

AMERICA'S PLEDGE TO IRELAND

Given by Congress, through Benjamin Franklin



HE misery and distress which your ill-fated country has been so frequently exposed to and has so often experienced by such a combination of rapine, treachery and violence, as would have disgraced the name of government in the most arbitrary country of the world, has most sincerely affected your friends in America, and **has engaged the most serious attention of Congress . . .**

"I have in my commission to repeat to you, my good friends, the cordial concern that Congress takes in everything that relates to the happiness of Ireland; they are sensibly affected by the load of oppressive pensions on your establishment; the arbitrary and illegal exactions of public money by King's letters; the profuse dissipation by sinecure appointments with large salaries; and the very arbitrary and impolitic restrictions of your trade and manufactures, which are beyond example in the history of the world . . .

"We congratulate you, however, on the bright prospect which the western hemisphere has afforded to you and the oppressed of every nation, and we trust that the liberation of your country has been effected in America, and that you never will be called on for those painful necessary exertions which the sacred love of liberty inspires and which have enabled us to establish our freedom forever . . . But if the government whom you at this time acknowledge does not, in conformity to her own true interest, take off and remove every restraint on your trade, commerce and manufactures, **I am charged to assure you that means will be found to establish your freedom, in the fullest and amplest manner.** And, as it is the ardent wish of America to promote, as far as her other engagements will permit, a reciprocal commercial interest with you, I am to assure you they will seek every means to establish and extend it; and it has given the most sensible pleasure to have **those instructions committed to my care,** as I have ever retained the most perfect good will and esteem for the people of Ireland."

*—Sent by Franklin from France to
"the Good People of Ireland," October 4, 1788*

A PLEDGE THE UNITED STATES SHOULD HOLD SACRED

Irish National Bureau, Washington, D. C.

Daniel T. O'Connell, Director



Katherine Hughes, Secretary

Additional copies on application