

name of Max Aiken—in the House of Lords some time ago said he would change the venue of this question from Great Britain and Ireland to America, and he would send over some Protestant Ministers to the United States and Canada who would use the Protestant Churches to crush all sympathy for Ireland. We know that a number of worthy gentlemen came over from Ulster to tell you that this was a religious question.

Now, these gentlemen were perfectly justified in coming over here, so long as they represented it to be a political and economic question, but I say that they had no right to represent it to you, or to anybody, as being what it is not.

I came to the United States with my wife for the benefit of my health and I was not here a day until I was faced with misrepresentations and misconstructions and misapprehensions in regard to this question and it was borne in upon me that it was my duty as a Christian Minister, so long as I remained here and my health allowed me, to do all I could to dispel some of those misrepresentations so that the people of the United States and Canada might be able to understand this question and judge it on its merits.

I do not pretend or claim—it would be impertinent of me to do so—I do not pretend or claim to represent the Irish Presbyterian Church, or any Protestant Church, but I am here as a Christian Minister, on my own responsibility, and I am prepared to discuss this question on any platform, here or anywhere else, with any living man.

Now I know that these worthy gentlemen had a perfectly peaceful time across this continent, behind closed doors.

That reminds me of a story: There was a lady who lost her husband and she ascribed to him all of the virtues and had a fine monument erected over his grave, on which she had inscribed the words "Rest in Peace." After she had given the order for the inscription stories were told and she came to the conclusion that he was not all that he might have been. She was indignant and wished to change the inscription on the monument but it was too late as it was already completed. However, she decided to rectify matters as best she could, and under the final inscription of "Rest in Peace" she had the sculptor add the words "till I come."

I know that as far as the Protestants were concerned these reverend gentlemen had a perfectly peaceful time, until I have come; which accounts for the great interest some of my Christian brethren have taken in me.

I want to look at this question from the point of view of a Christian Minister. I am not a politician—the ways of politicians to me are very strange—but as an ordinary Presbyterian Minister—as black as they make them—I say that no Minister worthy of the name can look at Ireland to-day with any degree of complacency or self-satisfaction; no Christian Minister worthy of the name looking at Ireland to-day,