

ADDRESS

IRELAND TO-DAY

DELIVERED BY

Hon. FRANK P. WALSH

IN THE

WINDSOR HALL

June 11th 1920

Mr. Chairman, Reverend Sirs, Ladies and Gentlemen:—

I am deeply sensible of the warmth of your reception tonight, and still, thank God, it is the reception that a man gets every place in this wide world that comes with words upon his lips so sacred to the cause which lies closest to our hearts tonight, a free and independent Ireland (Applause). Upon the tomb of a great man in American statesmanship I found inscribed these words: "Who saves his country, saves all things, and all things saved will bless him; who lets his country die, ignobly dies himself and all things do but curse him."

Scarce a year ago, without any merit on my part, I was given a task which was to me the proudest that could be assigned to human hands or human brains. At a Convention held in the very cradle of American Liberty, Philadelphia, composed of over five thousand delegates—larger than any convention ever assembled in a legislative capacity in the United States; four times greater than any Convention which ever met to promulgate the principles under which our people were to live; greater than any called for the nomination of a President of the United States—we were charged with the duty of proceeding to Paris and there attempting to present the cause of Irish Independence, and the double duty, if possible, to go to Ireland with as much official sanction as possible and bring to America, and through America, to the world, a report of the actual conditions in that land.

I have thought many times of the three great significances on which my eyes rested and which were brought to my great consciousness. On the boat going over, we had a purely American celebration, and a young man in khaki, a private soldier, opened the proceedings by reading the American Declaration of Independence—that document that brought