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A GREAT HARDSHIP.

A recent decision of the Chancery Courts has inflicted upon the evicted tenantry a most severe blow, and has given great satisfaction to the rack-renting landlords. When tenants were evicted it has been the custom of the Land League to erect houses for their relief in the neighborhood on sites which were supplied by the other tenantry, and their right to do this was never called into question until recently. Suits were brought in Chancery before the Vice Chancellor and the Master of the Rolls to get them to declare that this action is an act of waste which is injurious to the landlords' interests, and the judges have so decided; and have issued an injunction to prevent the erection of such dwelling houses, and to remove those which have been erected. Thus the evicted tenantry are to be made absolutely homeless, unless legislation can be obtained which will give them relief. This, of course, will not be given by the present Government. The only hope for the evicted tenantry is to have recourse to the law's delay, by appealing their cases, and if the Government be soon defeated redress may be given by a new Ministry, or perhaps by an Irish Parliament in College Green.

THE POLICY OF MURDER.

Dr. Ridley, the physician who attended Tullamore jail while Mr. Mandeville was confined there, committed suicide in order to avoid giving evidence as to cruel treatment inflicted on the prisoner. The powers of darkness seemed to be leagued together for the protection of the Government. Just when Col. Ming-Harman became troublesome on account of the narrow escape of the Government from defeat on the question of paying his salary, he died and delivered them from that trouble, and now Dr. Ridley puts himself out of the way with a similar object in view. It is stated that the papers of deceased contain a confession that the harshness of Mr. Mandeville's treatment was prompted from high quarters, and though the coroner has taken possession of them it is believed that Mr. Balfour will take measures for their suppression. The Dublin Freeman says: "Had Ridley been a worse man he would have faced examination, but not being dead to human feeling he ended his life in a moment of overwhelming shame." However, sometimes even the powers of darkness overreach themselves, and it may so happen on this occasion. Very possibly there will be sufficient evidence to bring the guilt of the murder home to the Government even without Dr. Ridley. Daniel Goulding, a warder of Tullamore, gave evidence at the inquest which has already caused a great sensation. He deposed that on the evening of November 22nd, the governor of the jail said he had received orders to strip Mr. Mandeville; that he (witness) and the other five warders entered the prisoner's cell and found him sleeping soundly; that the chief warder shook the prisoner rudely and aroused him; that Mr. Mandeville related that he was soon stripped naked, and that he cried, "For decency's sake leave my shirt," whereupon the warder gave him his shirt, in which he lay the rest of the night, refusing to put on the prison garb. The witness said he was aware that Mr. Mandeville had been punished for periods never recorded in the warder's book. It may be hoped that Mr. Blunt's evidence will be taken as to Mr. Balfour's murderous intent, and if this be the case the latter may not altogether escape punishment. Mr. O'Brien has stated that Dr. Ridley told him from Dublin Castle next morning demanding a reason for the relaxation.

Amid all this cruelty and oppression the calm determination and forbearance of the Irish is wonderful. At the very moment when these developments are taking place, Mr. Wm. O'Brien, himself a victim of the same heartless tyranny to which Mr. Mandeville succumbed, said in a speech at Edinburgh, "he believed that deep in the heart of the British people is a feeling of sickness and longing for the endless misery and bloodguiltiness in Ireland. The deepest desire of the Irish is to forgive and forget the miserable past, and to enter upon a brighter and better time."

There can be no doubt that the better time is coming, notwithstanding the hardships of the present.

A DESPICABLE ELECTION TRICK.

The conduct of the Government in removing a regiment of soldiers, in which there were 200 voters, from Ayr immediately before the election in that constituency was made the subject of an enquiry in Parliament. The accusation was fully borne out by Mr. Stanhope's reply to Mr. MacNeill. It is known that a large majority of the soldier voters were Liberals, and the Government, undoubtedly, by this means expected to retain their former majority. The fact that this contemptible trick, along with their bringing on the

election during the absence of Mr. Evans, the Liberal candidate, in America, was not able to secure a seat which had been previously theirs by no decisive majority, puts in the strongest light the great change which has come over the electors on the Irish question, which was the issue by excellence which was brought before the voters in this constituency. The following was the conversation which occurred on the subject in the House:

Mr. Stanhope, replying to Mr. MacNeill, said there was no militia corps of Ayrshire Artillery. The Ayrshire Infantry Militia would drill at Ayr next month. Probably it was the regiment of the Argyll and Bute Artillery Militia which had been referred to, which had been selected last December to train this year at Plymouth. The actual orders for the embarkation were issued on the 17th of May (Opposition cheers). No application had been received asking that any change should be made in the arrangement, but if it had been received it would have been impossible to accede to it (hear, hear).

Mr. MacNeill asked whether it was true that in the regiment in question there were 200 voters, and whether it had been stationed at Campbeltown, one of the Ayr burghs? (cheers).

Mr. Stanhope replied that as regarded the number of voters in the regiment he had no information, and he did not intend to ask for it (Ministerial cheers). He believed the regiment had been stationed at Campbeltown, but the military authorities decided in December last that this year it should drill at Plymouth.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor wished to know whether the military authorities had the power of disfranchising a number of soldier voters by removing them—(Opposition cheers)—from the constituency in which they had a vote at a time when an election contest was going on.

AN IGNORANT MAGISTRACY.

The review of Mr. William O'Brien's case before the Exchequer Court has given occasion for a most damaging exposure of the removable magistrates to whom is committed the carrying out of the Coercion Act in Ireland. It will be remembered that Mr. O'Brien was tried for attending an illegal meeting of the National League, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment. The meeting was in reality a public political meeting, and not a meeting of the National League as such. It is true that the people are all members of the League, but this fact could not change the character of the meeting and make it illegal. But the removable magistrates before whom the case was tried were ready to take any course which would be pleasing to Mr. Balfour. In fact they hold office at the will of the Government, and they can be dismissed at any time if they do not prove themselves obedient tools of Mr. Balfour. A large majority of these officials had formerly been policemen, or officers of low grade in the army, and they are totally unfit, by their lack of education, to occupy a judicial position; nevertheless to them has been committed the important task of administering the Coercion Act. Mr. Balfour, however, in a letter dated 18th February, took occasion to speak very highly of the qualifications of these magistrates. He said "the great majority of the resident magistrates now serving in Ireland . . . are doing now, though under circumstances of aggravated difficulty, the same work and in the same spirit of zeal and fidelity as that for which Lord Spencer praised them before he changed his political opinions." However, the judges of the Exchequer Court have given utterance to quite a different estimate of the legal ability of these men. Lord Chief Baron Palls and Baron Dowse spoke of the magistrates who tried Mr. O'Brien in the strongest terms of contempt. They were guilty of asking and following the advice of the prosecuting Crown Attorney as to the preparation of the case of Mr. O'Brien when they sent it to the Court of Exchequer. Baron Dowse declared this to be a most improper proceeding. He added "unless these magistrates are to be made over to themselves and they won't do it because they couldn't if they tried." The Baron further said "if you get one of them that can do it, he ought to be sent to the British Museum."

Lord Chief Baron Palls said: "The Crown ought to be as independent as the prisoner, and the magistrates ought to have as little to say to the Crown in the matter of stating a case as the prisoner's lawyers."

These first principles of judicial independence were most grossly violated by the presiding magistrates at Mr. O'Brien's trial, without the least regard to decency, and, as the two judges of the Exchequer Court declared, the Crown did not even prove the meeting to be an illegal one for which Mr. O'Brien was sentenced.

The magistrates were ordered by the court to commence the trial anew from the beginning. And as Mr. O'Brien had been put to expense to prove that the

lower court had been in the wrong, the Crown was ordered to pay the costs of the suit in the Exchequer Court.

It will be remembered that when the Coercion Act was passed through Parliament, the Government declared that it did not create any new crimes, but that it was intended to give facilities for the punishment of what was already recognized as criminal. This pretence has been finally dispelled by the judgment of the Exchequer Court. Baron Dowse said: "I have been surprised that it should continue to be asserted that this Act created no new offences. Why, this is a new offence." The Chief Baron then said: "I decided in Walsh's case that the Act did create a new offence."

Baron Dowse: "It clearly says that so and so shall be an offence which was not an offence when the Act passed."

The Chief Baron: "I agree that there was no evidence upon the case that the assembly was illegal at common law before the statute, and it is not contended by the Crown."

THE DEBATE ON COERCION.

Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Morley's motion of censure on the Government for its tyrannical administration of the Coercion Act was defeated by a majority of ninety three, the moral victory was decidedly with the minority. It could not be expected, and it was not expected, that the motion would pass, but an opportunity was given to call the attention of the English public to the cruelties enacted in Ireland under the pretence of preserving law and order, and besides the Liberal-Unionists, by their votes, belied the empty professions which they had so profusely made at the elections that they are really opposed to the cruelty of coercion, and are anxious to do justice to Ireland if they can only do so without endangering the Union. By their votes on this occasion they have sanctioned the attacks made by Government on the liberty of the press, and of political discussion, and have put themselves in their true light as Tories of the deepest dye and enemies of true Liberalism. The result must be their utter annihilation as a party at next election, if not sooner. Another good result of the discussion was the opportunity given to Mr. William O'Brien to make one of his most brilliant speeches, in which he exposed the tyranny of the oppressors of his country in his most powerful style. He literally demolished Colonel Sanderson and Mr. T. W. Russell. Referring to the use made by Mr. Russell of the boycotting of Norah Fitzgerald, and the mock sympathy which was expressed for her, he said that thousands of Norah Fitzgeralds had been flung out to die in the gutter, or to meet a worse fate on the streets of New York and other American cities, the victims of Irish landlordism, and for them there was no sympathy. He then described Lord Massarene in a torrent of invective, quoting Sir Redvers Buller, who had described him as a profligate and a drunkard, whose tyranny was upheld by the whole power of the Government. Here he added:

"These be your gods O Israel; these are the men you delight to honor, while you clothe John Dillon in a felon's garb."

He then described the Plan of Campaign, which he said had achieved many victories for the tenants who could not gain relief in any other way. Out of more than 60,000 tenants who had fought their battle by means of the Plan, there were only 280 evicted, and every one of these had been restored to his homestead.

Mr. Chaplin followed Mr. O'Brien, and defended the course of the Government, but his speech was exceedingly weak and rapid. He said if there is any one man in England who is responsible for the atrocities of the National League it is the leader of the Opposition. He was here interrupted with cries of "shame" and "withdraw." Instead of withdrawing this insult to Mr. Gladstone, he continued:

"Mr. Gladstone might have forgotten what he had formerly said of the Parnell chiefs, but that would not be attributed to loss of memory through the infirmities of age."

Mr. Gladstone was the next speaker. Referring to Mr. Chaplin he disposed of him in a few words. He said: "However much I may be afflicted with loss of memory through the infirmities of age, I hope, for some time, at all events, to be able to cope with antagonists of Mr. Chaplin's calibre." He then pointed to the fact, which of itself is sufficient to show the barbarity with which Ireland is treated, that out of eighty-six Irish Nationalist members who have seats in that house, nineteen have been sentenced to prison, and if those nineteen went back to their constituents, every man would be returned again to Parliament with a larger majority than before, as a mark of the detestation with which the Government is regarded by the people of Ireland.

As to the Plan of Campaign, Mr. Gladstone said that it was adopted as a last resource by the tenantry, only when the Government refused to redress the grievances under which they were suffering; and the demands of the tenantry who made use of the Plan were in no case excessive, but always moderate. The Grand Old Man continued: "It was a strange irony of fate that Mr. Dillon should be lectured on lawfulness by Colonel Sanderson, who had threatened that in case Parliament would pass a certain law, he would advise violent resistance to it. Mr. Dillon had used his influence at Mitchells-town to prevent the shedding of blood, and this should have made the judge lenient towards him, instead of inflicting on him the maxims penalty."

In spite of the large majority by which the Government was sustained, the Ayr election proves that they are tottering to their downfall, yet the Ayr election is but one of a long series which points to the same moral. One thing is sure, the more prominently the case of Ireland is brought to the attention of the English people the more surely will their triumph be attained. This was ably pointed out by Mr. Gladstone, who toward the conclusion of his able effort said:

"The curse of Cromwell lives in Ireland from generation to generation. Can it be supposed that the people who were aware that incredible atrocities have been committed in the name of the law, could regard the law in the same light as the judge?"

The motion was supported by 273 voters; 396 voted for the Government and against the motion.

PRAYER AND DRUGHT.

The Toronto Mail of the 18th inst. has an article under the title "The Clergy and the Drought," which takes boldly the extreme infidel position that prayers for rain, or for any other "interruption of God's natural order," are a folly, and it moreover asserts that the Churches of Christendom are fast coming to acknowledge this. It says, among other things: "Every creed in Christendom is being purged of the notion of what a modern writer calls a partial and pliable God, receiving in its stead the juster conception of a Being too wise to be taught by us, and too good to dispense curses and blessings in a spirit of revenge or favoritism."

The inference from all this is plain. According to this view, which is really the view of the old Epicureans, God does not concern Himself with the affairs of men, or at least He does not do so to the extent of special providences. All this precludes God from working miracles, and of course that journal must have its usual fling at the habitants of Quebec, who still place some confidence in the efficacy of prayer, who ask St. Anne to intercede for rain, who invoke St. Roch as a special protector against small pox, St. Barbara against lightning and so forth.

But not only is God's power of working miracles denied, but even He is excluded from any special power of favoring His own great work of creation. He cannot so arrange secondary causes as to produce rain in answer to the earnest supplications of His creatures.

This doctrine is Ingersollism, pure and simple. Col. Ingersoll says: "All worship is based upon the