of Philadelphia. We are now to have the pleasure of listening to him. His subject is "Our Pledge to Posterity, or the Scotch-Irish of To-day and To-morrow."

(For Dr. MacIntosh's address see Part II., page 2 3.)

Mr. Bonner:

We are now to have a few words from Mr. McKeehan, the energetic Secretary of the Scotch-Irish Society of Pennsylvania.

Mr. McKeehan:

Mr. President, Ladies, and Gentlemen: I came from Philadelphia to this Scotch-Irish Congress, and brought with me my much better half and several friends to look at this live State of Kentucky and this beautiful city of Louisville and attend this meeting. I came not to make any speech. In that line Philadelphia is well represented. We have had here in making addresses the silver-tongued orator of the Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, Dr. MacIntosh, and he has left but very little for me to say. I am a little afraid that some congregation will try to induce him to remain here. All I have to say is, any congregation that attempts it will have a lively time. I feel like congratulating myself and the Congress and everybody else on the good time we have had. I think we ought to feel grateful to our President, Mr. Bonner. He holds the reins over this Congress as he does over Maud S., as she does a mile in 2:10. I feel like congratulating myself and the local committee for the delightful way they have managed affairs, and then we ought to thank the citizens of this beautiful city and this entire State of Kentucky. Didn't they send their distinguished Governor to throw wide open to us the gates of their city, and, with their proverbial hospitality, tell us we were welcome, and that they hoped we would have a good time. I was taken out riding by a gentleman, and saw