

"The Mortar Of Assimilation—And The One Element That Won't Mix"

Puck

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Jenna Downs

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Published in Puck magazine on June 26, 1889, "The Mortar of Assimilation And The One Element That Just Won't Mix" cartoon was a perfect exhibit of the Americans view on the Irish immigration to the United States. In the melting pot several different kinds of Americans can be spotted, but the one Irishman is standing on the edge of the pot holding a knife and a flag.

This resembles the American's idea that the United States is made up of many kinds of people, but the Irish are just not meant to be part of the country. The knife portrays the Irish stereotype of violence, and could also insinuate drunk as well. Due to these harsh stereotypes the Irish were seen as almost equal to blacks at the time; they were told to not apply for certain jobs. Native groups also broke out into riots protesting the immigration rights given to the Irish. The massive number of Irish who immigrated to the United States, affected everyone as a whole.

