

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

Published weekly at 11, Old Bailey Street, London, E.C.4.

Price of subscription—6/6 per annum.

Catholic Record.

London, Sat., Jan. 21st, 1898.

IRELAND'S CASE.

We often hear it asked by the opponents of Ireland's demand for Tenant Right: "Is rent payable unlawful? Is it a crime to be a landlord?"

The right to own land is not denied by the Irish Nationalist party, and none of the Irish Nationalists desire to rob the landlords of their proprietorship.

Besides all this, the landlords of Ireland are for the most part absentee. Between five and six millions of acres are owned by landlords who never see the country from which they are drawing the life's blood in the shape of £10,000,000 annually.

This very reasoning of the eminent jurist, proves that the laws of the country should be such as to protect the producers in the enjoyment of that which they produce.

It follows, therefore, that independently of the manner in which the landlords of Ireland acquired, in the first place, their proprietorship, this proprietorship should be exercised in accordance with the natural law which gives to the people of the country a right to live upon the fruits of the soil, and an inalienable right also to the products of their own industry in buildings, and the improvement made upon their lands.

Under the ancient laws of Ireland, the land belonged to the clan, and every freeman became proprietor of as much land as was necessary for his subsistence, but so far back as the days of the Norman conquest, in 1170 and 1171, the English conquerors claimed to be owners and lords of the soil of Leinster.

Mr. Blunt declares that he is being personally persecuted. He adds that while Mr. Balfour spoke of imprisoning the six Fenianites he added: "I shall be sorry for Mr. Dillon, as he has some good about him. He will be sentenced for six months, and as he is in bad health he will die in prison."

Raleigh obtained twelve thousand acres in Waterford. James I. confiscated six counties, which he presented with a lavish hand to "men well affected in religion," forty thousand acres to the Protestant Bishop of Ulster, thirty thousand to Trinity College, 210,000 to the undertakers of London, etc.

Under Cromwell nearly eight million acres were confiscated: and besides these direct acts of confiscation, by the penal laws millions of acres were taken from the Catholics and handed over to Protestants for no other reason than that the former were faithful to their God.

The iniquity does not consist merely in this that land is owned, but that the land tenure, established in oppression, ignores entirely the right of the tenants, the natives of the soil, to live and to enjoy the fruits of their own hard labor.

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THE RIGHT TO LIVE.

The London Times has taken the trouble to send a cable despatch stating that Cardinal Manning has devoted three pages of an article in the Fortnightly to a demonstration that the recognition of the right of property involves and rests on the admission of the right to live.

The doctrine, that extreme necessity lessens the fault, or even takes it away, is borne out by the words of holy Scripture; for we read in Prov. vi, 30: "The fault is not so great when a man hath stolen; for he stealth to fill his hungry soul."

Cardinal Manning adds, according to the Times' despatch, "that in the reign of Queen Elizabeth this natural right was over and over again recognised and enforced by Statute."

The action of the Land Commissioners in lowering the judicial rents has not given satisfaction to any. Lord Salisbury and Mr. Goschen had declared their intention of not revising the judicial rents at all.

The Toronto Globe of the 17th contained a thoughtful and timely article concerning the trouble with the Crofters in Scotland. The strictures of our contemporary may with justice be applied with even greater force to that same class of people in Ireland whose behalf the cowardly and blood-thirsty Balfour is now waging relentless war on a peaceable people.

It was when the tenantry discovered that by the Plan of Campaign they could gain the rights which were refused by the landlords, backed by the Government, that the latter yielded so much: and now the tenantry will not be satisfied with so insufficient a yielding to their demands.

While a satisfactory concession to them would have been like extending the olive branch of peace, the present step of the Government will only lead to greater firmness on the part of the tenantry in adhering to the Plan of Campaign, which has already proved so powerful an instrument in their hands.

The tenantry are more than ever convinced that it is only by their own firmness, and not by measures of the Government that they will secure redress.

Mr. Farnell foresaw the insufficiency of the present Act, and warned the Government that the clauses introduced by the Lords would ruin it as an act of redress, and most of the landlords were on the point of yielding the reductions which were demanded by their tenants under the Plan of Campaign.

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PARISH OF WAWANOSH.

The Rev. T. West, P. P. of Wawanosh, was presented last week by his parishioners with a first-class order and robe, a most deserved testimonial.

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