# THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE. DEC. 17, 1869.

# earth, so that the eye could not detect its existence.

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When a new victim was designated, this slab was dug up ; the executioner descended into the pit, cleaned the vault of the ghastly relics of the last sufferer, and made it ready to receive another inmate. A small bed was erected in an angle of the vault; near it were placed a lighted lamp, and small quantities of bread, water and milk-provisions for one day, which a derisive pity granted to the wretch about to desceid alive in the tomb.

It is true, that the instances of this fearful punishment were rare; but what young girl would select a life whose joys might end in so terrible a death? The virgins of the Atrium Regium had good cause to tremble when the vaguest facts, the least founded suspicions often sufficed to determine the inflexible severity of the pontiffs whose office it was to punish this crime? The depunciations of a slave or the confession obtained by torture were a sufficient basis for accusations that might lead a Vestal to ceath, unless heaven interposed in her favor, by some miracle. The ancient authors relate several metances of this beavenly intervention. The Vestal Æmilia, who had permitted the fire confided to her care to burn out, and was suspected of a greater crime, tore her linen stole and threw the light fabric on the altar calling upon Vesta, whom she had served during thirty years, to manifest her innocence. A light flame suddenly consumed the fragment of cloth and ascended to heaven. [Denys of Hal. II., 68: Val. Max., 1, 7.

Tuccia demonstrated her innocence by carrying water in a sieve, from the river to the Forum. when entertained by a priestess of Vesta. [Denys of Hal. ibid 69; Val. Max. VIII .. 1 5; Pliny, Nat. Hist., XXVIII. 2] In times still more remote, Claudia tied her belt to the prow of a ship bearing the statue of the Mother of the gods which had made vain attempts to cross the bar of the Tiber, and pulled the vessel safely into port. [Titus Livus; Ovid, Fast. Lib. IV., v. 319 to 326, and 343 to 344 ; Pliny, Nat. His. VII., 35 Suet. in Tiberio, cap. 2; Valer. Max. VIII., 4.]

Paintings representing these miraculous events were placed in Vesta's temple, and the people believed that the goddess would not fail to show her power again to mave a talkely accused virgin; but the young Vestals were not so confiding, and the thought of the fearful vault was enough to poison their joys.

At the time we write of, the virgins who inhabited the Atrium Regium were in prey to the gloomiest forebodings. During the reigns of Vespasian and Titus, they had enjoyed much liberty, and might have believed themselves freed from their terrible obligations. But Domitian bad soon taught them that the yoke of the ancient religion still bore upon them: and the who had recently been compelled to stab themselves, had filled their souls with terror.

They understood, moreover, that the implacable severity of the pontifis threatened them anew, and the suspicious raised against the Grand Vestal led them to think, involuntarily, of the dreadful and solemn explation of the Campus Sceleratus.

Then, can any condition of life be happy, which has not been freely chosen? To appreciate the sorrow which inevitably seized the we must study its action on one who had long The local traditions about this deed of blood are still suffered its papgs. We shall therefore seek the numerous and significant; and as those relating to

bands of the Christian pontifi.

We must explain here how Cecilia had become the means of communication between the two lovers. During her stay in Aurelia's house, at the rate of 18 per cent., that of Wexford diminished the Grand Vestal had conceived for the young at the rate of 3 per cent. only It deserves peculiar Christian's courage an admiration which soon changed into a sincere affection; and when she returned to the Atrium Regium, she insisted upon Cecilia's visiting her often. The latter consented willingly, but waited until her marriage with Olinthus should be celebrated before calling lings. on the priestess of Vesta. When she entered the Atrium Regium for the first time she brought with her a great joy.

The day before a messenger had brought her a letter from Metellus Celer for Cornelia. The latter bad not beard from the young man since his departure from Rome; she did not even know where he was concealed. His letter contained all these details, so full of interest for the Grand Vestal, and announced that he would write frequently to charm the cares of his solitary life.

Cecilia saw in this correspondence nothing more than the language of a grateful heart. Had she thought otherwise, she would have, doubtless, refused to take charge of letters which awakened hopes condemned by the pious austerity of Christian morals, and which were fraught with danger

(To be Continued.)

## THE LAND QUESTION OF IRELAND. (FROM TIMES SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.)

#### No. 15. WEIFORD, Sept. 25.

The road from Enniscorthy to Wexford rises from the fertile valley of the Slaney over a succession of dry and thin uplands, whence descending, it crosses the river and reaches this ancient and historic town. Wexford, lying on the estuary of the Slaney, here spread out in a vast sheet of sea, was once a place of very great importance. It was one of the first harbours occupied by the Anglo-Norman conquerors of Ireland ; during several conturies colonists from Esgland made it a favourite point for debarcation ; and it is associated sadly with the invasion of Oromwell, and with the rebellion of 1793. The town seems at a very early period to have reached nearly its existing limits; its trade is said to have been con siderable as long ago as the 16th century; and several quaint old dwellings attest the prosperity of a past generation of burghers. The gradual closing up, however, of the entrance to the port by a dan gerous bar, which prohibits the approach of large vessels, and the change in the centres of English commerce which has occurred since the days of the Tudors, have reduced Wex'ord from its former state, death of the two sisters Ocellatus and Varonilla, and it is now apparently a stationary town of narrow streets and square-slated bonses, without many evidences of wealth or industry. I believe, however, that the merchants of Wexford are thriving and opulent as a class; the shadows of past greatness hang over the place; and, to compare small things with great, it reminded me of Bristol, though you miss the crescents and villas of Olifton I was struck by the almost complete absence of Celtic names or the front of the shops; those most frequently seen belong to the old Norman families settled here by Strongbow; and the men of Wexford boast to this day of being an Anglo Norman colony. The most remarkable event in the annals of the town is the massacre, certainly of an atrocious character, said to Vestais after a few years passed in the temple, have been perpetrated by the orders of Oromwell

written by Metellus in the dangerous letter in- often admirably appointed farmsteads; and though tercepted by Marcus Regulus, and by him banded rows of mul cabins are sometimes seen, the houses to the Emperor; but the Grand-Vestal knew and dwellings of the poorer classes are not seldom to the Emperor; but the Grand-Vestal knew singularly near and trim. Compared to Meath, nothing of the existence of this letter which, as which in many respects forms a very remarkable we have seen has singularly found its way to the standard of comparison, Wexford is a decidedly progressive county. The live stock of Wexford, like that of Meath, increased at the rate of about 50 per cent. between 1841 and 1861 ; but, while the agricultural area of Meath, from 1855 to 1868, diminiabed notice that this striking difference coincides with two different types of busbandry. On the area of 576,000 ecres, Meath has 2,443 farms raied at the value of 50%, and upwards; whereas, on the area of 571,000 acres, Wexford has only 1,296 farms of this size and is generally a county of rather small hold-

The condition of society in Wexford may be pronounced to be on the whole, prosperous, +xceedingly, so if we contrast it with the condition of some other parts of Ireland. Not, of course, that there is not much poverty-it is. unfortunately, a truth too confirmed by experience that the poor must be always in the land-but that in the order and relations of life you do not often meet with those steep differences of comfort, character, and even tone of thought which in many places are so marked and grievous The wages of the agricultural labourer vary from 63. to los. a week; they are tolerably constant through the year, and, as he enjoys considerable privileges of lodging and firing on some cetates, he is usually in a reasonably good position The rent of land is exceedingly variable, on account of the varied nature of the soil ; and it is noticeable that it has advanced comparatively little during the long lapse of nearly a century. In the days of Arthur Young it had reached 35s. an Irish acre for the best soils, about 53. or 63 being paid for the worst; at the time of the Devon Commission it stood at about 5s. and 10s. ; and, with the exception of a few favoured spots, it bas not risen much since 1844. The cause of this relatively slow advance is, probably, that three generations ago Wexford was in a much more settled siste than most of the other counties of Ireland which bave since grown move rapidly in wealth, and that it bad then a command of good markets almost closed to the interior of the country. Taken altogether, and having regard to the quality of the land, I think that the rate of rent in Werford is on a high average; but though ( heard some complaints of rack rents, this was not anywhere a general grievance. The linded system of this county, although resembling in some respec's that of other counties visited by me, has, nevertheless, what is good so prominent, and what is bad so little in sight, that it may be said to work tolerably well though theoretically far from perfect. The line between the owner and occupier of the soil is nearly that between Protestant and Catholic, but resident landlords are very numerous; they are, speaking generally. fair in their deallogs, and the relations between them and their tenants are, for the most part, of a kindly character. On many estates gracious customs exist, almost unknown in other counties, that knit together the frame of society more thoroughly than mere legislation can what is a ligature compared to a muncle ?---and the intercourse of superior and dependent is often liberal, equitable, and honourable. As the natural result of this state of things, there is practically less insecurity of tenure in this county than in many others. Lesseholds are still comparatively frequent; and I met numerous instances of what at one time, was a tenure very common in Ireland - leases for three lives or 31 years. On the whole, the elements of society in Wexford are more happily blended than I found them to be in any district I have yet seen. The relative position of landlord and tenant is largely adorned by mutual good will, and the results are visible in general progress, in signs of content that cannot be mistak n in a remarkable lock of independence and self reliance among the humbler classes.

The causes of this comparative felicity I cannot doubt are that society in Wexford is founded upon a colony which took root in the land at a very romote period, and, safe from war and discords of race grew up naturally, and formed itself gradually into a well compacted and setiled community. This is the disinclive difference between this county and other Anglicized portions of Ireland; here order had an opportunity of development; in these the fair chavce was never found ; and, though Oromwell conficated a part of Wexford, his settlement did not greatly disturb a condition of things that had become estabished. At all times landlords and tenants in Wexford have, comparatively speaking, " pulled well together," of course putting exceptions saide; and it deserves notice that not a few gentlemen of large estate and ancient descent threw in their lot with that of their dependents in the unhappy rebellion of 1798. Yet it must not be supposed that everything in Wexford is to be painted in a roseate bue, and that there is no land quastion even in this county. I have heard of some painful cases of evic inns, and have read lamentable descriptions of them; but as I have not got to the bottom of facts, distorted evidently by passionate statements, I shall make no further allusions to them. In this county, with many exceptions all that has been done to improve the soiland what has been done is very praisewer hy-has been the work of the occupying tenantry; and thu? an immense mass of rights of property, in the most strict and legitimate sense, is protected merely by local usage, very strong indeed, but without legal Though leaseholds, too, are not uncomsanction. mon in Wexford, and tenures are really tolerably secure, the number of tenancies at will is too great and, I am sorry to say, is on the increase. My in formation, and I have collected it from numerous sources, not without care, does not bear out Lord Courtown's assertion, that no Wexford landlord has withheld leases from his tenantry for the sake of pol itical influence. A gentleman with peculiar local experience has told me that, though such instances are rare, some Wexford landlords who take an active part in elections at least do not give leases ; and, as might have been expected, Conservative landlords are more conspicuous in this tendency than those of Liberal and popular principles. Lord Courtown, having publicly directed attention to his mode of managing his estates, I have paid particular atten tion to the subject, and I am happy to report that by reputation he is an honourable and kind-hearted man, and that his property has a prosperous appearance. Nevertheless, he but "seldom" grants leases; and though he believes, of course, that his " political influence" has nothing to do with this insecurity of tenure. I have been led to an opposite conclusion. Lord Courtowr, moreover, it would appear, adopts means for assuring sympathy in religion between his tenants and himself which a degenerate age will hard ly applaud. I write with an advertisement before me, in which Lord Courtown's recognized agent announces that a farm near Gorey will be let, "on which a dwelling-boase and offices will be erected for a solvent Protestant tenant;" and I am informed that the offer of a Oatbolic candidate of an unexcentionable kind was politely rejected. All this I dare say can be satisfactorily explained ; but this mode of assuring "one law and one faith" on an estate in a very Ostholic county is too heroic for these evil days. I have no doubt it would delight the shade of Lord Courtown's Cromwellian ancestor, who lighted upon a rich forfeiture in the times when transplanting Papiets to Connaught, to clear the heritage of the elect," was the fashion ; but it seems rather absolute to a generation which, I trust, looks beyond the strife of oreeds to a precept simple, grand and divine-" This commandment I leave you, to love one another."

visible marks of affection, and never betrayed, by a single word, the secret of his heart. This word, so abxiously expected, had been This word, so abxiously expected, had been composed of Anglo-Normans and Fiemings, the aboriginal race baving been extruded. The colonists planted themselves in the land, and fenced by the sea and a range of bills, became a separate and peculiar people that has never lost its distinctive charactor. They flourished under their feudal lords, and, united to them by that strong tie which binds all fellow-colonists together, they formed a sturdy and prosperous community, moulded on a fortunate type of society. Uromwellian settlers entered on part of their lands; but the conquerors were not able to change the fixed usages of the little common wealth and in a short time they conformed to them. So the 17th century passed away, and Arthur Young, when he saw them in the 18:h, dwel: with enthu-siasm on their "superior industry " on their " better living" and "habitations," on their "Saron hasguage," on their "quiet" and happiness. I travelled brough the baronies for miles, and was really de ighted with what I saw. This community, after the apse of centuries, retains clearly its individual mark it is a colony on the verge of the land of a nation. The race has regularly intermarried within itself: Anglo Norman and Flomish names abound ; the man and women have no Celtic features; their dialect I should call an English patois. But what is most remarkable in this interesting district is the character of its busb ndry and social life. The land is generally rather thin and cold, though there is abundance of sea-weed for manure ; but the agriculture is with rate exceptions admirable, and it has a look of neatnees and care that I have not met in other parts of Ireland The farms are for the most part small, from 40 or 50 to 10 scres; but, as a class the bolders are exceedingly prosperous, and many of them have considers ble sums of money. The appearance of the dwellings is very striking; here and there you see excellent slated houses, but the most common h + bitations are ancient homesteads, thatched with equisitey finished roofs of straw, and brilliant with repeated

ayers of whitewash I en ered many of these pleasant homes, and was charmed with the degrees of comfort evident, with the old clocks, the tidy furniture, the quantities of liner, the prevailing cleanliness. I never saw anything like the whole district. I imagine it may have had its counterpart in some counties in England in the last century, before the growth of capital and manufactures broke up the system of small farms.

What are the causes of this prosperity, of this fragment of a happy form of life, let into the unlovely frame of society in Ireland? These people are, with hardly an exception, Catholics; so the fensive theory is at fault that resolves all the ills of Ireland into "Popery " I do not undervaine the influence of race ; yet parts of Meath, where, as a rule, the peasantry are miserably poor, may not be less Anglicized that there baronies The farmers in Bargy and Forth enjuy security of tenure to a great extent, and have in numerous instances leases; yet I am not I hore, so shallow as to think that this circumstance fully solves the problem. The paramount cause, I cannot doubt, is that, in this instance, as so seldom has been the case in other parts of this country, the natural progress of the community has never been rudely checked or thrown back by ages of ends and wild acord. In this instance, as has been beautifally written, "Society which springs from the soil, and forms itself by the tillage of land, training its people to thrift and industry, ripening by centuries of time, and binding all orders and inequalities of rich and poor, master and servant, together in mu tual dependence, mutual justice, and mutual charity, making even the idle to be thrifty and the powerful to be compassionate-this growth of human happiness and order has become symmetrical and mature" by a series of accidents in the district. Long may the little commonwealth flourish, long may it be before the hand of time brings change on these peace ful and happy homes, and when it does may it gradually evolve some higher and better form of existence | Unhappily this fair development of humanity is too rarely to be found in Ireland, and this leads me to make a single remark with reference to the Irish Land Question that no doubt has occurred to a thoughtfal reader. I am one of those who are convinced that, without any organic change, without any shock to the rights of property, nay, by an en-larged appreciation of them, it is possible to amend the landed system of freland so as to bring it in har mony with fact and tight, and to inaugurate for it a better future. But let us not imagine that human egislation can accomplish results beyond its power, can suddenly transform the country into a region that wears the look of industry and wealth conspicuous in this most interesting district. Society in Ireland has not had the chance of expanding into these fair proportions; its natural growth has seen violently disturbed; and you might as well expect by an Act of Parliament to cure rapidly the varied mischiefs that flow unhappily from this state of things as to restore by the spell of a quack medicine a diseased oripple to the full strength of manhood. Let us do what we can, and not hope for wonders. Agrarianism has long been unknown in this county, and Fenianism took no root in it. There is, however, some agitation for "fixity of tenure" and a State-settled cent; and "tenant-right" is demanded by a certain number of persons, some of eminent position and rank The feeling, neverthe less, for change is as nothing compared to what it is in less peaceful and well-ordered districts; there is no general actipathy to the law, no sense of pervading discontent, the more dangerous because vague; no complaints of widespread wrong and oppression. I conversed with farmers of all grades, and many of them declared themselves well satisfied with the existing order of things around them, or sail that ' fair leases were all that was wanted." The fact is that 12 this county the landed classes as a general rule are united by the sense of mutual esteem; the landlords respect the rights of the tenants, and the tenants respect the rights of the landlords, with few exceptions on either side; the usiges of the country are very seldom violated ; and the tenantry, conscious of comparative security in the majority of instances, do not yield to extravagant or revolutionary ideas. Yet this county, now so contented and tranquil. was the scene of some of the worst accocities in 1798 and the question occurs to a thought fill mind, what has been the cause of this moral transformation in the brief space of two generations ? Strange as it may seem, I believe that phenomena, apparently of the most different kind, may be traced ultimately to the same circumstances the pecaliar character of the people of Wexford, and the tendencies gradually formed among them. A race, made of rather stern stuff, proud, independent. and intersely Catholic, would naturally resent the insults offered to its faith in the times of the Penri Oode, and would not submit tamely to the excesses of licence, of outrage, and of abuse of authority in-dulged in by the "loyalist" faction of Wexford in 1798. The same race, in a happie: age, and under a better condition of things, would instinatively follow the habits of industry, of self reliance, and of self-respect which have been its fortunate heritage from the past ; would viadicate for itself, by praceful means, its natural rights in the relations of property, would by its own firmness place society on a comparatively just and sound basis.

ticles which propose to teach them how to settle the difficulties of liteland, the crowd of remedies proposed dimension of the set of the second of the second proposed to their notice must often spear to bear a greater affinity to the dark politing of some pitiless storm afficity to the cash peting of some pittless storm than to any clear, aid for their mental vision. It will, therefore, be far from an uncalled for enterprize, if we endeavor in our humble way to introduce some semblande of solentific arrangement into this question, which divides itself so naturally into two great branches- the land of Ireland and its owners.

In the first place, then, the land itself is divided into twe:classes-land under cultivation, and waite land. Beginning with the latter, as not only the simplest in its conditions but also as bitherto the least noticed by general writers, we find varions opinions as to its extent and its capabilities. After a careful inspection of 'some of the richest districts of the north, the midland, and the south eastern portions of the island, together with some of the wildest regions of the south-west,' an intelligent Scotubman, William McCombie of Aberdeen, states that, 'as respects improvable waste land, and pasture lands rendered (through drainsge) suitable for tillage, these might, to some extent, supply outlets for the surplus agricultural population ' But Mr. Fitzgibbon, an Irish land owner and a master in Chancery who has control over some four hundred estates comprising about 20,000 tenants, and whose erperience must be incomparably greater than that of any touris', forms a much larger estimate :- 'How many millions, says this author, 'of industrious people the waste lands of Ireland might be made to support in comfort and plenty, has never bein computed; but nothing is more certain than that where bundreds now starve in querulous slotb and tatlered rage, thousands might live in contented barpinets by rural and congenial industry, in cheerful day and open fields made fruitful by wholesome labor, in the mildest climate upon earth.' Other authorities state - as a molerate though of course only approximate estimate that the waste lands of Ireland would suffice, if reclaimed and cultivated, to support in comfort and plenty more than twice the present po. pulation of the whole island.

At this point a sanguine reader may be disposed to exclaim that the question is at once solved; on the one side he sees a multitude ready to labor for food and shelter, on the other a supply of land ready to supply even more than they desire, and the whole under a Government able and most willing to afford all necessary aid; he will argue that all these waste tracts of country have from time immemorial yielded no revenue whatever to the landlords, and that nothing can therefore be easier or more simple than to arrange a compensation in each case for such prcfitless ownership, and to place the land which has no cultivators at the disposal of the men whose only misery is want of land. Unfortunately the affair is much more complicated than our sanguine reader imagines; first of all, there is the old tyrant, custom -the power which so often renders even good laws of no effect, and which, in the case before us leads a landlord to expect that some day or other families will settle upon his waste land and make it fruitful and, in time to come, will pay him rent; next and, perhaps, of more serious importance is the state of bondige in which landlords generally are tied down by trust-deeds and settlements. This last-named point is often put forward as the one great fons malorum, and it certainly requires more attentive consideration and more effectual remedies than it has bitherto obtained from the Legislature. When the owner of an estate is himself only a tenant for life, he cannot [without some special Act of Parliament] bind his successor to maintain the conditions on which he has granted to tenants the use of portions of his lacd ; hence, if he has led settlers to clear uncultivated ground and to raise dwellings thereon, and to turn the wilderness into a fruitful field upon the strength of a promise that they shall pay a merely nominal ren', his death will set his heir [or his heir's creditors] at liberty to disregard that promise, and to exact the uttermost value of the improved land; or, worse still, to confiscate the newly-created property by an eviction. The Act of 1860 was intended to remove this abomiaable evil. The prin-ciple of that Act was perfect, but its details stultified its principle ;- in theory it established the grand rule that no settlement or trust shall be allowed to stand in the way of the proper leasing of landed property; in detail it provided that in the case of improvement leases-the only case which oan apply to reclaiming waste land-no such lease shall be granted for a longer term than forty-one years, or without the sanction of the Irish County Court Judge. Thus, in the way of practical noble basis of this Act is reduced to a provision that, if the life landlord will swallow the bitter humilistion of applying to the County Court for permission to grant a tew acres of bog, and if the tenant is ablo and willing to pay considerable legal expenses, a valid lease may be obtained-in spite of all previous settlements and trusts - for a term of years which will be insufficient to repay the tenant for his outlay. We were therefore quite prep.red for the results given, in Dr Neilson Hancock's invaluable Reports, as the working of this same Actof 1860. The County Court provision brought these transactions within the sphere of judicial statistics, and by these documents it is shown that, in twentyfour counties in Ireland from which complete returns were received, there was only one improvement lesse sanctioned in the year 1863, and only one again in the year 1864. The same Act limited the duration of agricultural leases, under similar circumstances of limited ownerabip, to twenty-one years; but the examination of these leases and their results does not fall within this first section of our attempted classification of the subject. The new Chapter which is added to the second edition of 'Ireland in 1868' has for its beading the aphorism that property has its duties as well as its rights; and the learned anthor refers to this elementary principle as having been a startling novely, when proclaimed by the late Mr. Drummond in 1838. Long years before 1838 a French writer had ventured upon the still stronger assertion - qu'il n'y a point de droits sans devoirs - that no rights exist without co-relative duties. What obligations are incumbent on the man who porsesses a definite or indefinite number of Bank of England notes, is a question rather for the theologian than for the politician; the fortunate possesser may, as the law teaches ns, either burn his notes and so enrich the Bank of England, or convert them into gold and fling his gold into the sea, so as to earich no one; but if, instead of thou sands of personal securities, he possess thousands of acres of land, he clearly owes a duty to the state which protects him in that ownership. Many writers urge that this duty necessarily implies the cultivation of the soil and that, in cases where lands have been allowed needlessly to lie waste for long periods, the State is as much bound to interfere in order to provide for their being reclaimed as it is bound to enforce a provision of necessary roads. However this may be, we crave permission to hold that a step is made in the right direction by setting spart waste lands and their owners as a distinct section, requiring distinct and special treatment, in the discussion of the Irish Land Question ..

Grand-Vestal whom we find conversing with a young woman to whom she is making the picture of her desolate life, and in whose affection and sympathy she seeks comfort.

This young woman, the reader has already surmised, was Cecilia ; she was ever to be found associating herself to the sufferings of those from whom she received help; she bastened wherever there were tears to dry and sorrows to alleviate.

#### CHAPTER XIII. - CORNELIA'S ANXIETIES.

Cornelia, at thirty five years of age, was still remarkable for her imposing beauty. The secret anguish that embittered her life had not altered the original splendor of her features or the graceful distinction of her figure. The only mark left by time or suffering was a pallor of complexion which detracted nothing from her beauty Her large eyes, in which shone ber patrician pride, assumed at times a gentle expression which contrasted strangely with her austere physiognomy.

Ordinarily reserved, cold and sad, she could become cheerful and sympathetic when a word or a deed awakened the gentle and charming virtues which slumbered in her soul.

The Grand-Vestal belonged to the greatest family of republican or imperial Rome; to the Cornelius family, whose numerous branches had been illustrated, at all periods, by the highest dignities and most celebrated names of Roman history. The splendor of this race threw in the shade the recent greatness of the imperial house the inroads of the aboriginal race during the whole founded by Vespasian and Titus. Cornelia's father was Cossus Cornelius Lentullus, who was Nero's colleague in the latter's fourth consulate, [A. D. 60 ;] Cornelius Cossus, who was consul with Asinius Agrippa in A. D. 25, was her uncle.

These details will not be unnecessary to explain the Grand-Vestal's position towards Mefellus Celer, and their tender and mutual attach. ment. Gratitude for a great service rendered had established between them a friendly intercourse from which had gradually grown a more passionate sentiment. The Grand-Vestal had been led to love with all the warmth of a virgin beart, the man she had saved from death, and whose gratitude expressed itself with glowing eloquence. She was sustained by a secret hone: the time was approaching when, relieved of her vows, she might think of a marriage which would secure her bappiness,

But, had she inspired Metellus with the same tender passion ? would his devotion overcome the religious prejudices which looked upon the streams breaths of meadow land and pasture are vestals as preserving their sacred character even found of great if not extraordinary, fettility. If after they had been legally relieved of all their pature, bowever, has been less bountiful in this than after they had been legally relieved of all their in other divisions of Ireland, the influence of man . obligations? Such was the mystery which has been more felicitous. Taken altogether, the Cornelia had not yet been able to penetrate, for agriculture of Wexford is of a good kird; the lock Metellus Celer, while he currounded her with of the country is generally prosperous; and I have

"siege in 1798" are comparatively recent, we may infer that the first scene of violence was a peculiarly fearful kind. I conversed with a gentleman who well remembers an aged priest who in early childhood heard tales of the massacre from old inbabitants who had received them from eye-witnesses - so few, after all, may be the links that connect the present with that memor able period of subjugation and sattlement in Ireland. One phrase of the Protector has been handed down as being, in a special manner, horrible ; he is said to have commanded that even the children of the Ca tholics of Wexford should not be spared, " lest those eggs might grow into lice." This does not accord with the character of Gromwell, a great soldier and ruler, though a fanatic; but he certainly, on almost the same occasion, avowed a policy of similar import, and which has equally proved fruitless. He wrote in a letter still extant, to the commandant of a fort not far from Wexford, that where the "power of the Parliament could be felt there should not be either mass or Popery" At this moment two Catholic charches of exquisite beauty overlook the haven filled two centuries ego by the Poritan fleet-an eloquent memento of the unwisdom of forcing upon a reluctant people institutions and usages unfitted to bem.

Having travelled over a great part of Wexford, I can give a general description of the county This south-eastern fragment of Ireland is marked off clearly by natural boundaries, which in ancient times were likely to stamp it with a distinctive and individual character. To the north and west it is fenced strongly by ranges of mountains and the line of the Barrow; to the south and east it is open to the sea, and its proximity to Wales and the south of Rogland brought it singularly under English influences in the early age of settlement and conquest This region was probably thoroughly Anglicized and freed from of the feudal period of Ireland ; it was comparatively at peace in the days of the Tadors; and though it was swept by the Oromwellian tempest, its social organization and structure were not broken up by that wast revolution The result has been not only that Wexford is more penetrated, perhaps, by English elements than any other district in Ireland, but that, not as in the case of the old Pa'e generally, these have had scope for natural development, and to affect powerfully during many generations the mould and general form of society. It is impossible not to see from the look of the paople that this is not the land of the Celt. One part of the county is occupied by a colony to this day composed almost wholly of a different race; and the comparative order that has prevailed here during many ages has had the effect of making the relations of life more kindly than usually is the case in Ireland, and of diffusing a spirit of in dependence and content. As regards the external features of Wexford, it is a tract broken by lofty bills, and often rising into spaces of uplands, swelling here and there into irregular eminences, with valleys be tween, enriched and watered by fine rivers and their numerous affluents. The soil of the hill country is generally light and thin, and so is that of most of the lowisads; but along the lines of some of the

## IRISH LAND AND ITS OWNERS. (From the Tablet.)

As a bushel of wheat in a king's eye, so is a mu'titude of nounsellors when the city is troubled ;such at least was the opinion of the learned scribe is rather premature to form an opinion as to who who attempted to supplement the wise man's pro-werbe. And, in good truth, if politicians feel it In the meantime, the Venerable Dean of the diocese Being at Wexford I paid a visit, as a matter of their duty to read all the pamphlets and loading ar- is appointed the Administrator.

### IRISH INTELLIGENCE, and the second second

The Right Rev. Dr. M Gattigan, Bishop of Raphoe, has gone to Rome, to assist at the Ecumenical Counell. During his stay in the Eternal City it is very probable he will receive the 'pallium' on the occasion of his elevation to the Primacy of Armagh, for which he has been elected dignissimus, with a vast majority of votes, and which high position he is so well calculated to fill with dignity and honor. Of course it