

Washington, D. C.,

November 2, 1918.

To the Honorable Woodrow Wilson,
President of the United States,

Your Excellency:

We, the undersigned, representing the Societies mentioned below, of Washington, D. C., beg respectfully to lay before your Excellency the following declaration of our convictions;

That the American people desire to see the principle of "self-determination for all nations, great and small" applied to all nations impartially and without exception;

That the present opportunity for putting this principle into operation is unique in the world's history, and that in this juncture the United States is able to exert a greater influence than ever before on behalf of justice to all peoples without exception;

That the American people will support wholeheartedly any efforts you may make, and will give every assistance in their power to render successful your efforts to right the many grievous national wrongs under which certain nations have been suffering for long periods;

That the American people approve of your declarations in favor of the restoration of the independence of Poland; but we submit that the right of Ireland to self-determination stands in a clearer light and upon a firmer basis than that of any other suppressed nationality;

That the bonds which unite Ireland to the United States are more numerous and stronger than those existing between us and any other suppressed peoples; and consequently that the interest of the American people in seeing the rights of the Irish people recognized and restored in the reorganization of the world is stronger and more vital than in any other case;

That the fact that for upwards of seven hundred and fifty years Ireland has not ceased to struggle to regain her rights gives her case a greater importance for the establishment of peace and justice than attaches to any other similar national question.

That the failure on the part of the Peace Conference to establish justice in the case of Ireland will leave in existence a constant source of disturbance of the future peace of the world, and will arouse in the minds of the American people, as well as of other peoples throughout the world, a feeling of resentment against the conclusions reached at the Peace Conference.

Therefore we ask respectfully that you use your great influence to secure for the Irish people the opportunity of expressing, by means of an unrestricted and unembarrassed plebiscite of the whole adult population of both sexes, under what sort of government they wish to live.

With every sentiment of esteem and respect, we subscribe ourselves,

for the Friends of Irish Freedom, Patrick H. Pearse
Branch;
for the Ancient Order of Hibernians, (seven divisions
for the Ladies' Auxiliary, Ancient Order of Hibernians
(six divisions);
for the Irish-American Union;
For the Gaelic Society;
for the Irish History Society;
for the Irish History Study Club;
for the Shamrock Club.