

My Very Dear Mother—What happiness I am to be with you again! We have just had an audience with the Holy Father—Joseph Martin, and I. I really do not know how to give you an idea of his goodness, and of the great and sweet impression which he has made upon my mind.

It was Mgr. S., who not only obtained for us the happiness of seeing and speaking with His Holiness, but an additional precious favor of which I shall tell you by and by.

We had our audience this evening. While Mgr. S. was with His Holiness we were left in an ante-chamber, which, as usual, there were prelates of the household, chaplains, and other persons, all dressed in purple like Bishops. I had a long talk with one of them, who, besides his purple cassock, wore also a purple ring, and not observing that he had no cross upon his breast, we took into our heads that he was a bishop (he had quite the bearing of one) and we called him Monseigneur all the time we were conversing with him.

We afterwards asked the Holy Father's chaplain the name of the Bishop who had been talking to us. He answered that he was simply a chamberlain of His Holiness. We laughed heartily over our mistake.

Meanwhile, Mgr. S., having finished his audience, came to call us into the Holy Father's presence. It was an awful moment and our hearts beat audibly. We were introduced into a small room, furnished with the utmost simplicity. Having observed the usual ceremonies, we found ourselves at the feet of the good and great Pius IX. I cannot describe to you what was my emotion at that moment. Mother, I am already more than repaid for my sacrifice.

After having allowed us to kiss his ring, the Holy Father gently patted us all on the shoulder. "Ah! Ah! My Zouaves. You are Belgians, I think?"

"Yes, Holy Father," answered I, "and our families have sent us to your Holiness' feet, to testify their feelings of reverence and deep attachment."

The Holy Father inquired with a most tender solicitude after our parents and relatives, and was visibly affected when he heard that Joseph had offered himself to obtain his mother's recovery. I spoke to him of you, mother, and of my father, and he promised me to pray for you both.

But when we gave him good Teresa's gift [Martin in his simplicity had put the purse into his hand as soon as he came into the room,] then a tear started into his eye.

"This is the widow's mite," he said: "I have not the heart to refuse it. But, children," he continued, "I must do something in acknowledgement of so much fidelity and affection. See, here is a remembrance for your parents," and he gave us three gold medals. "Ah!" added he, a moment afterwards to Joseph, "I forgot you have a sister. Well, here is something for her too," and he gave him a mother-of-pearl rosary.

(To be Continued.)

THE LAND QUESTION OF IRELAND.

(FROM TIMES SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS.)

No. 27, (Contd.)

The period of distress that succeeded the war revealed clearly the more recent mischiefs that had gathered in the Land System of Ireland, and the old and chronic causes of trouble. A great number of landlords were ruined, and their estates, swept into the Court of Chancery, became centres of the worst mismanagement; and if middleman tenures, though still very common, were in part broken up with good results, landed property was in an impoverished state, and remained too generally extremely neglected. At the same time the collapse of prices proved destructive to thousands of the poorer class of farmers, and the rapid augmentation of the mass of indigence which had grown up as the population increased, became a weighty burden on the country. For the first time Irish landlords began to distrust and dislike the small farm system; and the process of consolidation and clearing estates commenced, and, before long, became too common. The deep division of classes in Ireland which had seemed half hidden for some years, was then disclosed in the plainest manner, and society was rudely shaken and disturbed. In Ulster the peasantry was never evicted on a very large scale, Tenant Right and powerful local opinion being opposed to expedients of this character. But it was too general in the other provinces; and though reasonable allowances ought to be made for the difficulties in which landlords had been placed, the harshness that often marked these acts showed how little sympathy existed between the dominant caste and the subject people. These clearances which, in numberless instances, despoiled the tenant of what morally was his own, and appeared to him as a ruthless invasion of what he had learnt to think of as a secure possession, created fierce and savage irritation; and agrarianism, that old feud of class which had come down from the age of conquest, which had exhibited itself in varying forms, as circumstances called it into being, acquired remarkable strength and intensity. Opposed for some time by a powerful Government, and punned with extreme and violent rigour, it ceased to be insurrectionary and wild; it formed itself into a vast Trades Union in the interest of poverty against property, and it assumed the shape of a widespread conspiracy to vindicate the assumed rights of the peasantry, and to maintain by assassination and crime a too popular code of landed tenures. This period of trouble may be said broadly to have lasted for 15 years after the Peace, and though some improvement was then effected, events occurred before long which showed how separated the landed classes were, and which quickened the discontent of the peasantry. The Irish landlords of the last generation were a great deal better than their predecessors, yet the outbursts of ascendancy clung to them, and as a class they resisted the reforms which from 1825 to 1840 were devised for the good of the Irish people. The peasantry in the South, shaking off the thraldom of successive generations, now began to revolt from superiors, not loved, but bitterly obeyed, and flung themselves into the arms of a demagogue, and of a priesthood which had no reason to like or revere a Protestant proprietor. Fierce political agitation sprang up; the Clare election fomented the decline of territorial influence; and landlords and tenants in the South of Ireland ranged themselves into opposite camps, divided by many causes of discord. Meanwhile, the distress which had followed the war, the extinction of the forty-shilling freeholds, the very uncertain state of society, had conspired to diminish the comparative security of tenure enjoyed previously by the Irish tenant; and the efforts of the landlords to maintain their power co-operated in the same direction. The granting of leases became uncommon; as leases fell in, the precarious tenure of what was generally substituted; and thus, while evictions had become too frequent, the peasantry rapidly began to lose the security

legal protection, they had for their long-established rights in the soil. It is no wonder that agrarianism lived on, despite every effort made to root it out; and it was greatly aggravated by the increase of poverty, which, though the country had advanced in wealth, augmented with the growth of the population. A series of Parliamentary papers, ending with the report of the Devon Commission, showed that, with the exception of a part of Ulster, Ireland was in a very dangerous state between 1840 and 1844; and revealed a condition of society in which whole classes seemed rent asunder, in which the law ignored most important rights belonging to the occupiers of the soil, and in which indigence, disorder, and crime seemed to prey upon the vital strength of the nation. It must be admitted that if statements had at this time successfully removed the worst political ills of Ireland, they had shown themselves unable to cope with this train of social mischiefs.

This state of society was much changed by the memorable events of 1848-9. The redundant population which for years had aggravated the ills of Ireland was removed permanently from the land. Middleman tenures almost disappeared, the estates of ruined proprietors were sold, and large tracts were thrown open to commerce, with results upon the whole beneficial. The country has since improved considerably, and the discipline of experience and self-interest has not been forgotten by the landed classes. The Irish gentry of this generation differ widely from their fathers and thirty years ago; they are more prudent and thrifty; many of them have shown an excellent example in discharging faithfully the duties of property, and the influence of a bad as among them. On the other hand, the Irish peasantry have made a rapid advance in knowledge; they are more industrious and self-reliant; and it would be a great mistake to judge them by the standards of a past generation. Absenteeism, also, has had a great effect. Absenteeism, also, has had a great effect. Absenteeism, also, has had a great effect.

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From these considerations it follows that the features in the Land System of Ireland which require to be particularly noticed are the crying defects in the law which allows, through its rules relating to tenancy at-will, the rightful interests of an immense class—and that one comparatively helpless—to be encroached upon or confiscated, and the expediency of facilitating the transfer, in the general interest of the Irish nation, of a certain amount of landed property to the reform of that system—beginning with its most important side, the tenure of the occupying peasantry; but I must first say a word upon a matter which I believe causes great misconception. It will hardly be denied that the law which refuses to acknowledge the right of the Irish peasant to whatever interest he may have acquired in his holding beyond his tenure is grossly unjust; nor is there a serious difference of opinion as to the quality of that interest in one class of cases. Where, as in Ulster, the small farmer has usually what is felt to be a kind of property in his land, and wherever in the South a tenant has paid a price for the purchase of good-will, it is generally allowed that a bona fide interest beyond the legal tenure exists; and it is seen plainly that Tenant Right conflicts directly with tenancy at-will, and confers morally a substantial claim. But there is not the same agreement of opinion as regards the second and more general title of the Irish peasant to an interest in his farm—his equity in the soil in respect of improvements; some even impartial persons consider this interest as really trifling, and as at bottom rather illusory; and they say that law works here much injustice. I do not think a more grievous error exists with reference to the Land Question of Ireland. No doubt, in the actual state of agriculture, a good deal that the peasant farmer may have annexed to the soil or contributed to it may not be a benefit to the landlord now, though the amount is much less than is commonly imagined, taking even that very imperfect criterion. No doubt too, in numerous cases, in consequence of evictions, of emigration, and of consequent changes of tenancies, no claim for improvements can be fairly preferred; in other cases, not perhaps very many, what can be called 'improvements' were never made; and, as a matter of course, all claims of this class must be subject to limitations of time, as in the case of every kind of title. It must be added that these claims are often justly liable to deductions in respect of injuries done by the tenant to the land, of diminution of rent because of improvements, and of continuous and prolonged occupation; and, unquestionably, where, as sometimes has happened, the landlord has contributed in part by money or otherwise to what has been done, it would not be easy to disengage and adjust accurately the peasant's equity. Nevertheless, after making every allowance and admitting every legitimate drawback, I believe that the claims of the Irish tenant in respect of what they have permanently added to the soil are, without exaggeration, enormous; and I assert confidently that, in virtue of them, they have in numberless instances gained an interest in their holdings, in justice and truth, repugnant to mere tenancy at-will, and in a strict sense to a large right of property. No person who has studied the subject, and understands what is the real meaning of 'improvements' under the small farm system, will, I believe, ultimately think otherwise; and I refer sceptically to the Report of the Devon Commission and to the Committee of Mr. Maguire in 1855, especially to the evidence of Lord Dufferin, who, though holding a very strong opinion on the right of absolute ownership in land, acknowledges, with the candour of a superior mind, how great are the claims of the Irish peasant by reason of his additions to the soil. Nor is it impracticable, in my judgment, by adopting tests and pursuing a method on which I shall say a word hereafter, to vindicate these rights and to bring out the interest of the tenant in respect of them; though it is here certainly we have so much to regret that judicial decisions have not settled these questions.

I pass on to projects for the amendment of the system of occupation in Ireland. Unhappily, it is hardly necessary to consider what Parliament has hitherto done in this matter. Bills, indeed, have at different times been brought in, founded on justice and sound principles, which sought to legalize the custom of Ulster, and to recognize the right of the Irish peasant to his equitable interest in respect of improvements. These measures, however, invariably failed; not, I am convinced, because the Legislature was deaf to a legitimate claim, but because it did not thoroughly comprehend the real bearings and facts of the case; and, confused by the identity in name of things different and even opposite, thought the English law of landlord and tenant could not possibly be a cause of wrong in Ireland. The only measure even approaching an attempt to draw a real distinction between the position of the occupier of land in England and Ireland which recognized the ultimate sanction of Parliament in an Act of 1860, which, faulty in principle and detail alike, refused to acknowledge the existing interest acquired

by the Irish tenant in his holding, in respect of his equitable interest in the soil, proposed a system of compensation for prospective improvements that would not and could not possibly work; and has been justly called a legislative abortion. The first scheme for improving the conditions under which land is occupied in Ireland that deserves attention at this juncture is that shadowed forth by Mr. Bright so long ago as 1855, and still evidently favoured by him.—This scheme, admirable in some respects and broad and statesmanlike in its leading conception nevertheless betrays imperfect knowledge of the real problem requiring solution, cannot certainly be viewed as a complete plan for reforming the mode of occupation in Ireland, and, as I shall endeavor to point out hereafter, is judging it even within its proper limits, open as it stands to serious objections. Mr. Bright's project does not aim at dealing with the system of occupation in Ireland generally; indeed, it treats the subject on the side of ownership, and it is probable that when he first put it forward he had not thoroughly realized to his mind the extent, difficulty, and intricacy of the question. Perceiving, however, that formidable discontent existed among the peasantry of Ireland, and judging correctly that nothing tends to pledge a class so strongly to order as the consciousness of having property in land, he proposed to raise an indefinite number of occupiers in Ireland to the status of owners by the gradual alienation of estates and the formation of a peasant proprietary. To attain this object his idea was that absentee landlords in Ireland should have facilities afforded them to sell their lands; that the State, having advanced the price, should enter into possession of these; and that the tenant, through its intervention, should ultimately acquire the freehold in their farms, by paying the purchase money in instalments added yearly to the existing rents. The contemplated alienation law, ever, was to be, in the strictest sense, voluntary, and one class of estates only was selected for the intended experiment.

Having examined the Land System of Ireland in its results, organization, and its causes, I proceed to notice those features of it which seem to require special attention, and to glance at the principles of the chief schemes put forward for removing its mischiefs. If the view I have taken of the general question in previous letters is tolerably correct, we must consider the subject on both its sides—that of occupation and that of ownership. We have seen that the occupiers of the soil in Ireland may be divided broadly into two great classes, differing, however, in numbers and real importance—the capitalist and the peasant farmer. We have seen that, speaking generally, the first can deal with their superiors on equal terms, hold by lease or definite contract, do not add permanently to the value of their farms, for the most part occupy large areas, and have little or no claim to those equities in the soil created by Tenant Right, or arising in respect of lasting contributions to the land. We have seen that the law, as it now stands, applies fairly enough to the first class, and that were the entire of Ireland held under no Land Question the English system of occupation no Land Question would, practically, exist. We have seen, however, that outside the pale of these capitalist farmers extends the mass, prodigious in number, of the peasant occupiers, that the law as to them is unjust, and that it is here the amending hand of the statesman is required to set right a faulty system. In the case of tenancies in this category—apart of course from very great exceptions, and modifications of all kinds—the peasant in a large majority of instances cannot treat for land as a free contractor; his tenure is usually at-will, determinable by a six months' notice to quit; he, or his predecessors, have, from time to time, made useful annexations to the land, and frequently given its productive qualities; his holding, as a rule, is small in size; and he has often acquired equities in the soil, through Tenant Right or in respect of improvements of considerable though undefined value. These equities, however, which, various as they are in extent, character, and intrinsic worth, nevertheless give the possessor of them an interest concurring with that of the owner, are wholly without the security of law, and—apart from terrorism and outrageous force—are vindicated only by local custom by acquiescence, and the forbearance of landlords. We have seen, moreover, that what makes this state of things intolerably unjust is that the tenure of the peasant being usually at-will, the landlord is able to destroy his equity by raising rent or capricious eviction; that it is here the law falls short of its duty to guard what virtually are rights of property, in the aggregate of enormous value; and we have noticed the evil consequences, in the deep discontent of the small farmers of Ireland, and in the prevalence of the agrarian spirit. We have seen, moreover, looking at the subject from the side of ownership, that from many causes landed property in some parts of Ireland has become unpopular and has lost its influence; and that, for this and other reasons, it may be advisable to afford encouragement for the easy, yet strictly voluntary, alienation of estates in Ireland under the control of the State, in order to attain a great political object.

No. 28.

by the Irish tenant in his holding, in respect of his equitable interest in the soil, proposed a system of compensation for prospective improvements that would not and could not possibly work; and has been justly called a legislative abortion. The first scheme for improving the conditions under which land is occupied in Ireland that deserves attention at this juncture is that shadowed forth by Mr. Bright so long ago as 1855, and still evidently favoured by him.—This scheme, admirable in some respects and broad and statesmanlike in its leading conception nevertheless betrays imperfect knowledge of the real problem requiring solution, cannot certainly be viewed as a complete plan for reforming the mode of occupation in Ireland, and, as I shall endeavor to point out hereafter, is judging it even within its proper limits, open as it stands to serious objections. Mr. Bright's project does not aim at dealing with the system of occupation in Ireland generally; indeed, it treats the subject on the side of ownership, and it is probable that when he first put it forward he had not thoroughly realized to his mind the extent, difficulty, and intricacy of the question. Perceiving, however, that formidable discontent existed among the peasantry of Ireland, and judging correctly that nothing tends to pledge a class so strongly to order as the consciousness of having property in land, he proposed to raise an indefinite number of occupiers in Ireland to the status of owners by the gradual alienation of estates and the formation of a peasant proprietary. To attain this object his idea was that absentee landlords in Ireland should have facilities afforded them to sell their lands; that the State, having advanced the price, should enter into possession of these; and that the tenant, through its intervention, should ultimately acquire the freehold in their farms, by paying the purchase money in instalments added yearly to the existing rents. The contemplated alienation law, ever, was to be, in the strictest sense, voluntary, and one class of estates only was selected for the intended experiment.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

CONVERSIONS.—On Wednesday, the 9th ult. at Oresagh chapel, Connemara, Mr O'Connell of Letterfrack, and Mr Anthony of Rosny, were received into the Holy Catholic Church by the Rev James Lee. It is with feelings of great pleasure that we record this event, it having taken place in the midst of the chief labours of the Irish Church Mission Society. May this example be followed by the many who are eager to embrace the Church but lack the moral courage to publicly announce their faith in it.—Tuam Herald.

THE IRISH PROTESTANTS.—According to the proposed constitution of the Irish Protestant Church the laity will be as three to two in the General Synod; but it appears that they are not satisfied. A demand to vote by orders if made by any six members of an order is to be complied with. The lay delegates now say that many of them consented to this under the idea that two orders were intended, not three as proposed in the draft constitution. The preponderance of the laity might of course be completely nullified by the two orders—Bishops and Clergy—voting against them. They also take exception to their being deprived of any part in the appointment of Bishops and incumbents. A meeting was held on Monday to protest against the shortness of the time allowed for consideration before the meeting of the General Convocation.—Tablet.

THE REPRESENTATION OF WATERFORD.—The Conservatives, as I informed you, met to-day, and resolved to support a Conservative candidate, if one offered himself for their suffrages. Sir Leopold Mc Olinock is spoken of as a probable candidate. Other names have been mentioned, and it is expected that a gallant gentleman from your city has a number of backers in the Tory ranks here, if he 'tries his luck.' Sir John Morris has issued his address, and Mr Osborne continues to work hard. If the division in the Liberal ranks is persisted in, the gentleman from Dublin would have a good chance; but should a Tory offer himself, the Liberals, I am sure, would at once close up the ranks, and preserve their city from Tory misrepresentation.—Freeman's Correspondent.

THE REPRESENTATION OF DERRY.—The general impression prevails here that the Conservative party, conscious of the hopelessness of fighting for the seat, were anxious to allow Mr Downe to have 'a walk over.' The Duke of Abercorn's counsel, however, prevailed, and unable to procure a local candidate of sufficient mark to undertake the hopeless peril he and his personal party induced Mr Baxter to assume the risk of fighting a 'forlorn hope.' Had any of the Duke's sons entered the field and contested it stoutly with Mr Downe, the contest would have been a very sharp one; but an unknown politician, and a gentleman having no personal connexion with the district, is thought by the Conservative party to have no reasonable claims.—Freeman's Correspondent.

THE GLADSTONE-BRIGHT LAND BILL.—So far as we can form a judgment, the bill is far worse than a delusion and a snare. It is a bill which, under pretence of redressing the land grievances of Ireland, perpetuates and legalizes landlord tyranny, and which, under pretence of legalising Ulster tenant-right, destroys it. This judgment, we admit, is imperfect—we must wait to test it by the printed bill. But, in the meantime, it is the best we can form from a speech as well calculated to mystify and confuse as any oration ever delivered either in ancient or modern times.—Dublin Irishman.

ELECTION EXPENSES.—The return of the expenses sustained by candidates at the recent general election shows that the acknowledged expenditure amounted in round numbers to one million and a-half sterling, or an average of £2,100 for every member of the House of Commons. Some of the returns for Irish boroughs furnish nice materials for reflection. It appears from them that Mr. Bayley spent £1,000 in the charming borough of Athlone in bringing 111 voters to the poll; Mr. Munster at Cashel spent £1,251 in securing 84; Mr. Bridgman at Drogheda spent £592, and was supported by 30 electors, and Mr. Weggelin at Youghal spent £2,216, and polled 127. These sums are quite independent of the 'charities' which flow from such good Samaritans on these occasions.—Cork Herald.

Our Oastlebar correspondent writing on Saturday says:—Considerable alarm has been caused here in consequence of rumours, almost hourly circulated, regarding the posting of a notice threatening landlords and agents who threaten to eject, or to raise the rents. It appears that a few days ago a notice was posted on Mr. Fitzgerald's house, of Turlough, calling on the tenants not to pay more rent than the Government valuation of the lands. On the day appointed for the collection of the rents, the tenants on seeing the notice, I am told, returned home, without discharging their obligations. More excitement was created this (Saturday) morning by a report that a large body of men marched into Swinford town in martial order to demand of a magistrate an admission to bail of some person whose examination was held on Friday in that town, when the magistrate remanded bail. A large party of police left Oastlebar on Friday night on duty, and returned on Saturday morning with one prisoner. I am informed the constabulary and military are on duty every night; the cavalry have to keep their horses saddled, and ready to turn out at any notice. From about eight to ten o'clock on Friday night several parts of the county about Oastlebar were brilliantly illuminated, as if thousands of torchlights were in motion through the mountains, and more particularly in that part of the county between Bally and Foxford. The object of such a strange circumstance is, of course, a complete mystery to every person.—Freeman.

It will be well for Ireland if the Government Land Bill shall prove to be a really comprehensive and

honest measure. It will be well for her if the Government do not permit themselves to be urged by Tory taunts and incitements into the adoption of a policy of coercion which would assuredly sleep this day in blood. But Bill or no Bill, fair play or foul play, the Irish people will not be diverted from the blishment of the independence of their country.—Nation.

The Irish journals have received the Government Land Bill with comparative calmness, and appear to measure the expression of public opinion upon the measure. The Irish Church Convention has convened sittings, which have been marked by great animation. The separate voting of the Bishops and are points which have evoked much adverse criticism. No decision has yet been adopted, and the discussion of other parts of the scheme is proceeding. Several further instances of threatening letters are reported. At Cork a smith and his son were arrested for having guns and pikeheads concealed in their house. The second trial of Barrett for the attempted murder of Captain Lambert has commenced.

The town of Swinford was on Friday last the scene of a most singular display of feeling. During the investigation of a charge against three men in custody, of administering illegal oaths and taking firearms, a body of eleven hundred stalwart men, all carrying billyclubs, went through the streets in military order, proclaiming their design to set the men accused at liberty. The scanty police force eventually effected the peaceable dispersion of the people.—Nation.

On Friday morning, whilst proceeding home to Tomie's House, after returning from Dublin, where he had attended the Land Conference, the previous day, The O'Donoghue, M.P., met with an accident which fortunately resulted in no serious injury to himself. It appears that on his way from the mail train which arrives here between the hours of three and four o'clock a.m., and when approaching the corner of the road leading to Tomie's, the horse and driver were at once upset by an iron sleeper which had been placed across that part of the road as a barrier to prevent vehicles proceeding in that direction, as a timber bridge erected across the neck of the river Lerne, near the Lower Lake, as a shorter route to the Gap of Dunlow, was undergoing some repairs. The driver on being upset was at once rendered insensible from the injuries he sustained, and the shafts of the vehicle were literally smashed in pieces, besides other damage done to it by the crash. On the occurrences taking place. The O'Donoghue at once jumped out of the vehicle, and by doing so escaped receiving serious injury beyond a few scratches.

The great Edmond Will case comes on again soon. It is confidently believed that the last verdict will be reversed.

It was because they knew that Ross would not even if he could, sit in Parliament, that the people of Tipperary elected him.—Dublin Irishman.

PURCHASE OF IRISH RAILWAYS.—DUBLIN, Monday.—The Lord Lieutenant to-day received a deputation urging on the Government the purchase of the Irish railways. His Excellency said the subject was one of the highest importance, and would receive the attention of the Government; but he could promise nothing, as the Land Bill might probably occupy the Session.

A letter from Athboy in the Dublin Express contradicts a statement in that journal headed Rign of terror in Meath, and says the entire is a pure fabrication.

Amendments to the Land Bill are in preparation. Mr. Brady will move that the Ulster custom of compensating tenants who voluntarily surrender their holdings shall be extended generally to all parts of Ireland.—Freeman.

Our correspondent informs us that on Thursday night last an armed party of men visited the houses of three farmers named Hynes, Brien, and Smith, residing in the neighbourhood of Mullagh county O'Connell, and forced them to promise, one of them on oath, to give up certain premises in their possession. They did no further mischief than to extort this promise in each case and went away firing shots.—Freeman.

Some of the political prisoners set at liberty in Australia arrived in London a few days ago, and were cordially received by a deputation of their countrymen appointed for the purpose. We beg to add our word of warm welcome on their safe return from the distant land to which they were consigned by British law, and we rejoice to hear that their health and strength have not suffered serious loss from the hardships of penal expatriation.—Nation.

The protest of the Fermansagh magistrates against the dismissal of Mr. Madden has been adopted by others in the Conny Monaghan, and is now in course of signature in that county. It already bears the names of 24 magistrates, those of Mr. Leslie, M.P., Lord Lieutenant of the county, Mr. Shirley, Sir G. Forster and others heading the list.

A strange robbery was perpetrated on Monday night. The 'bags' which contain the books, briefs, and other papers of the members of the Bar are usually brought from the Four Courts each evening in sacks by messengers, who deliver each bag at the residence of the owner. The messenger who performs this duty for the district between Stephens-green and Fitzwilliam-square was on Monday night leaving a bag at a lawyer's house, when the sack containing five other bags was stolen from where he left it against the railings of the house. Some persons were disposed yesterday in the Hall to think that the robbery had some connection with the case of Barrett, as two of the bags taken belonged respectively to Mr. D. O. Heron, Q.C., and Mr. Hugh McDermott, counsel for the prisoner, whose trial was forced for yesterday morning. One of the other bags belonged to Mr. W. Ryan, Q.C.—Irish Times.

THE MYRATH MURDER.—A further investigation with reference to this most atrocious murder was held on Monday last, in Drumconrath barracks in presence of an R.M. and J.P., immediately on the close of the petty sessions. Leslie, who had been remanded on bail until the analyst's report of the blood stains should be known, was fully acquitted to the great delight of the community at large, for he is a most ingenious fellow, the report confirming his assertion as to the sort of blood. A great many persons between forty and fifty, received crown summonses on Saturday and early on Monday to attend. They were from various parts of the district, some from county Monaghan. A detective, commissioned by the authorities to hunt up the poisoning case, and who has been through the parish and the circumjacent localities for the last few months, was the interrogator during the inquiry which was private, none but those summoned being admitted, and they, one by one. It is supposed that the agents in both instances, poison and murder, are the same; at all events, I regret to write, for justice sake, no clue has been discovered to either as yet. An imbecile named M. Connell who was examined as a witness at the inquest was brought to court by the R.I.O. and returned to the general sessions for perjury, the coroner being present to read his evidence on the occasion.—Correspondent of Dundalk Democrat.

DUBLIN, Feb. 21.—Mr. Anthony Duce, of Clonbarrow, near Athboy, County Meath, has written to contradict the report, which was generally circulated, that his house was attacked by a party of men and a double-barrelled gun taken away.

ONK.—At five o'clock this morning a great crowd assembled, with bands, to watch the arrival of the Bristol boat, which was expected to bring the released Australian Fenians. The latter did not arrive. The crowd, becoming disorderly, was dispersed at the point of the bayonet by the police who seized the instruments.—Dundalk Democrat.