

still felt a great tenderness for this young girl whom he had hoped to make his wife...

So, when the centurion exclaimed: 'This is not the time to shed tears. Cecilia must be rescued from the hands of that villain.'

Gurges approached timidly, and taking Olinthus by the hand:

'Allow me,' he said, 'to assist you in this task. All I possess is yours to redeem this young girl and to restore her to her father.'

'Thank you,' replied the centurion, moved by so much devotion. 'You are a worthy young man, and I accept your assistance. Let us go together to see this Parmenon. He will have to give us back Cecilia.'

The two young men departed, leaving Cecilia, who, his hands raised to heaven, was making vows for their success.

Olinthus and Gurges thought that a single visit to the slave-dealer's tavern in the Villa-publica would suffice for a satisfactory settlement of this matter. Parmenon could not refuse to give up Cecilia, when tendered his ten thousand sesterii and a suitable additional amount.

The two young men walked on chatting hopefully about Cecilia; what joy and gratitude she would feel when she would see herself delivered by them.

'It is to me she will owe her salvation!' Gurges was saying. 'It will doubtless be for your benefit, but, at least, I shall have some title to her friendship, and this is a good deal for me.'

'My dear Gurges,' Olinthus would reply, 'when Cecilia will be my wife, we will ever remember together your generous assistance.'

Gurges was not without feeling a certain sadness when Olinthus spoke of his approaching marriage with Cecilia; but when he compared his own mournful garb to the brilliant uniform of the young centurion, he could not blame the young girl's choice.

'By Venus Libitina!' he would say to himself, with rare modesty and touching candor; 'I think I would have done as she did, had I been in her place.'

When the two young men reached Parmenon's tavern, they found that worthy walking up and down in front of his vacant platform.

It had been agreed between Cecilia's future liberators, that Gurges would be the spokesman. This arrangement flattered the vespillo's vanity. It was natural and proper that he should be the negotiator, since he was the original holder of the claim of which Parmenon had made such treacherous use, and since he was to advance the ten thousand sesterii required for Cecilia's liberation.

'We say advanced,' for Olinthus had accepted the offer only as a temporary loan.

Gurges, giving his features the most amiable expression, approached the slave-dealer with a graceful bow, and said:

'My dear Parmenon, I come to repay you your ten thousand sesterii.'

'What does this vespillo want with me?' said Parmenon disdainfully; and he resumed his walk.

'This vespillo is Gurges,' replied Libitina's agent with a certain pride; 'Gurges, who comes with this centurion, to claim a young girl named Cecilia.'

'Ah, very well,' quoth Parmenon, and a singular smile hovered on his lips. 'Only the pretension seems to me rather bold.'

'What difficulty can there be?' asked Gurges.

'Only this, that I do not wish to sell her to you,' replied the trader.

'But,' said Olinthus, seized with a vague anxiety, 'there is no question of sale here. This young girl was transferred to you in guarantee of a claim which Gurges is ready to satisfy at this very moment. It seems to me that the debt being cancelled, the girl given in pledge must be returned to us.'

'Centurion, do you know the proverb?' replied the slave-trader with insolence: 'Ne sutor ultra crepidam. Let not the shoemaker go beyond his last. Which means that you may be a very gallant soldier, but you understand little about this sort of business.'

'None of your impertinence,' exclaimed Olinthus in a threatening tone; 'Come, is it a profit you want? Name the sum.'

'I am an honest man,' replied Parmenon, 'and I need no pay to do what I should and what I will.'

'Then, why refuse to return this young girl to her father, who sent us to claim her?'

'I will not return her, because her father sold her to me, and being therefore her master, I have the right to keep her if I see proper. Is this clear, centurion?'

'Moreover,' he added, 'to guard against any difficulty that may arise, I have had the act drawn up by the antestat.' Here it is, you can satisfy yourself that it is regular.'

Olinthus and Gurges remained dumfounded before this irrefragable proof. This act formed an unconquerable obstacle. The distress of the two young men could easily be detected in the paleness which spread over their features, and the involuntary trembling of their limbs.

'I double the amount!' cried at last Gurges.

'No, amiable vespillo, it cannot be done.'

'I triple it!' said Olinthus.

'No, Centurion.'

'One hundred thousand sesterii! . . . Upon my sword I swear you shall have them.'

'No, no, a thousand times no,' replied Parmenon unmoved.

Nothing remained but to kneel at this man's feet and beg him to relent from his inexorable resolve; but Olinthus understood that it would be abusing himself uselessly.

He withdrew followed by Gurges, who shook his fist at Parmenon and swore that he would save Cecilia.

'and, you, amiable vespillo, you can come both. You, Primpilar, with your cohort, and you, vespillo, with your corpse eaters. I await you, and am prepared to receive you.'

When Olinthus returned among his brethren and told them:

'Cecilia is a slave, Cecilia has been strong in her faith, Cecilia has been sold by her father.'

This news caused a wail of lamentation in the whole tribe, mingled with thanks to God who had given this young girl strength to suffer for His name and to glorify Him by her servitude. Then came a touching scene. These poor people hastened to bring all they possessed of any value, to Olinthus, beseeching him to accept their offerings, in order that their sister might be redeemed, and not remain in the hands of the wretch who, master of her body, might at a future day become master of her soul.

The mothers followed by their children, brought the poor furniture of their homes and their humble garments, to be sold for making up Cecilia's ransom. The maidens sacrificed joyfully their simple ornaments and the few jewels their modesty permitted them to wear.

As for the men, they offered their strong arms. They would go with Olinthus to tear down and burn Parmenon's tavern, and rescue Cecilia from the flames and ruins.

'Thanks, sisters,' Olinthus would say, addressing the women, 'thanks for your charity and your love. I had not misjudged them when I offered Parmenon one hundred thousand sesterii for Cecilia.'

'Well?' cried a thousand voices.

'Well, he refused,' said Olinthus with despair. 'But I have you, O my brethren,' the centurion continued, turning to the men, 'and with you Cecilia cannot be lost. Yes, we will go and rescue our sister from this wretch, we will give her back to her father and to her God!'

(To be Continued.)

THE COMING COUNCIL.

(From the Cork Examiner)

The English Press has been very sarcastic about the coming Council of the Catholic Church, or where it discusses it with anything like seriousness, endeavors to prove that it does not command the confidence of the most enlightened portions of mankind.

One of the leading English weekly papers, of Saturday, discusses an attempted assassination in a Lutheran Church at Berlin. The Spectator alluding to this event, intimates its opinion that we are on the eve of a deluge of infidelity, which will be analogous to the barbarian invasion of Rome, and as the Goths replaced an effete race by a young and vigorous stock, so the old world worn degmas will be replaced by a young and healthy belief.

Its substance may be found in the following letter from the Rev. John Anketell, Rector of the American Church at Dresden, and which, as pregnant is it, we give without curtailment:—'I have read with much interest the letters of your Berlin correspondent which have led to discussion on this topic. The results of my own observations during a former residence in Germany and at the present time agree fully with his statements; and, while much has been written on this topic, I have read nothing which more faithfully describes the present state of affairs. The condition of religion here is, in the view of every evangelical Christian, simply deplorable. The reaction against Rationalism in some of the Universities has utterly failed to influence the masses, the sum of whose religion is, as your correspondent asserts, a vague and dim idea of the existence of a God. The Protestant clergy, instead of being looked upon with respect by the people, as in England and America, are here resented with contempt, as a sort of spiritual policemen or religious scavengers. They do no pastoral visiting, and, unless eloquent in the pulpit, have no influence in the community. They are upheld simply by the power of the State, and were this withdrawn there would be no religious reformation. On the contrary, leading ministers of Saxony have admitted to me that, if the hand of the State were withdrawn, the majority of the people would renounce even the outward forms of Christianity, as they have already renounced its truth.'

Now it would be easy to point the finger of reprobation upon the description given of the state of Christian belief in the country which has been the cradle of the Reformation; but there is no cause for exultation in what cannot be regarded as other than a grave misfortune by any one who rightly estimates the importance of Christianity. We ask Protestants who, through a feeling of indifference, or through mere hostility to what they are pleased to describe as Ultramontane intolerance, oppose Catholics in their demand for careful religious education, to think over the sad picture which is presented by the most highly educated nation in the world, and ask themselves whether after all, that enlightenment which ignores the most vital truths is that which is best worth striving for. Let them honestly say whether, with the full knowledge of such a state of things, as by Protestant testimony prevails in Germany, it is more priestly arrogance which demands that Catholics shall studiously be reared in the principles of faith. Here is the land of the Open Bible, here the land which first shook off the 'chains' of Rome, here the people that stand highest in intellectual culture of all the nations of the world, and here the country where education has been based on that freedom which is held up to us as the model for our guidance. And yet at this stage of the world it presents the religious spectacle which is described by observers who cannot be suspected of taking one side of the controversy; and which ought seriously to modify opinions on the subject of education as connected with or dis severed from Christianity.'

THE LAND QUESTION OF IRELAND.

(FROM TIMES SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.)

No. 4.

TIPPERARY.

I proceed to give you a short account of the agrarian outrages of this neighbourhood. The principal crimes committed here during the last twelve months have been the homicides on Mr. Scully's late estate of Ballycooby, the murders of Messrs. Baker, Bradshaw, and Tracy, and an attempt at intimidation on the property of the Messrs. Vincent. With the single exception of the murder of Mr. Bradshaw, the character of which remains doubtful, all these crimes are certainly agrarian, and it will be thus perceived that the worst offences of the district are of the same type, and that but for them it would be almost free from crime. Of course I do not pretend to give a statement accurate in every particular, but as I have consulted the best authorities, and have had access

to special sources of information, my account, I think, will be found trustworthy.

The circumstances connected with Mr. Scully's estate require, in the first place, a few words. It comprises only some 300 Irish acres, the lands being, I saw them, though of the best quality, having a rather neglected and desolate look, and the farmsteads, too, being of an inferior kind. This property formerly was a portion of the vast estates of the Earls of Portarlington—derived in part from the Dawson family and in part from the judicious accumulations of a well-known squire of Cromwell's army—and many years ago it was granted by lease to a Mr. James Scully, who sub-let the lands at rents much higher than those now payable. The interest of Mr. James Scully, who in this way had become a middleman, came to an end in 1852 or 1853, and the chief lord's estate was purchased in 1856 by Mr. William Scully, a relation of James. Mr. William Scully found the tenancy emancipated from the middleman, and paying a much reduced rent, though as high probably, as the lands were worth; and in 1856 he resolved to compel them to accept an extraordinary kind of tenure, though I have not heard that his intention was to make any augmentation in the rent. The tenants who had previously held from year to year, and who, therefore, could be evicted only upon a six months' notice to quit, were required to adopt a subordinated letting, under which their rents were to be paid quarterly; very stringent conditions of husbandry were imposed and their interest, no specified term being given, was made determinable on a 21 days' notice. On the 14th of August, 1858, Mr. William Scully proceeded to Ballycooby, attended by a party of police, to serve the notices that were thus to convert a tenure, already precarious, into one almost absolutely worthless; and what followed is unhappily notorious. A large body of men, some with firearms, and evidently collected by preconcert, assembled and offered a fierce resistance; shots were fired, the tenantry looking on approvingly; and the result was that two of the police were killed, and Mr. Scully and some other men were wounded. The victors separated after their triumph, and although the outrage occurred in broad daylight, and in the presence of numerous bystanders, and although large rewards have been offered for the apprehension of any of the offenders, no evidence has been forthcoming, and the magistrates have given up all hopes on the subject.

With respect to this case of Mr. Scully, I must observe by the way that it seems to me a great mistake to authorize the police to assist a landlord, as they practically do, in asserting the civil rights of property. I do not enter into the question whether the contract Mr. Scully endeavoured to impose upon his tenantry was legal, though no lawyer can doubt that it bears out the proverb that *summum jus may be summa injuria*. My objection is of a general kind. I maintain that those whose primary duty it is to aid in the administration of criminal justice ought in no instance in Ireland to co-operate in the vindication of purely civil rights. Such a course makes the Government appear in the eyes of a very quick-witted race an instrument to support class interests; it identifies it with acts occasionally oppressive; and instead of discouraging, it has probably a tendency to promote outrage. Mr. Scully, it is likely, would never have thought of acting in the manner he did had he not been assured of the help of the police; and, but for their unlucky intervention, the affair of Ballycooby might not have occurred. I am aware that it is said the police in these cases attend in order to prevent a breach of the peace, and to give protection to those who are executing the process of the law; but this distinction is too fine to be recognized. They are really turned into armed bailiffs for the purpose of upholding by force claims sometimes harsh, unjust, or extreme; and I cannot but think it highly impolitic that the State and its agents should incur the odium.

It is difficult to find out all the facts that preceded the murder of Mr. Baker, but what follows may I think, be relied on. Mr. Baker was the owner of an estate of some 1,400l. or 1,500l. a year, a few miles from the town of Tipperary. Two brothers named Dwyer who held small farms on the estate, having been at feud, Mr. Baker, who, I have been told, expressed an intention of giving one brother a lease of both farms, proceeded to serve a notice to quit on the other brother in the usual manner. I have heard that Mr. Baker's purpose was to resume possession of a small portion only of the lands included in the notice to quit—in fact, merely to square the farms; but, however this may have been, as the process unquestionably comprised the whole of his farm, the tenant who had been served could not know this circumstance. An adjournment was brought upon the notice to quit, and I have been informed that Mr. Baker gave a kind of promise some time previously that he would not have recourse to such a proceeding, and changed his mind in a moment of anger. Soon afterwards the unfortunate gentleman was found shot dead near his own house; the murderer as yet has not been discovered, and I fear that discovery is very improbable.

The murder of Tracey presents features equally dark and ruthless. Tracey was a small farmer, who held land in the neighbourhood of the estate of Lord Derby. Some years ago his farm had been occupied by a tenant who had been dispossessed; and I am informed that the agent of the property promised to give the land to a man named Burns. Tracey was, however, ultimately preferred. Last winter Tracey was found dead, his throat cut in a barbarous manner; and this murder, too, remains unpunished, for though Burns was put on his trial he has been acquitted, with the approval of the Judge, the evidence being wholly insufficient. I may add, in reference to this crime, that Lord Derby issued a circular which menaced any of his tenants with eviction should he harbour or countenance the assassin, an act I venture to think that betrays suspicions, perhaps wholly undeserved, and that savours too much of feudal justice—I might make use of another term—for the second half of the nineteenth century.

As regards the affair of the Messrs. Vincent—the last upon this unhappy list—it illustrates strongly the jealousy and distrust which are among the motives of agrarian crimes. The Messrs. Vincent were the joint proprietors of an estate not far from the village of Emly, in the centre of the celebrated Golden Vale. They were desirous to effect a partition of the lands; but the surveyors they sent, on reaching the spot, were met by a party of armed men, with blackened faces, who warned them off, and fired some shots to hasten their departure. The only reason that can be assigned for this deed is that a report had spread that the rents of the estate were about being raised, and that the tenantry mistook the surveyors for valuers who had come for this purpose. No clue has been found to this outrage also, nor is it probable its authors will be discovered.

These crimes bear the well-known marks of agrarian offences. They all have one common object, to maintain the title of the tenant to his holding, according to a popular standard of right, and to punish those who attempt to disturb it. They have not been committed without provocation; but if we measure the provocation with the crime they appear in a high degree atrocious. They are not the results of individual passion, but are systematic to a certain extent, and show the signs of a kind of method; they exact vengeance not only from the authors of what is supposed a wrong, but from those who, though innocent of it, help to carry it out, and become its instruments. They express, too, though in a monstrous form, the sentiments of a large class; their perpetrators usually elude justice; they obtain the sympathy of a people in no sense generally depraved or wicked. In a word, they are of the kind described by Sir George Lewis when he wrote of them in the worst stage of their evil development; and it must be allowed that their mere number does not form a perfect criterion of the range and prevalence of the spirit that prompts them. The expressions of Sir George Lewis, I regret to say, are still in a great degree ap-

licable. The outrages in question committed by the offenders against the law of opinion generally prevail among the class to which they belong. In this character they look not merely to particular but to general results, not merely to themselves but also to those with whom they are leagued, and with whom they have an identity of interests, and not merely to the present but also to the future. The criminal who acts with these views is, as it were, an executioner, who carries into effect the verdict of an uncertain and non-apparent tribunal; and it usually happens that others profit more by his offence than he himself who committed it.

I shall not at present attempt to trace the causes of these deplorable crimes. I shall only remark that, in my judgment, the existing relations of property here, though occasionally grievous in their working do not suffice by themselves to generate the spirit that gives these misdeeds birth; and that such a spirit could only grow up and spread in a state of society that has been for a long time deeply disordered.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

The Mayo Examiner says over one hundred thousand pounds is annually collected in the county of Mayo alone, on the estates of landlords who are absentees, and spend it out of the country.

In 1852 the emigration from Ireland amounted to nearly 400,000 persons; in 1853 it was reduced to 176,000, while last year it did not quite reach 65,000. In 1853 two hundred thousand persons left the United Kingdom, last year the number was reduced to 135,000.

SCARLATINA.—During the last few weeks scarlatina has been somewhat prevalent in Ballymacarrett. It is characteristic of the present form of the disease that it settles about the throat, and does not spread as ordinary as a red rash over the system. The deaths are few considering the number attacked, which is chiefly attributable to the skillful mode of treatment adopted. Children seem the principal victims.

A CENTENARIAN.—A short time ago a man named Howard, by trade a carpenter, died in this city at the advanced age of one hundred and eleven years. Up to a few months before his death it was his habit daily to walk out for a measure of stout and whiskey, and was in a very healthy condition. He leaves behind him a host of children, grandchildren, and great grand-children. It is believed he was the oldest man in Ireland.—Limerick Reporter.

MADAME RACHEL has cropped up again. It appears that she obtained large sums of money from an Irish lady, mysteriously spoken of as the relative of an Irish legal luminary in high position. This lady has brought an action against Rachel upon an I.O.U. for £2,000. As that interesting lady is now in Millbank Penitentiary, where she is likely to remain for some years to come, it is difficult to understand the object of bringing a civil action against her, for there can be little hope of recovering the money.

FENIANS in disguise are pretty common just now in Ireland, and a leading part of their mission is to discover what the Orangemen would be likely to do in the event of a fresh rising? We have it on the authority of a Fenian gentleman, who is unmistakably identified with the Orange Institution, that recently two persons dressed in the garb of Catholic priests, obtained an interview with him at his residence, ostensibly for the purpose of soliciting assistance towards a public charity but really as it turned out, to glean some information as to the feeling of the Orangemen towards England.

THE HARVEST.—On hilly and dry ground a considerable quantity of the early sown oats have been cut down during the past and present week, and reaping generally will commence by the 1st of September, so that the harvest will not be so late this season as it was expected to have been some time ago. The crop, as regards both grain and straw, will yield above the average. It is said that the potato crop will not be so abundant as that of last year; however, should the blight not make further progress, a scarcity need not be apprehended.—Derry Journal.

A shoemaker in Cork was given into custody on Saturday evening by a soldier to whom he had made some suggestions alleged to be of a seditious character.

LONDONERRY, Sept. 18.—A riot occurred yesterday between parties on a strike and others who refused to join them; both sides were strengthened by their friends, and the riot threatened to become formidable, when the military arrived, and charging into the crowd of rioters dispersed them. Several persons injured but none killed.

THE REPRESENTATION OF TIPPERARY.—A highly influential meeting was held at Thurles to-day, Thomas O'Meara, Esq. coroner, in the chair, at which a requisition was drawn up and numerously signed calling on N. V. Maher, Esq. Turinella, the long tried trusty, and premier patriot, to convene a county meeting on an early day for the purpose of selecting a proper person for the vacancy in the representation caused by the death of the late much to be regretted member Orlan Moore Esq. The requisition was also to be forwarded to other towns for signatures.

THE POTATO CROP.—Yesterday and to-day I heard very general regrets expressed that the disease is spreading rapidly among the potato crops in the County Londonderry, especially about Coleraine, Garvaghy and Newtownhamnavy. It is thought that the intense heat of the last few days, followed, as it was, by heavy fogs, was the cause of its rapid development. A sudden change took place in the weather yesterday, a brisk breeze and cool atmosphere having succeeded, with singular suddenness, the sultry heat of last week. It is to be hoped that this may check the further progress of the disease in potatoes, which are now selling so cheaply as to indicate great alarm for the safety of the crop.—Northern Whig.

It is curious how much persons of Irish family everywhere distinguish themselves when they wander from home. Amongst the recent nominations to the Legion of Honor by the Emperor, I find the name of the Viscount de Butler, a present French subject. It appears that the family of this nobleman emigrated from Ireland to Saint Domingo in the last century, and subsequently settled in France. Of this name—also of the Irish branch of the Butler family—I know there is a Count of high distinction in Hungary. Sir Bernard Burke, in his singularly interesting work, 'The Vicissitudes of Families,' makes some charming observations on the scattering of the old Irish families. There is scarcely a foreign country in Europe in which some men of Irish extraction are not flourishing. They are the men on whom posts of difficulty and danger are often conferred.—Paris Correspondent of the Irish Times.

UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES.—An incident of an unusual and somewhat startling character occurred last evening (Aug. 31) in the late passenger train marked to arrive here shortly after 8 P.M. In one of the compartments of a second class carriage, which was fully occupied, a man of wild aspect, and in appearance like an American, deliberately opened his travelling-bag and taking out a razor announced that he was about to cut his throat, as he should die when he got to Cork. The other passengers endeavored to reason with him, but the man became more excited, and at length said a professional astrologer [doubtless one of these quacks whose advertisements make so prominent a figure in American newspapers] had foretold that a visit to Cork would be fatal to him and since then he could not resist the impulse to visit it. Here the man removed his pocket-cloth, but one of his fellow-travelers seizing his wrist, the razor was wrenched from his grasp. Ultimately, he became perfectly collected, and before parting at Cork, thanked his fellow-travelers for having prevented him from the commission of an insane act.

THE IRISH LAND QUESTION.—In discussing the Irish land question, there is surely one point which ought to be put forward in the most prominent place, and that is that in which is involved the most striking contrast between the English and Irish modes of dealing with the occupation of land. I refer to the building of the houses of the farmers and cottiers—the placing on the soil the peasant's home. No landlord in England expects his tenants, large or small, to erect their own houses, or, in general, to execute repairs which are indispensable. In Ireland it is still the almost universal practice to allow all these expenses to be borne by the occupiers.

Now, whatever may be the legal view of the matter, it is certain that, so long as the cottier farmer is allowed to raise upon the soil the house in which he is to live, so long will it remain indelibly fixed in his mind, that a sort of equitable partnership in the property has been conceded to him; nor does it require any minute analysis of grounds on which an Irish peasant would build his rude reasonings to compel us to admit that the notion is not altogether an unreasonable one. It is to be feared that, as a rule, the smaller Irish 'squires' and landowners live at a higher rate of expense than would be held justifiable in England; and as they have shown themselves unable to husband their resources so far as to enable them to acquire the means of letting houses and land together, it is not impossible that the State may find it necessary to give the tenant a legal interest in that which he can in part, by virtue of creation, call his own and without which the land itself is, so to speak, valueless.

This question must be kept apart from that of all other 'improvements' of the land, important as they may be.

I write as one connected to a small extent with Irish cottier-ridden property, but as having had considerable experience of the annuities of the smaller kind of occupiers and freeholders in England.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

ROBERT FITZGERALD.

Windslade Rectory, Basingstoke, Sept. 8.

EXTRAORDINARY STORY.—Some two years ago, a man was arrested on a charge of having pushed his wife into the river near the Bridge and drowned her. The husband and wife were seen quarrelling near the Bridge; a woman was heard screaming, there was a splash in the river, and the husband, when arrested, could give no satisfactory account of the woman's disappearance. The river was dragged repeatedly, but the woman's body never was found. After twelve months' detention, the husband was discharged, no sufficient evidence being forthcoming against him; and the story goes that the woman has just returned from America, having been picked out of the river the night of the supposed murder, by sailors belonging to a ship that sailed for America before daybreak next morning, she having undertaken to act as nurse to the captain's children, who were on board.—Warrford Citizen.

The education question keeps pace with the land question in the field of political discussion, and may even outstrip it in reaching a settlement. Mr. Fawcett's motion has brought the contending principles face to face and raised distinctly the issues which are to be determined. Parliament is committed and the Government pledged to decide between them, and the country awaits the decision with no ordinary interest. What, it is asked, is to be the solution of the problem which has so long baffled the ingenuity of the Statesmen?—Times Dublin Cor.

THE HARVEST.—We have seen much of this county and the county Monaghan during the week, which has been a splendid one for sowing the crops. Great progress has been made in Louth in cutting the corn, and the reaping machines have done good service in several districts. Indeed but for their assistance many of the farmers would be placed in difficulties, as there are not hands enough in the county to save the crops, bad laws and bad government having driven them to other nations. In the barony of Farney the corn is all ripe, and the people are doing their utmost to save it, but they proceed very slowly as hands are scarce. The oat crop there is not up to an average, and in some districts not within a third of the produce of last year. Rents should be largely reduced as soon as possible.—Dundalk Democrat.

AGRARIAN JUSTICE.—The Commissioner of the Times remarks with some astonishment that the agrarian code of the last century recognised no distinction between Catholics and Protestants treating all classes of supposed offenders with an equally rigid impartiality, and, he adds with marks of wonder, this wild code 'observed a certain rude standard of right, and administered a kind of perverted justice; it followed, even in the perpetration of crime, a course determined by a strange sort of equity.' The code administered by the societies alluded to was the old Breton Law of Ireland, under which, as we have often said, the people were the real proprietors of the soil, and chieftains only the people's elected rulers, liable to deposition for misconduct, and even to higher penalties in the event of any threatening contumacy, after the sentence of the judges had been pronounced. The 'Special Commissioner,' in his historical researches, has therefore either missed or ignored the one grand fact in Ireland's social economy which forms the key to all its past enigmas, and which opens at once the prime mystery of our existing troubles, and the true secret of their remedial abolition. The English feudal system has, in fact, never taken permanent root in Ireland.—Londonderry Standard.

PARTY FIGHT AT ERMSKILL.—Shortly after the Regatta in this town some Protestants had a dispute with some Catholics who were among the crowd who were witnessing the boat races, when they were attacked by a great number of Catholics, who fell on the Protestants and beat them with sticks, and one young man got a very severe cut on the head; knives were used, and a pistol was produced by one of the Protestant party, but both weapons were taken from them by the Catholic party, who chased some of the Protestants, who made resistance, through the field, and the police could not interfere. However some friends belonging to both parties brought them out of the field when peace was made. Law proceedings I understand, will be taken by both parties for the assaults, as some severe cuts and bruises were made on both parties, some of them being very severely beaten.

The illegal exertions of some of the Antrim landlords during the recent election to coerce their tenants in the exercise of the franchise, seem likely to widen the gulf which separates the Independent Orange Association of Ulster from the old Oligue. At a meeting of the former body, held in Belfast a few evenings since, the following resolutions were passed:—'I. That this association admits the full right of each member to exercise the franchise as his conscience dictates, and regrets that other societies boasting of their regard for civil and religious liberty do not recognise the same right.' 'II. That having experience of the illegitimate manner in which the landlords and their subordinates exercised their power over the tenants of Antrim during the late election, we feel constrained to give our support to any measure brought forward by the legislature in favour of the free and unrestricted right to vote as they think fit, whether secured by the ballot or otherwise.'

'III. That from the course pursued by the Conservative party in both Houses in relation to the question of concurrent endowment, we cannot place any further confidence in them, and repudiate their right to represent the opinions and sentiments of the Protestants and Orangemen of Ulster.' These are now sentiments for Ulster Orangemen to hold.—Belfast Observer.

CORONER'S INQUEST AT BALLYMAY.—An inquest was held in the Court House here, on Saturday, before Hugh Swamy, Esq., and a jury, into the death of William Henderson, from the effects of a severe blow of a stick or some blunt instrument, inflicted upon him on the night of the 14th ult. It appears