

2
'He's done it o' purpose,' said Jemima. 'Oh, miss, what a awful night this is!'
Mr. Sowler found his room, and taking a key from his pocket, proceeded to open his travelling bag, when the first thing that presented itself was a case of pistols. Oh, if his companions in the Manor 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 on a table within reach of the bed, and in a few minutes more was sleeping the sleep of the guileless.

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 Isaac—rendered him 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 know—it 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 heard 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. Sowler. 'I'd soon put a stop to your prating.'

of the Duke of Abercorn, and this tract, and another which forms an outlying portion of the property of Lord Erne in Donegal seemed to me to deserve 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 honourably the duties of property, and just and liberal to their dependents; and I am happy 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 of the Duke of Abercorn and Lord Erne over the other 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 outgoing tenant. A Southern landlord of equal liberality would be landed as a marvellous phenomenon.

London is a busy and wealthy town of well-built houses and clean streets, rising along 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 suburb extends on all sides from the ancient Acropolis; and swarms of factories, crowds of shipping, and wharves and warehouses densely stored show that the place is a seat of thriving commerce. Yet to this hour London retains the memory of a very different time, when its heroic garrison saw the tents of Rosen wind round them a deadly coil of famine, and their falling eyes during months looked in vain for deliverance across their imprisoned river. The Protestant cathedral, its impregnable crown with the flagstaffs taken in a desperate assault, commands, as it fittingly the whole scene; and the venerable guns, which did good service in one of the grandest passages of history, still form along the unconquerable ramparts preserved with peculiar care by the citizens. Trophies of a greater yet less memorable siege mingle here and there with these famous relics; 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 pinnacles of the sacred walls, on a spot once held by the soldiers of James, a majestic Gothic Church is now seen; a pledge, let us hope that Christian good-will will, at last, under just laws and government, obliterate the traces of war and discord; though, unhappily, that day has not yet shone on Derry. Outside the town trim villas 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 homesteads, which prove, at a glance, that capital and skill have here established large farm husbandry. As regards the general features of the county, it is a broad tract of very fertile soil, divided midway 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 in 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 Fermanagh; 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-twelfth during the last 15 years, and its live stock having increased in value not less than 66 per cent between 1841 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.

It does great rights of property yet ill-defined, depending on custom only, without the sanction of general law, can be allowed to continue in its present condition. How to deal with this singular anomaly, and Protean in its numerous forms, is certainly a perplexing problem. I asked several farmers, according to its worth whether they thought the right, in terms of varying duration, could be commuted into a fixed term, or whether this would be deemed satisfactory. In Fermanagh the answers were all one way; in Londonderry, where tenant-right has absorbed a much greater amount of capital, they were so conflicting that I have not been able even to guess the tendency of general opinion.

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 vacancy in the representation of that city occur, it is the intention of the late supporters of Sir Peter Tait, D. L., to put him forward as a favourite candidate, and secure his return.—Irish Times.

Mr. Madden, who was removed from the magistracy, is receiving numerous assurances of sympathy from gentlemen who disapprove the policy of the Government in Ireland.

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 rate 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 births, 1 in 40, and for deaths, 1 in 74 1/2. There can be no doubt, says the Fall 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 taxation 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:—'Repeal of the Union would seem to be on the eve of regaining a position amongst the practical questions of Irish 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 allude to the party who have taken up the cry as a means of avenging 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 autonomy.'

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 arise which are easily fomented. On Sunday and Monday evenings there were disturbances between the military and townspeople in Killarney. A correspondent of the 'Derry Express' states that a dispute arose between two soldiers of the 65th and a party of workmen who were drinking in a public-house on Sunday night. The workmen attacked the soldiers with stones, but assistance having been obtained from the barracks, the mob were resisted at the point of the bayonet, and, in turn, stoned by the soldiers. On Monday night there were 17 soldiers drinking in the same place, and the affair 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 mob away with their own weapons. A stonier rickety mob afterwards parolled the streets, and order was restored.—Times Cor.

It has been arranged to hold a great Conference of the gentry, clergy and farmers of Ireland, on the 21st February, with the view of finally placing before the government the real wishes of the country on the land 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 necessary 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 their 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.—Dundalk 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 swearing and using language offensive to the Rev. Mr. Duncome, rector of Macroom, at a meeting of the guardians of Macroom Union.

The 'Clare Journal' says—'We have it upon authority 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 Ennis.'

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 confidence in Mr. Dalway as a true Orangeman.

The Belfast News Letter reports the death in that town of a woman named Ellen Croghan at the age of 109 years. Her remains were followed to the grave by six of her children—James, Pat, John, Winifred, Bridget, and Mary—the eldest of her boys, who is a great-grandfather, being about ninety and the eldest girl about two years younger. Besides this family, the deceased left behind her forty-one grandchildren, thirty-one great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. A former name Robert Leeper, residing at a place called Drumbo, died on the 22nd Dec. from the effects of injuries received on Monday evening in the town of Ballybofey when he was assailed by some villainous present unknown. Deceased had been drinking in a public-house in the town, but not for some time, and he had no quarrel with any one, nor was there any disturbance on the street after he left for home about seven o'clock which would indicate that he had been quarrelling with any persons on the street. When discovered lying on the roadway, Leeper was quite insensible and speechless, in which state he re-

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 succession 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 ran into the Foyle, the carriages suddenly came to a stop, and the intelligence went round that a 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 touch in his sketch of the Italian valley overrun by the Po and its swollen affluents. From the narrow ridge of the raised embankment we saw trees, houses, and fences emerge from what seemed far and near a spreading lake, and two or three lines of seething eddies marked the channels of the torrents that rushed foaming on their way seawards. After some trouble we were landed at Strabane, its little streets turned for the time into lagoons, and I drove thence on an upland road along the edge of sheets of flood which covered thousands of acres. It is evident that the north as well as the south of Ireland wants a good system of arterial drainage, the main outlets of the whole island being unable at their present levels to carry off the superfluous waters; and, in this single instance, I suppose, the flood has destroyed or damaged a large amount of property. After leaving Strabane you pass into a region of fair and cultivated lands, laid out pleasantly in broad enclosures, and the little farms of a thriving peasantry; and the eye dwells with delight on a long succession of fine farm dwellings and neat homesteads, which, in the midst of trim tillage and pasture fields, give a charm to the surrounding landscape. This is part of the estates

of the Duke of Abercorn, and this tract, and another which forms an outlying portion of the property of Lord Erne in Donegal seemed to me to deserve 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 honourably the duties of property, and just and liberal to their dependents; and I am happy 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 of the Duke of Abercorn and Lord Erne over the other 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 outgoing tenant. A Southern landlord of equal liberality would be landed as a marvellous phenomenon.

Such is tenant right, as a matter of fact, in a district 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 sanction, 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 wish at, and a few encourage to the fullest extent; and which, when once a farm has come into the hands 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 indefinite nature, in its variability 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 contributions to the soil, as it would be to declare what 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 between them becomes most striking, and most distinctly challenges attention. In different degrees these common claims of the Irish tenant tend to engraft an interest in a landlord's estate derogatory from absolute ownership; in the case of the tenant right of Ulster, 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 without a doubt usually respected. This interest, however, although it conflicts directly with a landlord's legal rights, 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 of good-will or a Northern proprietor, as a matter of law, may extinguish the tenant right on his estate, either by unduly raising his rent, by a process to quit, or by eviction, assuming of course, as usually happens, 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 issue 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 extremely, and, in the face of the strongest custom, it will sanction 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 which 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 wanting, and the tenant is left comparatively defenceless, unless he chooses to have recourse 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 working injustice. Yet it is not to be denied that even here 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 case instance in which purchasers to the Landed Estates Court have directly invaded the tenant-right that existed for ages upon the lands; at this moment there is much apprehension 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 South, after any act of landlord oppression, or unfair exercise of landlord privileges. A sense of inequality is diffused over a considerable district; complaints of grievances are loudly urged; and a gentleman of great experience told me that though agrarian crime was unknown in this county, and tenant farmers properly treated to public opinion to maintain their rights, they had more sympathy with the grievances of the South, and certainly with the claims of the Southern peasantry, than a stranger would expect or imagine. In fact, he said, but for their religious, political, and social differences, North and South would readily coalesce in a general movement for tenant right, and a public coalition may not be far distant.