

(editor's note: This paper was transcribed from a handwritten cursive copy with various difficulties. For a perfect rendition, the reader might wish to consult the original, itself a copy, in the volume entitled Literary Club Papers 2, 1886 – 1887 June 5, '86 to May 21, '87)

Mr. Editor:

I wonder if any of the political gentlemen who were so prominent at the Melodion Hall meeting the other night really care or know what the grievances of the Irish people are? From the brief of the Irish Land Laws which was published the other day, one would take the Irish landlord to be the real subject for sympathy. I know of no tenants in the world, who have so many rights nor landlords who have so few as those of Ireland. The Co-ercion Bill so-called now pending before Parliament about which there seems to be so much grief in the minds of demagogues fishing for the Irish vote in this Country had no bearing on the land laws any more than upon any other of the laws which the Irish people are setting at defiance and it is only to compel their observance of the laws now in force, and the suppression of deviltry and lawlessness at all hazards that this stringent measure is proposed. It seems to me that a citizen of any civilized country who comes asking redress by law, should in the beginning show that he is in the habit of obeying the law already on the statute book, and if Ireland falls under the above class, her people should first be compelled to become law-abiding before they are entitled to a hearing as to their alleged grievances. But, we are told, in reference to the Co-ercion Bill, that the English have no right to compel the Irish to obey the laws of the land because the English are usurpers. Indeed? But we're not the Irish before them usurpers on the same soil, or did they just grow there after the manner of Topsy? By the same token every one of us in the United States are much more red-handed usurper. What should we say if the remnant of the Miami Tribe came here today demanding their lands from the people of Cincinnati with these catchwords about usurpation in their mouths? However, there must be something in the Irish cause, the merits of which I do not appreciate, or it would not be espoused by so many Englishmen whose opinion I have learned to respect. But, be that as it may, before we citizens of the United States indulge in windy resolutions against English tyranny we should remember how sensitive we were during our own Rebellion when an Englishman spoke however gently in favor of the South. Our indignation then knew no bounds, and we indulged in a good many very proper expressions which would be very applicable at the present if applied to us. It seems to me that so long as this country is on good terms with England, we should not meddle in any organized way in what does not concern us and what any of us do not understand. If we want to take up Ireland's quarrel openly & honestly and break off friendly relations with England, that is quite another matter. But the country ought to be heard from, before that is decided upon.

C. B. Wilby

Budget  
Wald Editor  
April 30, '87