

APPENDIX II

Irish Initiative and Inventive Genius

A NUMBER of people will doubtless be inclined to suggest that it is too bad that the marvelous initiative which the Irish possessed in the centuries from the fifth to the tenth and which enabled them to accomplish so many things that had never been done before and gave them an undying place in the history of civilization, should not have preserved this racial energy for the modern time. As a matter of fact however a great deal of what is best and most novel in our American life owes its beginning to the energy of the Irish.

In his article on the Irish in the United States in the volume "The Glories of Ireland," Michael J. O'Brien, the historiographer of the American Irish Historical Society, gives a list of some of the accomplishments, for example of the Irish in journalism in this country, that should surely have made journalists realize something of the prestige of the Irish in this important department of American life.

"In the field of American journalism there have been many able and forcible writers of Irish birth or descent. Hugh Gaine, a Belfast man, founded the New York 'Mercury' in 1775. John Dunlap founded the first daily paper in Philadelphia, John Daly Burk published the first daily paper in Boston, and Wil-