"He's done it o' purpose,' said Jemima. 'Oh, miss, what a hawful night this is !?

Mr. Sowler found his room, and taking a key from his pocket, proceeded to open his travelhag bag, when the first thing that presented itwas a case of pistols. Oh, it his companions in the Magor could have seen him at that moment! It was the most natural thing in the world, however, for the bushranger to have these friends about him at night, so he placed them en a table within reach of the bed, and in a few minutes more was sleeping the sleep of the guilless.

· He's quiet,' said 'Jacob, about balf an bour afterwards, taking a long pull at the spiced ale which had been provided to cheer the watch.

I think all's reet, father,' returned Isaac, who had not before declared an opinion.

· We shall see, lad; we shall see,' was the weply. 'If he's quite till mornin', I'll agree wi'

But the fates had ordained that he should not be quiet till morning. After about three hours stumber, Mr. Sowier awoke, and owing it may be to the strange place, or the subject of his previous meditations, or indigestion, or the shostly gleam of the moonlight or some other disturbing cause, be could not sleep again, do what he would. After lying awake for some household (he little knew how much they had ben disturbed already), he at last got out of bed and paced to and fro across the floor .-Again the sound of his feet went through the lisagners like an electric shock.

' Didn't I tell you, Isaac?' said Jacob, as his son awakened him out of a dose, and drew his attention to the fact; ' we shall have some stiftsed work with that chap afore long, mark me."

'It is no use trying this on any longer,' said Bar. Sowier to himself; 'nothing will settle me but a pipe, and I will go and fetch it at all risks. Every one will be sound a leep by this time."

Acting on this resolution, he half dressed, and stepped as noiseles ly as he could down stairs. · He's going down,' whispered Jemima, who

ake Jacob has slumbered and been disturbed by her more wakeful companion. Oh, miss! Both the women listened in breathless silence.

Begad, he's coming father,' said Isaac, grasping the kitchen poker; 'let be ready for the beggar.'

All reet, lad,' answered Jacob, as he stole to The kitchen door and looked out, just in time to see the unlucky visitor enter the parlor.

As he did so, a bright idea flished through Jacob's mind. The parlor door was of oak, bard as iron, and the key was in the lock; if that key could be turned, and the burglar locked m, they were safe without striking a blow .-There was not a moment for besitation, it must be done at once, or the chance would be fast. Quick as thought he dashed across the passage, slammed to the door already sjar, and Bocked it before the startled guest had time to sorn bis head.

The noise caused by this achievement was too much for those upstairs. Jemima screamed, and Miss Prnelope pulled at the bell as though her only chance of safety depended on her exertions. Jacob and Isaac rushed to the rescue; and when, amid general confusion, the affair had been explained and applauded, and the excitement of prose as to what should be done next. Isaac, blockhead! Potts!' with a vague notion of searching the house, had entered the visitor's room, where the first things | Sowier was left to give his own explanation. that caught his eye were the pistols by the bedside. This was looked upon as conclusive evicongratulations uttered on the success of Jacob's muse. It was now about four o'clock, and Enristmas Day seemed likely to be fine and hosty. Miss Penelope and Jemima agreed to go at once, under Isaac's escort, to the cottage. where the young lady would stay with Jacob's me the village for assistance, and Isaac returned her such a fright. to his father, who stoutly declared his intention to stay and keep watch over the prisoner.

Whilst there stens are being taken, we will return to Mr Sowler. After overcoming his first sensation to blank amazement on the locking of the door, he made as much noise as he could, but this only increased the general tumult, and was wholly disregarded. Finding it of no avail, he wrapped himself in his great-coat, which was lying where he had left it on the preceding night, and quietly lighted bis pipe. The matter now was, in his opinion, beyond a joke, and he felt sufficiently angry. The room he ocespied was remote enough from the rest of the Sousehold to prevent him bearing anything distractly, but he could distinguish men's voices, and so arrived at the conclusion that the two women had really suspected him, and by some means or other obtained assistance. At first he puffed away in high dudgeon; but, by degrees, the pipe did its work, and the ludicrous aspect of Bis situation presenting itself forcibly to his mind, Be felt his anger again giving place to amuse-

ment, and gradually fell into a doze. When he awoke, it was with a start at hearcantiously opened, and a policeman presented bimself, Jacob and Isaac appearing in the back-

ground. he was not dreafing. But the scene was real, the Po and its swollen amuents. From the narrow soom, smelling of tobacco, and with the remains of the supper still on the table, looked disreputable enough; whilst, the figure on the hearth. half dressed, and with the dishevelled hair and heard, was quite in keeping with it. The bedgleam of the wintry morning.

fresting the men at the door.

Sarry losing temper. Confound it, man, what of trim tillage and pasture fields, give a charm to the with their legal ownership. In this respect individdo you mean?

He advanced a step or two with threatening looks; but, though the policeman by himself would have been an easy prey, the power of the law-to say nothing of Jacob and Issac-rendered bim formidable; and it was clear that force would be of no avail.

Come, come,' said the officer, with the most provoking calmness; 'none o' that, you knowit won't do.'

'Hang it, man, I tell you I'm a friend of the family.

Oh, ay, was the reply, accompanied by a knowing wink; 'we've heerd friend o' the family tales before this." 'Friends o' the family don't bring loaded

pistols with 'em,' put in Jacob from behind. "I wish I had one of them here, you old fool, roared Mr. Sowier. 'I'd soon put a stop to your

prating.3 'It's my duty to inform you,' remarked the small official, ' that anything you may happen to say now may be brought against you as evi

dence, and sich a language as this isn't safe. This was too much; the stranger threw him-

self back in his chair, and laughed immoderately. Now, I tell you, said he, when he recovered gravity enough to speak, you have all made a stupid mistake, which you will be sorry for, and which I regret because of the young lady; but I see that it is of no use to offer any explanation. time, from a considerate wish not to disturb the All I ask is that you will give me some breakfast, and I promise to remain here quietly until Mr. Oldburgh comes home. I believe he is expected this morning."

This proposal was naturally looked upon as a dodge to throw them off their guard, but after some parleying, as no reasonable objection could be raised, it was agreed to, and Mr. Sewler spent the next four hours under arrest; the policeman keeping watch at the parlor door, and Jacob occasionally taking a turn outside before the mullioned window.

Whilst thus patrolling, be saw his master coming along the road, and went to open the gate.

A merry Christmas to you, Jacob,' said Josiah, as he drove in, evidently returning from a successful errand. 'Why, what's the matter?' This was due to Jacob's mysterious looks, and the appearance of Potts, the policeman.

'it's my duty to say, sir,' replied the func-tionary, 'that there's been a burglarious attempt on your premises-a very dark game, sir; but

the man's safe.' A burglarious attempt!' echoed Josiah. looking much confused; 'and who do you say is

'The man as did it, sir,' chimed in Jacob .-He come last night, sir, and scared Miss Pene-

lope and Jemima with firearms, sir; and______ Where is be ?' demanded Mr. Oldburgh. 'In th' oak parlor, sir.'

Potts,' said Josiah, advancing to the room indicated, 'attend here.'

He entered with a quick step, then suddenly stopped.

· Why, Sowler, old fellow, what's the meaning of this? Is it you? Potts backed.

'Aye, sure enough, Jos,' said M1. Sowler ; though if you had not turned up soon, I think I should have begun to doubt my own identity."

Why, bless me, they said there was a burglar! There must be some mistake,' exclaimed all parties had somewhat subsided, a question the mystified Josiah. Here, Jacob, you

But the body-guard had vanished, and Mr.

'I am heartily ashamed,' said Josiab, when he had finished, to think that Penelope should have dence, and many were the devout thanks and been such a goose, and equally sorry that you have been annoyed; but you must come and let her apologize for herself.

'Well, said Mr. Sowler, laughing, as she really suspected me-and, you see, appearances were very much against me-I am of oninion that she acted with considerable nerve, and bemife, whilst Jemima went on to the police station | gin to think that I owe her an apology for giving

The reader may imagine for himself Miss Penelope's blushes and regrets, and how Christmas day and many a succeeding day atoned for Christmas Eve; but events have proved that her misgivings were, after all, prophetic, for Mr. Sowler has already taken possession of Chedleigh Manor, with the lands appertaining thereto, and the services of Jacob and Jemima retained: and will eventually, if rumor is to be credited, take possession of Miss Penelope as well.

> THE LAND QUESTION OF IRELAND. (FROM TIMES SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.)

> > No. 23.

LONDONDERRY. Nov. 19.

I set off from Enniskillen with the expectation that a few hours' journey would bring me safely to this historic city. The short winter's day had reached its close before I left the capital of Fermanagh, and I only speak from hearsay when I describe the country through which the train passed as a succea sion of hills and undulating lands, for the most part of an uninteresting character. On arriving at Strabane, the point at which the Mourne and the Finn run into the Foyle, the carriages suddenly came me some one unlock the door, which was then to a stop, and the intelligence went round that a and the occupier of the soil; and it has deprived the violent flood in these mountain rivers had made the line impassable for miles, and that we might remain where we were all night. The morning revealed a scene such as that painted by Virgil with the happiest Our friend rubbed his eyes, to make sure that touch in his sketch of the Italian valley overron by and a curious scene it was! The disordered ridge of the raised embankment we saw trees, houses, and fences emerge from what seemed far and near a apreading lake, and two or three lines of seething eddies marked the channels of the torrents that rushed foaming on their way seawards. After some donderry corresponds to Fernanagh in the most trouble we were lauded at Strabane, its little streets | vital point of its landed relations. Londonders is turned for the time into lagunes, and I drove thence eminently a tenant right county, and the custom, in earlie he had carried was flaring in its socket, which covered thousands of acres. It is evident that estates in it. The value, moreover, of the right is diffused over a considerable district; complaints of one grandchildren, the north as well as the south of Ireland wants a decidedly higher than in Fermanagh, either because distances are considerable district; complaints of one grandchildren, the north as well as the south of Ireland wants a decidedly higher than in Fermanagh, either because distances are considerable district; complaints of one grandchildren, the north as well as the south of Ireland wants a decidedly higher than in Fermanagh, either because distances are considerable district; complaints of one grandchildren, and the elect girl the distance of landlord oppression, or unfair exer—and the elect girl the distance of landlord oppression, or unfair exer—and the elect girl the distance of landlord oppression, or unfair exer—and the elect girl the distance of landlord oppression, or unfair exer—and the elect girl the distance of landlord oppression, or unfair exer—and the elect girl the distance of landlord oppression, or unfair exer—and the elect girl the distance of landlord oppression, or unfair exer—and the elect girl the distance of landlord oppression, or unfair exer—and the elect girl the distance of landlord oppression, or unfair exer—and the elect girl the distance of landlord oppression, or unfair exer—and the elect girl the distance of landlord oppression, or unfair exer—and the elect girl the distance of landlord oppression, or unfair exer—and the elect girl the distance of landlord oppression, or unfair exer—and the elect girl the distance of landlord oppression, or unfair exer—and the elect girl the distance of landlord oppression, or unfair exer—and the elect girl the distance of landlord oppression, or unfair exer—and the elect girl the distance of landlord oppression o on an upland road along the edge of sheets of flood and struggling against the faint, gray, chilling the north as well as the south of Ireland wants a the north as well as the south of Ireland wants a decidedly higher than in Fermanagh, either because good system of arterial drainage, the main outfalls of the whole island being unable at their present levels to carry off the superfluous waters; and, in this there is an in this county, and tenant farmers and, in this county, and tenant farmers called Drumbo, died on the 22 and Dec. from the strength of the superfluous waters; and, in this their fermanagh brethern, roise the price properly, trusted to public, opinion to maintain their feet of injuries received on Monday evening in the What on earth do you want? said he, ad. the whole island being unable at their present levels as I suspect, the Londonderry farmers, being weakship con of burgiary, replied the onicial with officials laid out pleasantly in broad enclosures, and dinderry, too, as in Fermanagh, the landlords for the Landlords for the Landlords for the little farms of a thriving peasantry; and the eye deayour in a variety of ways to endeavour in a variety of ways to endeavour in a variety

especial notice, though all the country wears a civilized and flourishing aspect. The Duke and Lord Erne are well known as two of the best landlords in Ulster, fulfilling bonourably the duties of property, and just and liberal to their dependents; and I am bappy to say that what I saw of their estates bears witness to the general reputation. A little incident on my drive marks the extraordinary distinction which popular opinion in the north and the other provinces of Ireland makes in estimating the obligations of landed property. I was casually told that the Duke of Abercorn and Lord Erne were very good landlords, but rather hard, as they would not allow more than five years' tenant-right to an out. going tenant. A Southern landlord of equal liberali y would be landed as a marvellous phenomenon. Londonderry is a busy and wealthy town of well-

built houses and clean streets, rising slong a hill

which, hemmed in by eminences, reaches down to the estuary of the Foyle. Like Vienna, the old city has long ago spread itself beyond its original limits; a large and populous subarb extends on all sides from the sucient Acropolis; and smoky factories. crowds of shipping, and wharves and warehouses densely stored show that the place is a seat of thriv icg commerce. Yet to this hour Londonderry attests the memory of a very different time, when its beroic garrison saw the tents of Rosen wind round them a deadly coil of famine, and their failing eyes during months looked in vain for deliverance across their imprisoned river. The Protestant cathedral, i's altar crowned with the flagstaves taken in a desperate asily, commands, as is fitting the whole scene; and the venerable guns, which did good service in one of the grandest passages of history, still flown along the uncorquerable ramparts preserved with pious care by the citizens. Trophies of a greater yet less memorable siege mingle here and there with these famous relice; and a passing visitor observes with pleasure that if Protestant and Catholic Ireland must still think differently of the glories of Derry, they have shared equally in those of Sebastopol. Far beyond the pomæ ium of the sacred walls, on a spot once held by the soldiers of James, a majestic Catholic Ohurch is now seen; a place, let us hope that Obristian good-will will, at last, under just laws and government, obliterate the traces of war and discord; though, unbappily, that day has not yet shone on Derry. Outside the town trim villae and gardens, extending for a considerable distance attest the opulence of successful traders; and for some miles the adjoining country spreads out into broad fields and enclosures, in places dotted with homesreads, which prove, at a glance, that capital and skill have here established large farm bushandry As regards the general features of the county, it is broad tract of not very fertile soil, divided midwig by a mountain range, and broken into a series of hills and lowlands flowing in many places with abundant waters. There are some large farms to the few rich tracts, and all that I saw were in excellent order; but the holdings are for the most part small, and, though many are admirably tilled, some certainly are in a backward condition. On the whole however, the agriculture of the county seemed to me very good, decidedly better than that of Fermanach and the peasantry are a self-reliant and independent race, their accent and bearing revealing at once the predominance in them of Scottish blood. Londonderry is a very progressive county, its agricultural area having been enlarged nearly one-tweifth during the last 15 years, and its live stock having incre sed in value not less than 66 per cent between 184; and 1861; in this, too, as in other instances, we see progress coinciding with a decline of population relatively small, and a system of relatively small farms. Making every allowance for disturbing causes, this concurrence, repeating itself so often, must be pronounced significant in the extreme.

Londonderry is one of the six counties included in

the famous "Plantation of Ulster." Here, as in

Fermanagh, a powerful colony of Anglo-Scottish breed, and in faith Protestant, established itself firmly upon the soil, united in the relation of land lord and tenant and built up a new order of society which has developed the germs of civilized life, and has been ascendant during two centuries Here, too, the usages connected with land which grow out of the intimate ties that bound together the original settlers, took root and modified the whole system of tenure; and here, too, these usinges gradually were extended to the aboriginal race, and gave it protec tion under its conquerors. Speaking generally, therefore, the land system of Londonderry resembles that of Fermanagh in its essential and most characteristic features; in the ownership and occupation of the soil we see deep and indelible traces of the intimate association of the early colonists; a custom, still of extraordinary force, gives the occupier a peculiar interest in his holding; and the benefit of this local law applies in lifferently to the Roman Catholic Celt and to the Protestant descendant of the Anglo Scottish settler. In one particular, however, of some importance, a difference may be perceival in the landed relations of the two counties. The land lords of Fermanach are for the most part, resident : some of the principal landlords are particularly good; and the result is that the connexion between the landed classes in that county is generally of a very pleasing kind and retains much of its primitive character On the other hand, from the Plantation to this day, by far the greater part of Londonderry has been possessed by the great Lordon Companies which, under the control of the Irish Society, received grants of nearly the whole county; and these proprietors having been always absentees, the consequences are distinctly manifest. In the early age of colonization and conquest the Companies, or their agents, no doubt resembled all the "Plantation landlords." Connected with the occupiers on their estates by the closet links of affection or interest, they co-operate in fashioning the type of life which was the expression of this sympathy, and they sanc-tioned or encouraged the growth of the usages common to the whole settlement. In this way their non-resident proprietorship was long probably with out any bad effect, and, even to this day, its results have been less mischievous than might have been supposed, for the tenants on their lands, still tolerably secured in the enjoyment of their ancient privileges, can thrive very well without landlord assistance. Still, the absenteciam of these societies, as the regard which ought to exist between the owner relation of landlord and tenant throughout this county of much that adores it and gives it lasting strength. The Companies are not liked as landlords; complaints are made against several of them, and though I believe that, in general, they administer their estates very well, and they are neither illiberal or they have probably weakened the moral influence of

landlords over a very large district. Notwithstanding this distinction however, Lonvital point of its landed relations. Lonfonderry is decidedly higher than in Fermanagh, either because

of the Duke of Abercorn, and this trace and about of a local law of public opinion, I think the general which, wherever it exists, gives a tenent of land an interest that, though always potential, is realized, so of society, tenant-right really all but assures security of tenure to its possessor; and, whatever landlords custom of a district/declares that an occu-ier of land has an interest in it which, even though it fine usies in amount is substantial and car be bought and sold. and when it condemns every breach of this usage, it is evident that a tenant will be seldem disturbed that he has a positive hold on his farm, and that practically, he has a share of some kind beyond his tenure in the fee simple. Accordingly, in tenunt right counties evictions have always been very uncommon; and landlords and tenants, as a matter of fact, without regarding legal distinctions, and, as it were unconscious'y and by tacit consent, have a sort of divided right in the soil; not the same, perhaps, on any two estates, differing often atrangely in different places, yet usually settled by some rude equity in a prolonged course of mutual dealing. Yet though tenant-right has really these effects, and unquestion by more or less entrenches upon the absolute ownership of the soil it is singular, nevertheless how aptly as a general rule it adjusts itself to the ordinary relations of landlord and tenant, and to the incidents that belong to them. I have no doub! that it does operate to lessen the natural rent of the landlord; but it does so to a much less extent than. economically, would be supposed, and it seems to be assumed that if all estates were suddenly relieved . f the barden their rent would not rise nearly in proportion. Tenant-right, too, as I have remarked be fire, is found compatible with a fair rise of rent, ac cording to some rough standard of justice, even though the rise may in some measure affect the interest of the occupier in his holding.

Such is tanant right, as a matter of fact, in a dis trict where it is really respected; and it must be added that it coincides at least with quiet possession with social progress, and with immunity from agrarian outrage. It is virtually a concurrent interest in land vested in a tenant beyond his legal status, which encroaches more or less on a landlord's rights, and yet is found co existing with them, though sustained only by local custom. Viewed critically, and apart from circumstances, it is obvious how closely it corresponds to those equities in the soil of the tenant of the South, which, though not upheld by the same sauction, and existing as it were upon sufferance, are nevertheless not often infringed. The tenant-right of Ulster, in truth, is nothing more than a free development of the practice which permits the sale of the good will of lands, which prevails in several parts of the South which hundreds of Southern landlords wisk at, and a few encourage to the fullest extent, and which, when once a farm has come into the bands of a purchaser for valuable consideration. would be almost universally acquiesced in, even though no license to sell had been given. In its vagueness, too, in its ir definite nature, in its variableness as regards different estates, in the difficulty of reducing it to any positive standard, the right has a very plain analogy to the equity of the tenant in respect of improvements, of which I have so often written in the South, even though, as I think, this element is not the chief test that decides its value; and, in fact, it might be almost as easy to say what, taking large districts, ought to be the claim of the occupiers on them for compensation for their contri butions to the soil, as it would be to declare wha their tenant-right ought to be worth in the general market. It is, however, when we come to consider tenant-right and these analogous equities with reference to our legal system that the resemblance be tween them becomes most striking, and most disthough challenges attention. In different degrees these common claims of the Irish tenant tend to en graft an interest in a landlord's estate derogatore from absolute ownership; in the case of the tenant right of Ulater, an interest of a very decided kind; in the case of the looser equities of the South, an interest less clear or less recognized but, notwithstanding usually respected. This interest, however, although it conflicts directly with a landiord's legal righte, is not, either in the North or the South, protected by the State; and as a Southern proprietor may ignore any equity of his tenant in respect of improvements or of money laid out in the purchase o good-will so a Northern proprietor, as a matter of law, may extinguish the tenant right on his estates, either by unduly raising his rent, by a no eto quir, or by eviction, assuming of course, as a lly hap-

pens, that legally his tenant holds only at will. From these considerations it follows, that in this great matter of landed tenure, law, in theory, is at save with fact and right in Ulster, as in the rest of Ireland. Here, as in the other parts of the island, law declares that a landlord is an absolute owner though his estate may be subject to claims which morally abridge his rights extrem ly, and, in the face of the strongest custom, it will canclion his abolition of those claims, and will give him facilities for the purpose. Abstractedly, therefore, it would appear as if the tenant of the North were in as bad a plight. inasmuch as his tenant-right often far exceeds in value any equity waich may belong to the other. We know, however, that, in fact, the difference between the two is immense; that the tenant of Ulster usually feels himself secure and entitled to a real property in his holding, while the tenant of the South has no such conviction, and too often acts as though his tenure were a mere precarious annual possession. The simple reason is that, in the one case custom, acting with the force of local law, and resting upon the happy traditions that unite the landed classes of the North, does really restrain the law of the land, and almost always vindicates the rights of the tenant; whereas in the other, such a guarantee is want ing, and the tenant is left comparatively defenceless, unless he chooses to have resource to agrarianism as his only safeguard. In the one case an imperium in imperio is created with all but controlling power; in the other there is no such salutary check, any check there is feeble or bad; and the result is that the general law is much less impeded in wo king injustice. Yet it is not to be denied that even here time has rolled on, has had a tendency to weaken the mischief of law being opposed to fact has now and then made itself evident: that custom has not always succeeded in upholding the fair rights of the tenant; and that Londonderry has a land question, and one, too, that may become serious. I have heard of more than one clear instance in which purchasers in the Landed Estates Court have directly. invaded the tenent-right that existed for ages upon the lands; at this moment there is much apprehen harsh, public opinion is rather opposed to them, and sion that, in the case of a very large estate about to be brought before that tribunal, a similar course will be pursued, and I am inclined to think that a general tendency to abridge the right gradually may be noticed The results though not the same in degree, resemble in kind those witnessed in the Sauth, after any act of landlord oppression, or unfair exer-

surrounding landscape. This is part of the estates wal proprietors and the Companies act very much tenant right which exists in this county, involving quite insensible and speechless, in which state he re-

of the Duke of Abercorn, and this tract and another alike; and though the right is still firmly upheld by as it does great rights of property yet ill-defined, and of the Duke of Abercorn, and this tract and another a local law of public opinion. I think the general depending on custom only, without the same and the depending on custom only, without the sanction of of the Duke of Aberdal protein of the property of a local law of phones of the property of the Burke of the property of the senetion of the property of the senetic of the senetic of the property of the senetic of sent condition. How to deal with this singular inits efficacy. Having already explained the collection of tenure, ferest in the soil, of vast importance, but difficult to relue, and Proteen in its numerous forms, is certain. ly a perplexing problem I asked several farmer, to speck, when he leaves his holding, I proceed to landlords, and agents whether they thought the right, consider it more closely. Viewed as an existing fact according to its worth, could be communication. according to its worth, could, be commuted into definite terms, of varying duration, secured by leases, and whether this would be desired satisfactory. In Fermanugh the answers were all one way; in Lonmay think to the contrary, it gives a tempus, about the soil, donderry, where tenant-right has absorbed a much ing to its value, an intefficie charge on it. When the greater amount of capital, they were an application greater amount of capital, they were so condicting that I have not been able even to guess the tendency

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

THE REPRESENTATION OF LIMERICK -Mr. Francis W. Russell, one of the sitting members for Limerick, is seriously ill, and it is said that should a vacan y in the representation of that city occur, it is the intention of the late supporters of Sir Peter Tail, D L. to put him forward again as a favourite candidate. and secure his return. - Irish Times.

Mc Madden, who was removed from the magistracy, is receiving numerous assurances of aympathy from gentlemen who disapprove the policy of the Government in Iceland.

IMPERFECT REGISTRATION. - The Registrar-General for Ireland, in his report of the quarter ending September, says, 'It is evident that the registration of births and deaths is very imperfect; the annual ratio of births to the estimated population in England being about 1 in 29 or 30, and of deaths 1 in 44 or 45; whilst in Ireland, according to the present return, the ratios are, for birthe, 1 in 40 6, and for deaths in 74 1. There can be no doubt, says the Pall Mail Gazette, that the registrations are most imperfect-thousands of children born in this country are never registered at all; but imperfect as our registration is, it serves to form our statistics, which, although seldom if ever to be relied upon, form the basis of our inaction or legislation, as the case may be. One of our glorious weaknesses is our love for statistics, our implicit faith in them, and our sublime indifference as to their correctness.

The Cork Examiner has the following apropos of the revived discussion of the Repeal question ;-Rereal of the Union would seem to be on the evact regaining a position amongst the practical questions of Iriah politics. The old cry has been heard at several of the great popular demonstrations lately held in connection with the agrarian movement. The idea, as yet, has hardly assumed a definite shape, and finds no avowed exponent in parliament, if we except Mr. G. H. Moore, but there are indications that it has taken possession of the minds of a considerable and active party in the country, by whom it is held in reserve for the present, simply that public attention may be concentrated on a question of more immediate urgency. We do not now alluce to the party who have taken up the cry as a means of averging a fancied injury inflicted by the British parliament; but to the section of patriotic and earnest men who believe with the Dean of Limerick that there are diseases in the present condition of the country which it will be difficult to cure by any measure short of the concession of perfect sutonomy.

Dublin, Dec. 30. - The presence of so large a force of military in the country has had a salutary effect in overawing the turbulent classes and giving confidence to all well affected people. The soldiers are in general great favorites with the populace, and live on amicable terms; but in some instances quarrels rise which are easily fomented. On Sunday and Monday evenings there were disturbances between the military and townspeople in Killarrey. Acorrespondent of the Derry Express' states that a diroute atose between two soldiers of the 65 h and a party of workmen who were drinking in a publichouse on Sunday night. The townsmen attacked the soldiers with stones, but assistance baving been obtained from the barracks, the mob were resisted at the point of the b-yonet, and, in turn, stoned by the soldiers. On Monday night there were 17 soldiers drinking in the same place, and the affray was renewed, with a similar result. The soldiers when attacked drew their bayonets, chased the townspeople through the streets, and, taking up stones, beat the y with their own weapons. A strong ricket afterwards parrolled the streets, and order was reetored .- Times Cor.

It has been arranged to hold a great Conference of the gentry, clerky and farmers of Ireland, on the 2d February, with the view of finally placing before the government the real wishes of the country on the and question. The arrangement is a good one, and we hope the meeting will be numerously attended, and that no mistake will be committed. Every man in Ireland is now familiar with the demands of the tenant farmers. Their request is very moderate and they ask for nothing more than is absolutely neceseary to protect them from wrong. They are subject to be evicted at the whim of their landlords, and they have no security against the increase of rents. These are the two great evils they complain of; and unless the new bill of the government provides a remedy for them, the land question will not be considered settled Fixity of tenure and fair rents form the groundwork of a true settlement, and unless they are cheerfully conceded, in vain may men expect peace or loyalty in Ireland. The Conference we hope, will not waver in its duty, but frankly tell the government the sort of measure that is required, and that if it is not yielded, legislation on the land question will not be of the slightest use. - Dand ilk Democrat.

The Special Irish Land Commissioner of the New York 'Herald' is at present in the county Donegal collecting information. He left Derby for Letterkenny the other morning.

Mr. McSwiney, a county magistrate, has been dismissed from the commission of the peace for sweating and using language offensive to the Rev Mr. Dunscombe, rector of Macroom, at a meeting of the guardians of Macroom Union.

The 'Clare Journal' says - We have it upon acthority that within the last few days threatening notices have been received by some of the best landlords (so reputed) in a certain district of the county not many miles from Ranis.

At a meeting of eleven Orange lodges, held at Larne, county Antrim, on Saturday, resolutions were passed protesting against the conduct of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland in expelling Mr. Dalway, M P., for supporting Sir Shafto Adair at the late county Antrim election, and expressing confdence in Mr. Dalway as a true Orangeman.

The 'Belfast News' Letter' reports the death in that town of a woman named. Ellen Crogban at the age of a 109 years. Her remains were followed to the grave by six of her children - James, Pat, John, Winnefred, Bridget, and Mary - the eldest of her boys, who is a great grandfather, being about ninety and the eldest girl about two years younger. Ba-

tressing the min at the door,

I believe it's my duty to arrest you on a damaged a large among of property. After leaving on an average of from two to 20 years rout of the South, and deritainly with the crafting with the claims of the south, and deritainly with the claims of the south of bat aggravating air of importance which officials lates, laid out pleasantly in broad enclosures, and discovery too, as in Fermanagh, the: landlords on seem when there is business on hand.

'To arrest me!' thundered Mr. Sowier, now dwellings and neat homesteads, which, in the midst in order to keep it with into constitution and to reconcile it of the street and how which, in the midst in order to keep it with bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and neat homesteads, which, in the midst in order to keep it with heavy sparson not be far distant in the street and bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and to reconcile it of the street and bounds and to reconcile it. For all these reasons it seems impossible that the When discovered lying on the roadway, Leeper was