

Total Liabilities.....	\$14,622,697.86	
Surplus.....	\$7,359,671.22	
Capital paid up.....	5,736,699.97	
Surplus beyond Capital and Liabilities.....	\$1,622,971.25	
Reserve Fund. \$1,375,000.00	Directors Liabilities. \$950,474.00	
Average amt. of specie... \$284,000.00	Average amount of Dominion notes.... \$1,016,000.00	

The following comparison of some of the items will be interesting :

	June 30th, 1868	Dec. 31st, 1885
Capital paid up.....	\$2,884,328.43	\$5,736,699.97
Cash deposits.....	2,292,890.10	10,172,583.95
Notes in circulation.....	625,213.00	3,730,898.00
Total liabilities.....	3,168,787.48	14,622,697.89
Total assets.....	6,815,708.89	21,982,369.11
Surplus.....	762,592.98	1,622,971.25

ANOTHER PANACEA FOR THE IRISH DIFFICULTY.

Mr. Robert Giffin, the well-known statistician to the Board of Trade in Great Britain, has lately promulgated what he considers the best solution of the present Irish difficulty. His scheme is as follows:—

1st. For the Imperial Government to buy out every landlord in Ireland, giving them consols at par, for £160,000,000 stg., which is twenty years purchase on a rental of £8,000,000 per annum.

2nd. To give the land free to the present occupiers, subject only to a *rent charge* of one-half or two-thirds of the present judicial rent, payable to the new local authorities in Ireland.

3rd. To relieve the Imperial of and saddle the local Government with all charges now made in connection with said local Government.

In explanation of this plan Mr. Giffin states that to create consols for £160,000,000 at 3 per cent. would entail an annual charge on the Imperial exchequer of £4,800,000 stg., which is about what it costs Great Britain to govern Ireland, exclusive of the army outlay. By handing over the land and making the rent therefor pay for the cost of carrying on the local Government, Mr. Giffin argues that the conflict of landlord and tenant would cease and there would be no longer any fear of confiscation. Lastly, it is proposed that the Imperial Government would retain a small police force of their own to enforce the collection of Imperial taxes required for the Imperial laws relating to commerce, transit, and other matters, which laws would remain "*in statu quo*" so long as there was no separation.

Now, we would be extremely surprised if any such plan would be satisfactory—we will not say to the Irish people, because that is not the question—but to the agitators for "Home Rule," "no rent," and so forth, headed by Mr. Parnell; and we state this for two reasons: First, that it is by upholding the doctrine of no rent at all the 86 Nationalists were sent to Westminster; and, secondly, the utterances of the Irish leaders so plainly point to separation that it seems useless to meet them from any other standpoint.

It seems utter waste of time discussing as to what it will be fair to reduce rents to, with tenantry who are threatened,

in language unmistakable, with boycotting or worse if they pay any rent at all. While as to Imperial taxation, what can be more absurd than attempting to discuss a subject with those whose desire is separation, with a Colony's right to fix their own tariff and regulations?

We can quite understand that Mr. Giffin's proposal would meet with the hearty approval of the landlords in Ireland, both Irish and English, since their property is little, if any, better than worthless at present. But in the first place it would be a terrible confession of weakness for England to admit her inability to administer even-handed justice, but that she is forced to purchase a substitute at the cry of those who advocate "boycotting" and confiscation. And in the next place, even supposing Mr. Giffin's scheme of local Government to be acceptable to Mr. Parnell the depreciation in the value of security would be such that we are of opinion that Ireland would be worse off than ever, in support of which we may remind our readers that upon the rumor only of the likelihood of Home Rule or local Government being granted to the sister Isle, the Bank of Ireland shares fell 21 per cent!

After the violent speeches by many of the Irish leaders insinuating, if not absolutely stating in so many words, that any means, however foul and dishonorable, justifies the end they have in view, we thoroughly agree with the great historian Mr. Leckie (who has always advocated the redress of Irish grievances), that to hand over the Island to such leaders as are now sent to the English Parliament could result in nothing but anarchy, to bring about which "would be the act of a traitor or a fool." Further, it would be an act of cruelty and injustice to Ireland itself—"fatuity and wickedness unparalleled in Irish history,"—are the words Mr. Leckie uses; and considering what that history has been, as painted by Mr. Leckie in reviewing Mr. Froude, no words could be stronger in condemnation.

Abolish the Lord Lieutenant, and give Ireland the same liberty and privileges as Scotland or England. More than this Ireland has no right to ask nor England the right to give.

Burnham v. New York Life Insurance Co.—Mr. John Burnham was an agent of the New York Life Insurance company, and sued the company for damages for alleged wrongful dismissal. Before the Queen's bench on the 11th ult., the action was dismissed with costs. W. Cassels, Q.C., and T. P. Galt for defendants; Allan Cassels for the plaintiff.—*Toronto World*.

The Toronto Board of Fire Underwriters have elected Mr. William Henderson (Hartford) president, and Mr. Alf. W. Smith (Imperial) chairman for 1886. The appointments could not be better, nor more likely to give satisfaction to all members and companies. A considerable reduction in rates on isolated and detached dwelling-house risks has, we are informed, been decided on.

Manitoba Board of Fire Underwriters.—The annual meeting of this Board was held at Winnipeg on January 6th. Mr. G. F. Carruthers was elected President, and Mr. R. Strang, Secretary. The other members are: Hon. Gilbert McMicken, late president, J. H. Brock, G. W. Girdlestone, A. Halloway, W. T. Kirby, Capt. Lewis, G. A. Muttelbury, C. S. Drummond and Capt. Howard.