

IRISH-AMERICAN LEGACY

By James Collins COPYRIGHT 1990

To our Irish - American children

As you step out into life, you take your first steps away from the family

We your parents have gone this road before you. We leave you this legacy.

Many people your age step out into the world timid and cautious.

Remember who you are and where you come from.

Your roots are in Ireland, the isle of saints and scholars.

You are Gaels from the race of Celts.

At one time, your ancestors ruled the known world.

Your ancestors loved freedom more than life itself.

Several times, they were conquered yet threw off their chains.

Liberty tastes sweet. Slavery's bitter.

Feed the hungry. Your ancestors knew famine.

Give alms to the poor. Your ancestors were the poorest in Europe.

Assist the weak. Your ancestors suffered persecution.

Help the homeless. England dispossessed our ancestors.

America took us in. A debt we can never repay.

Do not fear death. We all must endure it until the Resurrection.

Trust in the Lord. Be fair, honest and just in all your dealings.

Hold fast to love, faith, hope and charity.

Step out with confidence and enthusiasm. It is a big world.

Do not act as if you are walking on eggshells.

Stomp around. Leave big footprints. Make a difference.

Let the world know the Irish passed by.

The world will be delighted to have known you.

MOM AND DAD