

dead letter. Dr. Moriarty, Roman Catholic Bishop of Kerry, boasted that he systematically violated it. The Party Processions Act had become doubtful when it had been broken on three separate occasions with the connivance of the government. It had become more than doubtful—it was supposed that not a rag of it was left, when Fenian processions were allowed. Doubts have at length been dispelled so far as the Orangemen are concerned. In their case the pound of flesh is to be rigorously exacted. Three Protestants are to be punished like felons because they could not stoop to the meanness of a degrading plea which conscience did not justify. The effect upon the minds of loyal men cannot be good. Although it is a true boast that Orangemen have maintained their loyalty under great discouragements, the tendency of such prosecution is in an opposite direction.

It is stated that a meeting is to be held to express indignation at the course taken by the government. If it is intended that the cause of Conservation should be strengthened the sentence should not be carried out in the case in question; the Party Processions Act should be allowed to remain a dead letter in all cases, as well as in some, until an opportunity occurs for repealing a measure which is an unnecessary infringement of the liberty of the subject, and produces animosity while it professes to allay it.

SENTENCE OF THE PRISONERS.

DOWNPATRICK, FEB. 29.—Mr. Justice Morris entered the Crown Court at ten o'clock this morning, and took his seat on the bench. The court was densely crowded.

William Johnston, Esq., Ballykilbeg; William M'Whinney and Thos. Keatinge were then called, and hav-

ing surrendered, were placed in the dock.

Mr. Justice Morris then addressed the prisoners as follows: William Johnston, William M'Whinney, and Thomas Keatinge, you have been severally convicted for an offence against an Act of Parliament called the Party Procession Act. The facts of the case were really so cogent, so conclusive, and so clear, that I must say there was virtually nothing for the jury to decide, and they, therefore, were necessarily obliged to bring in a verdict of guilty against each and all of you. The procession—the subject matter of the indictment against you—formed in the town of Newtownards under circumstances which included almost a violation of the Party Processions Act in every circumstance which attended it—namely, the violation of it by the use of party ensigns, by having music and by playing party tunes—was formed on the 12th of July, for the ostensible purpose of petitioning for the abolition of the very Act of Parliament which those convening the procession and forming it were ostentatiously violating. You observed yesterday that several persons, upon being arraigned, pleaded guilty to the offence of a violation of the Act of Parliament. Having done so, they exhibit their regret by that fact as well as by the counsel who defended them, who stated their regret at having violated it. The same course might have been open to you. You preferred not to adopt it. It was quite your right to follow the course you have adopted, if it concurred with your own views and your consciences; but at the same time you have taken away from the Crown—who in this case did not call upon the court for the inflicting of any sentence of punishment—the grounds upon which they might have made such application to the Court, and you have taken from the grounds on which I could comply with it, because there had been no expressions of regret for the offence which had already been com-