

ADDRESS:

IRELAND'S RIGHT — 0 — SELF-DETERMINATION

BY

REV. DR. J. A. H. IRWIN,
Minister, Presbyterian Church, Killead, Ireland.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen:—

I wish to thank you most heartily for the very cordial reception you have given me here this evening and for this magnificent audience which is gathered together to hear something about Ireland. It is certainly a great pleasure for me to come to this magnificent city to speak on behalf of my own country to citizens of this part of the British Empire.

There was a philosopher who was very old and, consequently, very wise, and he said there were three great wonders in the world for him. First, he wondered why boys were so foolish as to throw stones to bring down apples, because, he said, with patience the apples would fall off themselves; the second wonder to him was, why people were so foolish as to fall out and fight because if they only waited their enemies would all die; and the third wonder to him was, why young men were so foolish as to run after girls, because if they only had patience the girls would run after them.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, there may be a fourth wonder; you may wonder why any one is here from across the Atlantic to speak to you of the problems, difficulties and perplexities of Ireland. You have plenty problems, difficulties and perplexities of your own; but I think there are two or three very important and cogent reasons which will show you that we are justified in coming here to speak to you in regard to our native land.

In the first place, remember that for centuries the very cream of our life blood has flowed across the Atlantic—I understand there are over a million men and women in this great Dominion of Irish birth and blood, and I am certain that each of these has done his or her part and played their fair share in building up the prosperity of this great Dominion of yours.

I remember, as a student in the city of Londonderry on Friday afternoons I would go down to the quay and watch the emigrants setting sail for Canada and the United States. There were the young men and