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ODE—TO THE PRESS.

BY G. G. FOSTER.

As breaks the sun o'er ocean's gloom,
And lights the dark and frowning sea—
While the frail bark, escaped its doom,
Again sails onward fast and free—
So th' dark world, beneath thy light,
Sprung up in intellectual might.

The pride, the pomp, the power of kings,
Faded like mist before thy ray;
And men perceived those mighty things
Dwindle to atoms, even as they—
While o'er the earth a Spirit went,
With voice and eye all eloquent.

The nations heard its voice, and all
The populous millions of earth's slaves
Re-echoed, with glad shout, the call
Of Freedom—standing o'er the graves
Of uncrowned kings, unmitred popes,
And all that crushed man's highest hopes.

No more the emancipated world
Bowed 'neath the despot's iron rod:
The tyrant from his throne was hurled—
Man, slave no more, assumed the god—
And Genius, with her arts sublime,
Glided the wings of passing time!

BRAVERY OF THE IRISH.

The indomitable courage, patience and perse-
verance exhibited upon all occasions by the Irish
soldier, even when laboring under excessive pri-
vation, is a matter of notoriety. The Duke of
Wellington, during his early campaigns in India,
duly appreciated the valor of his countrymen in
the service of the E. I. Company.

Subsequently, during the peninsular war in
Spain and Portugal, the noble and kind hearted
Duke took especial care to place the Irish regi-
ments in front, to bear the brunt of the different
battles, being well aware of the unflinching char-
acter of the sons of Erin.

Still later, at Waterloo, he may thank the
Irish and Scotch troops, who remained immobile
under the most tremendous fire of artillery and
musquetry, combined with repeated attacks of
cavalry.

That brave Englishman, General Sir Thomas
Picton, when on service in Spain, commanded a
division emphatically called the "Fighting Bri-
gade," composed of Irish regiments; wherever
danger was to be found, or glory won, the brave
Picton and his troops were sure to be found. The
heroic general fell on the plains of Waterloo.

The following extracts taken from "Ferrara's
History of Limerick," a work of the highest au-
thority, published in Ireland in 1787, may serve
to illustrate the subject, and will doubtless prove
gratifying to our Irish citizens who have not had
an opportunity of perusing the work alluded to,
which has become very scarce.

The garrison of Limerick made a glorious
struggle in defence of their religion and liberty,
even the women gave proofs of valor, which can-
not be equalled in history. After the capitula-
tion in 1691, nineteen thousand and fifty-nine of
the Irish troops, officers included, embarked for
France. These troops were regimented in Ire-
land, afterwards reformed in France, so that col-
onels became captains, &c. The regiments of
O'Neal, O'Donnell, Mac Donnell, Maguire, Mac
Mahon, Magennis, were incorporated, so was
that of O'Reilly; and in 1695, all the Irish troops
were reduced to twelve regiments.

In 1708 the king of Spain raised two regiments
of dragoons, and three regiments of Irish foot; the
infantry he afterwards augmented, making of
each regiment two battalions. These served
with the greatest distinction, at Oran; in Sicily
and Italy in 1733 and '34. In 1743 these troops,
by their bravery, saved the Spanish army at Vil-
lettri, and Don Philip who would have been taken
prisoner, and beat back the Imperialists. On
the most exact calculations, taken out of the war-
office of France, it appears, that from 1691, when
these troops first arrived in France, to the year
1745, after the battle of Fontenoy, above four hun-
dred and fifty thousand Irish had lost their lives
in the service of France, and with what consid-
erable loss to the allies, the annals of history to
this day prove.

When the Prince Eugene surprised Cremona,
in 1702, Villeroy, the French General, most of
his officers, military chest, &c. were taken. The
Germans were in possession of the whole town,
except the Po-gate, which was guarded by O'Ma-
hony's and Burke's Irish regiments. Before
Eugene attacked that post, he sent Gen. M'Don-
nell, an Irishman, to shew his countrymen the
folly of sacrificing their lives, where there was
no probability of relief, and make them large
offers to enter into the Imperial service. The
Irish listened to both proposals with high disdain
and told the Prince that while one of them existed,
the German Eagle should not be displayed on
the Po-gate. They were attacked by a large
body of horse and foot, supported by 6000 cuiras-
siers or German horse, completely armed; and
after a dreadful conflict of two hours, the Germans
retreated. The Irish availing themselves of this
success, pursued the enemy into the streets, drove
them from the town, retook the general, and re-
covered the military chest, &c. This action was
of such éclat, that it was said in the British House
of Commons, the Irish abroad had done more mis-
chief to the allies, than they could have done at
home by being repossessed of their estates.

After the surrender of the Saxons near Pirna,
in the late German war, the King of Prussia did
every thing to corrupt the troops, and alienate
them from their sovereign. He soothed, he flat-
tered, he threatened; amidst a circle of officers,
he applied to O'Caranagh, Colonel of the Irish
guards. "Sire," replied this brave man, "my
life and fortune are in your power, and you may
dispose of them, but my honor is beyond your



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