

**Remembering John Redmond's call in the Markets Field, Limerick, for Irishmen to fight for Ireland's freedom on the battlefields of France**

# IT'S A LONG WAY FROM THE MARKETS FIELD

**(To My Father, Who Answered The Call)**

**BY TESS GUERIN-LETENDRE**

It's a long way from Markets Field, John!  
About our necks, grey thread of Somme  
Is hung with stones of Abbeville and Amiens:  
"Save Petain, Verdun and France!" We stand for them.

It's a long way from Markets Field, John!  
A long way from the Shannon and the Liffey and the Lee!  
We are young and with some shred of innocence  
We still believe Night's promise of silence and of peace.  
But here our peace is murdered  
By whining shell and gangrenous Verey light ...  
While we, canopied by arching flight of steel,  
Tread out, with thousand thousand feet,  
Pavane for the watching, waiting dead.

It's a long way from Markets Field, John!  
From the smiles and cheers and flowers,  
On the day we marched like children,  
With wooden sticks, to fight and set them free.  
The flowers are dead, the cheers are turned to curses,  
And we are outcasts in the Potter's Field.

Our ears are rent and deafened, John!  
We read each other's words, by lips alone.  
And what do our lips soundless say, John?  
"God save Ireland?"  
Yes, ... let God save Ireland,  
While we die for France.

## ADDRESS

**JOHN E. REDMOND**

Esq., M.P.,

Chairman of the Irish Parliamentary Party,

FROM THE

**County Borough Council of Limerick,**

On the occasion of the great Volunteer Review and National Demonstration in Limerick on Sunday, 20th December, 1914

### DEAR MR. REDMOND:

Your advent to the City of Limerick at previous times, to speak at gatherings of the people assembled in furtherance of the National Cause, has always been marked by the presentation of addresses from the Municipal Council expressive of their devotion and their constancy to the policy pursued by you, and the Party which you lead with such consummate ability and statesmanlike tact, in shaping out the destinies of our Country.

At no previous visit had we the same reason for reiterating our loyalty to you and the Party, and our admiration of your services in our National cause, so strongly, and so wholeheartedly, as at the present moment.

After untold labours you have succeeded in having the Home Rule Act passed—all opposition, obstacles, and misrepresentations, on the part of open foes, or pretended friends, have been of no avail. Of the true significance and value of your action regarding the Volunteers the future history of Ireland will best speak and constitute the highest tribute.

We can speak not alone for our own City, but for the whole Province of Munster, when we assure you that, never before, were the people so solidly united in their adherence to the policy underlying your exertions in the cause of their Native Land.

As to the future, we are full of hope and confidence, knowing well that you and the Irish Party will not be content with the bare fact of having placed the Home Rule Act upon the Statute Book: great as that achievement was—but that you will ensure that no danger will be likely to occur to prevent it being carried into effect in the terms in which it now stands, unless, indeed, the great misfortune should arise that some crass, ill-advised action, or policy, on the part of some of our own countrymen, professing themselves Nationalists, should mar the fair prospects of Ireland's happiness, and prosperity.

Signed and sealed in pursuance of an unanimous vote of the Whole House Committee of the County Borough Council of Limerick, this 16th day of December, 1914,

Philip O'Donovan, Mayor.

Wm. M. Nolan, Town Clerk.

