

DAVID GOODMAN CROLY

An Irishman on the Irish and the Negro in  
New York in the 1860's  
and earlier.

by J.A. Rogers. 3/30/39

David Goodman Croly, noted journalist, was "born in Cloghnakilty, County Cork, Ireland". Coming to New York City when very young, he grew up there. Croly did much newspaper reporting and from 1862-1872 was managing editor of the New York World.

His book, "Miscegenation" which appeared in 1864, created a sensation. In the boldest possible language---and which is not excelled <sup>by</sup> any writer of today, however outspoken he may be, Croly advocated the marriage of whites and blacks. He maintained that the advantage would be to the whites because "of all the rich treasures of blood vouchsafed to us, that of the Negro is the most precious because it is the most unlike any other that enters into our national life." <sup>vision.</sup>

He says, "The white Irishwoman loves the black man, and in the old country, it has been stated that the Negro is sure of the handsomest among the poor white females." He also mentions intermarriage of white Irishwomen and Negroes in America."

As regards the Irish character, he says, "They (the Irish) are a more brutal race and lower in civilization than the

Negro....The Irish are coarse-grained, revengeful, unintellectual, with very few of the finer instincts of humanity. Of course, we speak of the laboring Irish as they appear in this country.... The ignorance in which he has been kept by misgovernment have sunk the Irish below the level of the most degraded Negro. Take an equal number of Negroes and Irish from among the lowest communities of New York and the former will be found far superior to the latter in cleanliness, education, moral feelings, beauty of form and feature and national sense."

"As in times past the Irish have shown themselves the most prejudiced and inhuman toward their <sup>(the negro)</sup> dark-skinned fellow-laborers and friend, they should in the future set aside the prejudice which is the result of unfortunate education." pp.29-32.

\*\*\*\*\*

Croly gives the following interesting sidelight on Tammany Hall:

"Even in the last municipal election in New York City, Mr. F.I.Boole, the candidate of the pro-slavery, Tammany, and Mozart organizations for the Mayoralty, fearful of a defeat called together a meeting of the black men, as reported in the Tribune of November 30&31, 1863, and besought their influence to elect him, promising to shield them in the exercise of their just rights and privileges and placing himself on record as a friend of the colored men." p.57.

"Miscegenation" was at first published anonymously. But the author quickly became known.

Groly, D.G. *Miscegenation*. New York, 1864. New York  
Central Branch Library. Class Mark, p.v.16.  
Dictionary of American Biography. Vol.IV, p.560.