

resources, and to determine their own course of action. From these historic forces emerged today's Republic of Ireland.

As President of the Republic and titular head of the nation, de Valera stands today above party conflicts. But he still personifies the spirit of Irish nationalism which under his leadership has contributed a new concept of Commonwealth relations and of monarchical symbolism. But though as a sovereign republic Ireland today recognizes neither the Monarchy nor Commonwealth ties, it is unfortunately a mutilated republic since the six North-Eastern counties of Ulster are still separated from the rest of the country. Thus Ireland remains divided by the mistakes and wrongs of the past, and deValera's larger vision of a completely unified, sovereign nation associated with the Commonwealth remains yet to be fulfilled.

## IRRESPONSIVE

*Geoffrey Johnson*

No, not a drop of dew, of rain or sea  
Dances the more because my heart is glad;  
Not even a hair's division of degree  
Is the sun dimmed because my heart is sad.

If I could oversoar the skylark choir,  
Outweep the willow by the flooded grange,  
Were pulverized in ice or fused in fire,  
No star would flutter an eyelid at the change.

And though the heart, still longing for response  
From Nature, fancies it in sounds and shows,  
In April dawns or autumn-homing swans,  
The reason at the core of quiet knows

There can be none: Nature has us in bond.  
The nestling whom her thrust compels to fly,  
The soul set winging out to shores beyond  
Must learn to endure her hard, inhuman sky.