

set there with a white face, her hands clasped. He smiled at her; it did not look like the smile of a guilty man.

"You hear?" exclaimed Squire Lester. "I do hear," replied Mr. Lydney. "Can you offer any explanation?"

"I swear it was him," broke forth Tiffle. "If he dares it he will commit perjury. I saw him as plain as I see him now. I didn't know the others, because their faces were disguised in black, but his was not."

"I did enter your house last night, Mr. Lester, but only once," he calmly said. "If a person went out of it, before I came in, as you servant testifies, it was not myself."

"Every soul present appeared struck with consternation at the boldness of the avowal. When the sensation had subsided, Lord Dane inquired haughtily if he could plead anything in justification."

"If you will allow me five minutes' conversation with you in private, Mr. Lester," said Lydney, turning to that gentleman, "I will enter upon my justification. Probably you may deem it a satisfactory one."

Mr. Lester repulsed the request indignantly. He was not accustomed to grant private interviews to midnight burglars. Had Lydney anything to say, he must speak out.

"Then I have no resource but to be silent," observed Mr. Lydney, after a pause of thought. "Nevertheless I am innocent of any offence."

"You have called yourself a gentleman," cynically remarked Lord Dane. And Lydney took a step forward and threw his head back with dignity.

JOHN KEATS. [DIED 1820 AT ROME.] Soft fell the dew on thy early tomb, Oh! in thy musing, and thy doom, Day of thy life was one of gloom. Poor Keats of the early grave.

Greater than might be—great thought art, Poet was the pulsing of thy heart, Proudly it beat, yet sad the part. That Fate had reserved for thee.

Bard of the antique—bard of the old, Grand were thy verse, quaintly bold, Fire in thy breast, the one was cold; Oh, bard of the bitter life!

Then peace, oh, Keats, to thy precious dust! Sleep the sleep of the great and just; Drop'er thy grave a tear we must, When to d of thy early fate.

Friend of the muses still dost thou sing, Year unto year thy verses ring; Weep for thy loss—a noble thing—For none but the noble weep.

Then sleep in thy honored grave and rest; Age after age thy name's blessed; Scarce wert thou seen o'er strongest test, Of thy master powers was made.

Star in the sky of our golden past, Long may thy fame and praises last; Halo bright o'er thy name is cast On the muse's sacred scroll!

Poor Keats of the early grave, we sigh— Fresh in youth thou wert called to die: Keats of the noble heart, good-bye! We'll meet in the land beyond.

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SCOTCH NEWS.

CONTRACTS FOR THE CLYDE.—The Clyde Shipping Company have just accepted the tender of Messrs. William Simons & Co., Renfrew, for a steamer of about 1,000 tons. The new vessel is for the Irish fleet. We are informed that a shipbuilding firm in the east end of Port Glasgow have secured another contract for the construction of a steel screw steamer of about 1,000 tons.

THE LIBERAL CANDIDATE FOR NORTH AYRSHIRE.—Mr. J. B. Balfour, who is to contest North Ayrshire in the Liberal interest at the forthcoming general election, held meetings of his supporters on Tuesday at Kilmarnock, Newmilns and Darvel. The district is one of the chief strongholds of Liberalism in the northern division of the county, and so far Mr. Balfour's candidature has been favorably entertained. At Newmilns the Liberal Committee has for its chairman Mr. Joseph Hood, manufacturer, and its membership is also otherwise influential.

A Workmen's Protestant and Conservative Association has been formed here, and already a considerable number of members have been enrolled. The object of the association is to unite the Protestant and Conservative interests in the district, and to promote the Conservative cause at the forthcoming general election. The first public meeting of the association is to be held here shortly. It is expected that one of the leading gentlemen in the district will take the chair; and several able speakers from a distance are expected to take part in the proceedings.

THE CLYDE SHIPBUILDING TRADE.—A healthy spirit of inquiry continues to prevail in the Clyde shipbuilding trade, and the work on hand is being steadily increased. Specifications are out for several contracts, and some day or two will be known about them in a day or two. Amongst the new vessels that will shortly be ordered is a steel steamer of about 1000 tons for service on the South African coast. The order will, it is anticipated, be secured by a well-known firm in the lower reaches of the river. We understand that Messrs. Blackwood & Gordon, Port-Glasgow, have contracted for a large screw-steamer to be built of steel. The following are her dimensions:—Length, 245 feet; breadth of beam, 32.6; depth of hold, 18 feet; tonnage, 1700 tons. This steamer is intended for the Adriatic trade, and is to be built for the Adria Steamship Company. Her builders will furnish her with powerful compound engines.

FORMATION OF NEW STREETS, &c.—Under the powers granted the Greenock authorities by their Police Bill of 1877, the Streets Committee, under the chairmanship of Bailie Wilson, have been most energetic in laying out new streets and constructing public sewers in the town. In addressing the electors of the Fifth Ward on Monday night Dean of Guild Smith said that during the past year there had been of public sewers constructed about 1 1/2 miles, and of streets opened up and formed about 4 1/2 miles. The amount of money expended in the formation of streets and sewers will have been something like £30,000. Besides this, the Lyle Road has been surveyed and laid out since September, 1878, and will be about 1 1/2 miles in length when finished, about three-fourths of which is completed. When finished it will have cost about £10,000. Of course, this work, as you are aware, was undertaken for the purpose of providing work for the unemployed, and in so far as the reason of its formation has been concerned, it has served a useful and beneficial purpose; and although the present outlay is large, a considerable part of the cost will ultimately be repaid by the tenants who take up the ground. Many of the new streets in the West End have been planted on either side with trees, which give to the district a very attractive appearance. There is but one objection regarding the Lyle Road, that the roadway to be viewed from it is unequalled on the Clyde.

CRISIS LANDLORD AND TENANT CASE.—Roger Mulholland, residing at the lodge or cottage at the entrance to Duchacs, Craigends, Kilmacdoon, recently presented a petition in the Greenock Sheriff Court to prevent William Scott, residing at Craigends, from ejecting him from his house without legal authority, and also to prevent him from disturbing or interfering with the petitioner in the occupancy of said lodge. The case was founded upon a statement alleged to have been made by the defendant, that he would summarily eject Mulholland, Sheriff-Substitute Smith found that the premises had been duly given, and that no warning to quit had been given. The petitioner knew or believed that he could not be put out without formal warning and a legal warrant, and that no threat had been made to do anything illegal. The petition was accordingly refused. The Sheriff-Substitute holding that Mulholland was not justified in asking for an interdict, and that the present litigation was in fact a matter of law, and that he would award upon him by the legal adviser whom he had consulted in Glasgow. This opinion did not prevent Mulholland from appealing to the Sheriff-Principal. On Tuesday an interlocutor was issued by Sheriff Fraser dismissing the appeal, and finding no expenses due to either party from the date of the Sheriff-Substitute's interlocutor. In a note His Lordship says the defender had indicated very clearly his desire to get rid of the pursuer at the May term, but that he threatened to turn him out in a lawless manner was not proved. The pursuer was evidently aware, before this action was raised, of his legal rights in the matter, and that there was no fear of his being ejected, bag and baggage, without any legal warrant. To justify an application for an interdict there had to be very serious and grave apprehension of pending danger, which there had never been in this case.

A certain gentleman having grey hair, but in every other respect unexceptionable, for a long time wooed a fair lady in vain. He knew the cause of her refusal but was unable to remove it until a friend informed him of the existence of Luby's Parisian Hair Renewer. He tried this sovereign remedy, re-sult—magnificent chevelure and a lovely wife. Sold by all chemists.

—James Nash went into his log barn at Richmond, Va., with a lighted candle. He was drunk. A heavy bale of hay, against which he stumbled, fell against the door, and the candle ignited it. The fire spread fast. Nash yelled for help, but his family could not get him out, though they could see him through the wide cracks between the logs. They threw water into the building, but that only retarded the fire slightly. Nash worked desperately in his fiery prison, trying to roll the bale away from the door; and to put out the flames by shovelling corn on them. He was driven into a corner, and there slowly roasted to death.

letter to his son, 1793, "like all legislatures, ought to frame laws to suit the people and the circumstances of the country." This is, then, WHAT ENGLAND OUGHT TO HAVE DONE.

What did she do? Henry II. promised, indeed, that he would extend the benefits of the Magna Charta to Ireland. But the promise, like so many others made by England to Ireland, was made only to be broken. Not only did the Irish not get any benefits from Magna Charta, not only did they not get justice, but for the first 500 years of English rule they did not get law. Sir John Davies, the Attorney-General under James I, will tell us what they got and how they were treated. (Here again the speaker cited his authority.) In 1612

THE BREHON LAW was declared illegal, but in the meantime other laws had been made, and continued to be made, till that infamous code, that would go down to posterity branded as penal, was completed. It took four or five reigns to elaborate this system, Mr. Lecky tells us, a system that was ingeniously contrived to demoralize, degrade and impoverish the people of Ireland. Catholics could not buy land, nor inherit it, nor receive it as a gift from Protestants. If the profits of the land exceeded one-third of the rent, the Protestant could inform on him, and get the whole property. If the Catholic had the audacity to purchase his estate that had been confiscated or stolen, the Protestant could inform and have it. A Catholic landlord was the only one who could not do as he liked with his land. A price was offered to the son to betray his father and deny his faith, and the price was his father's property. All this went on till the last century.

Several authorities were cited, one of whom, Mr. Gladstone, says:—"I sorrowfully admit that neglect, in chargeable upon Parliament, in respect of the question of the Irish Land Tenures. None of us who have sat in Parliament are exempt from this responsibility." (Speech on Irish Bill, 1870). Quoting from Cardinal Manning, he said:—"The Land Question, as we call by a somewhat heartless explanation, means hunger, thirst, nakedness, labor spent in vain, the toil of years, seclusion of parents, children, wives, the despair and wildness which springs up in the heart of the poor when legal force, like a sharp arrow, goes into the most sensitive and vital right of mankind. All this is contained in the Land Question."

3,000 LANDLORDS HOLD THE LANDS OF 5,000,000 and can, when they please, hunt at least half of those millions from their homes. This, he said, should cease and now is the time. All Governments, Whig and Tory, have admitted it for at least the past 30 years. So the present distress in Ireland proves. The Irish people say, etc., the Irish priest and prelates say, the Irish members of Parliament say, etc., etc., the time has come for a just, wise and generous settlement of the land question, and this is our first proposition proved. (Applause.)

Father Ryan continuing, said: I have only considered principles, facts, and undoubted and impartial authorities. I have not argued at all from the effects. I have not asked you to come with me to the ruined cabin by the roadside and look upon the landlord's cruel work, the poor young mother with her infant at her breast dying of cold and hunger in sight of her ruined home, etc., etc.

My second proof is, you remember, "the only settlement that can prove satisfactory, just, wise and generous, is the legal formation of a tenant proprietary."

This I now proceed to prove. 1. This is what the people ask for. 2. This is what the State can and ought to grant. To proceed philosophically we must define terms. What is a tenant? What a proprietor? Here is Lord Dufferin's definition of a tenant:—"A tenant is a person who does not possess land, but who hires the use of it. He embarks his capital in another man's field, much in the same way as a trader embarks his merchandise in another man's ship."

Lord Dufferin's logic is not as good as his rhetoric. His definition of a tenant is essentially wrong. From the false definition he can easily deduce the false conclusion so pleasing to the landlord, namely, tenantry at will, non-payment for improvements, and wholesale eviction for non-payment of rent, even when such non-payment is morally impossible. It is the old fable of the lion painted by the man—the tenant defined by the landlord. The reason of Lord Dufferin's error is that he defines

THE TENANT AS HE IS and takes that for the definition of the tenant as he ought to be. According to him the tenant hires the land as a man hires a ship. This I altogether deny. There is an essential difference in the articles hired with regard both to the person who hires and the person who owns. I admit that a tenant is a person who does not possess land, but who hires the use of another's land. But the land of which he hires the use is necessary for him; he cannot live without it; if he does not get it or if he is deprived of it he must either go to the poor-house, leave his country or lie down by the roadside and die. Not so it is with the ship and the man who hires it. The ship may be useful to him for commercial purposes, but not absolutely necessary for the sustenance of his life. The tenant lives on the land and he must have some land to live on. He lives by the land and he must have some land to live by. Now, every man has a right to labor, and therefore, has a right to the necessary means of living. Every man has a duty to labor, and he is entitled to reap the reward of his labor; he has a natural right to be recompensed for his work. Therefore I say a tenant is one who hires the land of another to live on it, and to

OR NORMAN OR SAXON INVASION.

her population was more numerous and more prosperous than it has ever been since. Edmund Burke says very well that the history of Ireland is told in her ruins. He remembered the first time he visited the beautiful valley of Glendalough and looked upon the few scattered houses and half cultivated farms that now form what is called a country town; he said to himself, surely it was not always so. The poet, Spenser, in his review of Ireland before the Saxon invasion, said: It was a rich and plentiful country, full of corn and cattle, a most prosperous and plentiful country, prosperous, well inhabited, and rich in all the blessings of God, being plentiful in corn, full of cattle, well stored with fish, etc. Before Stafford came the country still owned by the Irish was in a flourishing, wealthy, happy state. Spenser again says, speaking of the 6,000,000 acres of land, that a more beautiful general country was not under heaven, etc. but now it was all destruction and desolation. It was not so

WHEN KINGS HELD THEIR COURT

here, and when the faithful, generous people built these Seven Churches, whose ruins yet remain to tell the story of Glendalough's ancient greatness. But this is only one of the thousand desolate sights that met the eye of the traveller in Ireland. From the summit of those Pillar Towers of Ireland that still wondrously stand and from the ivy-clad turret of the Church now hastening to decay, the traveller may look through the past and catch just a glimpse of the days that are over, or read in the ruins at his feet of the long faded glories they cover. The ancient Irish were an enterprising, industrious, agricultural people. This is evident even from the very name of some of the first settlers, they are called "Firbolgs," which we are told means the man with the leathern aprons. These aprons they used to carry the earth up the mountain that they might sow their grain on the hillside when their fertile farms covered the plain. The Brehon law, whose just and wise provisions made Ireland so prosperous, practically recognized a tenant proprietary. Under the action of this law, even after the English invasion, the Irish people beyond the Pale were prosperous and happy. (Here the speaker read a code of the Brehon Laws and referred to the change in Ireland.) The English obtained power in Ireland. It was not his present purpose to discuss or determine the question as to how they obtained this power. He accepted the fact and philosophized on it. Accepting the fact, he said, when they did get power they were bound to use it according to the immutable laws of right and justice. "The Legislature of Ireland," says E. Burke, in a

may be, from it. The end, say philosophers, specifies the act, and here the end specifies the contract. Now, I say tenantry at will is against the very essence of a just contract between landlord and tenant. Human nature is itself stable and permanent, and the family is the first form of human society; therefore it, too, should have the qualities of stability. Now, if a man is liable to be disturbed any moment, to be driven from his home, and to have no other home to go to, I say such a state of things first tends to barbarism, and, in a country that is civilized and settled, tends to the destruction of society itself. I believe the Irish nation would have been brutalized or