son. But at this moment Parthenus came in to tell him that a man who had important news to communicate, wished to see him without de-

Domitian sent everybody away, and returning to his bed-room ordered the man to be brought in. It was Stephanus, with his arm in a sling. He was alone, but he had left his confederates at the doors. As he entered the room he bowed profoundly to Domitian, who gazed at him with mingled suspicion and curiosity.

The consultator saw that there was no time to lose. He approached, and addressed the their grave. Emperor in a tone of humility, he stated that he had discovered a plot against his life, and hastened to denounce the plotters. Saying this, he banded Domitian a long list which the latter began to read.

The time had come. Stephanus drew himself up, and with a single glance, surveyed rapidly the whole apartment. He saw no one except Hirautus, who was rolling on the floor, pl. ying with a little dog, and exchanged a look of intelligence with him. Then, his eyes fixed on Pomitian with evident anxiety. Did remorse stay his hand, or was he studying where to strike.

The Emperor had thrown himself upon a seat and leaning forward with his body almost doubled up, did not raise his eyes from the pages of the voluminous document which his trembling hands turned convulsively. This position of his body was unfavorable for an attack, as it was deficult to reach a vital part, and an ill directed blow would result in the failure of the attempt, and the probable death of the assassin, for the pretorians in one of the adjoining rooms would rush in at the first cry of the Emperor.

Stephanus gave one glance to Hirsutus, and the dwarf understood the case, and acted promptly to lessen the danger. Rolling about the room with his dog, be closed noiselessly the doors that led to the guard room. He then returned to his place behind the Emperor, and made a sign to Stephanus. The latter's right band clutched the dagger help in his left, but he still waited for some movement of Domitian that would give the opportunity to strike.

At last the Emperor got to the end of the long list of names; and he was in the act of rising from his seat, when Stephanus epringing forward, dealt him a fearful blow with his dagger. The weapon was buried to the hilt in the tyrant's abdomen, but the wound was not mortal, and with a cry of rage and pain, he sprang back and seized his sword which lay near the bed. But as be pulled it from the scabbard, the hilt only remained in his hand; the blade only had been broken off. Hirsutus laughed aloud, and making a hideous face at his master, pointed to the clos-

The Emperor understood that he had been betrayed, and that he was lost. Then commenced a fearful struggle between the wounded man and his assassin. They seized each other, and rolled upon the floor, Stephanus s'riking repeated blows; and Domitian trying to wrest the dagger from his adversary's hand and to gouge his eyes, whilst he called in vain to his pretor-

Hirsutus hastened to open the door behind which the other conspirators waited, and the struggle was soon ended. Seven daggers buried in Domitian's breast, made him a corpse!

Meanwhile, the pretorians were bursting the other door. The assassins fled, with the exception of Stephanus, who, exhausted by the fearful struggle he had sustained lay part of Ulater. The genius of Bacon in some meapanting by the side of his victim. The pre-torians immediately put him to death. They feet, they have left their mark on the work that was then hastened to scour Rome in search of a leader who could help them to avenge the master they regretted.

But they could find nothing but indifference for the fate of a tyrant, and they had to submit to Nerva's being proclaimed emperor.

The Senate assembled immediately and placed Nerva in possession of the throne. A decree was promulgated ordering the destruction of all statues and portraits of Domitian in the temples, before which the people had hitherto bent the knee as before the images of a god. His name was erased from the public monuments and triumphal inscriptions. It seemed as though they wished to annihilate even the memory of the tyrant.

The news of the murder spread into the adjacent country, and soon an aged woman was seen to enter Rome, and hasten to the Palacine-House. It was Phyllis, Domitian's old nurse, who loved with a mother's tenderness him she had held to her breast. There was no one near the gory remains except Hirsutus, who, seated upon the dead man's chest, was enjoying his long expected revenge. He fled at the sight of the weeping old nurse.

Phylis wrapped the body in a shroud, and aided by some bired vespillos, had it carried to her little house on the Latin Way-the gift of Domitian. There, during the night, she burned it on a funeral pile. Later, when time had silenced the hatred with which the memory of the tyrant was surrounded, the faithful woman car ried secretly his ashes to the temple erected to

the Flavian race. Such was the end of Domitian, one of the most odious monsters that ever dishonored man

We must now say what became of the other characters which bave appeared in this parrative. Aurelia and the two young Casars lived in peaceful obscurity, their virtues and the veneration in which the names of Vespasian and Titus were held in Rome, protected them during the fearful persecution of the Christians which hangened under the Emperor Trajan. Their friendship for Olinthus, Cecilia and Gurges also preserved these young people from harm. Such children of the soil, though of course sallenly, acat least is the natural inference we must draw from the silence of history concerning them.

Clemens, the holy pontiff, one of the most illustrious successors of the apostle, was put to superiors, but on both occasions they were ultimately modifying and accidental circumstances. It is a one Lord 100.

under Nerva and his successor Trajan, but con. the first clung together through all chances of fortuce; Variety of forms on different estates; and, on the tle is going.

tented himself with enjoying in peace and retirement his immense fortune. He died of a natural death, at a very advanced age.

The reader, no doubt, will wish to know something of Eutrapeles' fate.

He was not made a senator. Did the tonsor die of disappointment at losing the hope which had been the dream of his life?

History remains silent on this point. It often throws a shadow upon the end of those it had surrounded with light; and avenges the brightness of their life by the obscurity of

THE END.

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

No. 22

Enniskillen, Nov. 11.

The line from Galway to Mullingar runs over a country the greater part of which I have briefly described in the previous letters. At Mullingar a tra. veller to the north turns from the main route of the Midland Great Western to a branch which, by Cavan and Clones, connects itself with the Uister railway system. It was raining so fiercely during the first three hours I was upon this part of my way that I was able to see hardly anything; the landscape, bowever, seemed bleak and dreary in the thick drift that shut in the horizon. After leaving Cavan the November san shone out towards evening in a feeble ray, and I caught a glimpse of a pleasing succession of gentle eminences and green uplands, here and there tringed by dark woods and plantations. The first sight which attracted my eye at Clones was a trophy of orange and crimson flags, trailing from the parapets of the parish church, to commemorate the glorious 5th of November, the anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot and of the landing of William III. at Torbay; and the spectacle reminded me that by this time I had passed far within the precincts of Ulster. If the sentiments which prompt displays of this kind have something in them that commands respect, the conversion of what ought to be a centre of peace and goodwill to all men into an offensive monument of ancient discord is odious to a well-regulated mind; and it would be difficult to over estimate its galling effect on those to whom it recalls the imager of bitter subjugation and a prostibed religion. Flags and banners are harmless things in England signs usually of village revelry and mirth; in Ireland, and especially to the Irish Catholic, the are often the emblems of chame and defeat; and the view of that church, to me at least new, gave me some notions of the feelings engendered by the Pro testant ascendency in this island. From Clones night closed over the scene; but as I have since driven over the country between Enniskillen and that place, I can describe it as a tract of low hills and plains, for the most part fertile and bright with verdure, bathed along its southern verge by the waters of Brne, half lake, half giver, winding through labyrinths of wooded islets. As for Koniskillen, it is a nest little town, of cleaned streets and well built bouses, which, standing on an island in the Erne, and commanding the only passage along the water line from Belleck to Belturbet, was once an important military station to the colonists of the Ulster Pale but it has few features of modern interest. Its name, however, will live in history in the deeds of a past generation of citizens; and though the standards of Newtown Butler are no longer seen in the town-ball, the place abounds in traditions of a day that went far to turn the scales of a fortune in the memorable etruggle of 1688-9.

I am writing from the capital of Fermanagh, one

of the six counties which compose the area of the

celebrated "Plantation of Ulster," and which, in different degrees, bear, to this day, the character of that remarkable settlement. Fermanagh, formerly the land of the Maguires, came finally under the dominion of the Orown at the commencement of the reign of James I.; and the attention of that Sovereign and his Ministers was directed to the colonize tion of the tract, together with that of the greater done, and its comparative success may be ascribed to bim. In all the preceding settlements of Ireland, and, it must be added, in 'those which followed awarms of colonists were let in on the land, with little provision for mutual support, and with no regard for the rights or feelings of the aboriginal race which remaided on the soil. The strangers occupied the fertile places, often isolated, and apart from each other; they lived on them without the protection of dependents of the same origin or blood; and they were surrounded by the flood of the vanquished Irish ry, too often reduced to mere thraidom, and implacable because wholly despoiled and outlawed. The consequences were, either that the colonists sank gradually into the mass of the natives, and growing more Irish than the Irish themselves," formed no foundation for the power of England; or, as usually bappened in later times, they were marked off into a distinct caste, which, upheld by Hngland and Penal Laws, did not amalgamate with the conquered people, and continued morally separated from them. These mischiefs were, in part at least, avoided in the settlement of Ulater, and the results are, to this day manifest. Fermanagh and the other forfeited counties were largely divided among "undertakers," for the most part of English and Scottish descent; but care was taken that the new comers should be "regimented," so to speak, on the soil, that they should hold all the points of vantage, and should build for-feited dwellings in close connexion; and, at the same time, it was made a condition of their grants that they should bring over a considerable number of tenants, who, curiously enough, were in no instance to be in the position of tenants at will, and who were to become a thriving yeomanry, allied to their lords in race and religion. Nor were the con-quered Irish left out of the scheme, or driven to the resources of fury or despair. Large allotments of land were reserved for them, and though they were placed in an inferior position, and kept segregated from their foreign neighbours, this probably was a merciful arrangement, and whatever hardship ap pears in it may be ascribed to the exigencies of the time. Unfortunately, they were denied the free exercise of their religion, though Bacon argued conclusively in their favour; yet, though they were treated as a subject race, their lot was certainly a much bet-

ter one than that of the vanquished Irish in the rest of the island. The general result of this settlement was that large English and Scottish colonies established themselves firmly on the soil of Ulstor, overbore the influence of the aboriginal people, and have gradually built up the state of society which, for its comparative tranquillity and wealth, distinguishes the province from the rest of Ireland. The "undertakers," with their train of dependents, rooted themselves in the subjugated districts, and formed communities bound to each other by the strongest and most induring ties; the quiesced slowly in a change of fortune, impossible to prevent or alter, and not imconsistent with tolerable comfort. Twice, when the Settlement was still recent, in 1641 and 1688, they rose against their alien death during Trajan's persecution, in the year of subdued; and since that period they have not only to it condition annexed to a tenancy, that, subject abstrained from anything like a real insurrection but to the just rights of a landlord, a tenant shall have they have been generally more peaceable than their an interest in his land which shall secure him a price Marcus Regulus did not succeed in the real- brethren in the rest of the island. Meantime the for the goodwill of it on a loss or a transfer of the brethren in the rest of the island. Meantime the for the goodwill of it on a loss or a transfer of the

have become a proprietary class, and one of yeomen and peasants, Mentified in sympathy and interest; have lived together in good will; and have placed Ulater in the front of civilization in Ireland. And, what is more remarkable, though to this day their descendants have little in common with the native race, though they treat them too much as a distinct caste, and they are separated from them by differences of religion, too often leading to violence and discord, still they have formed for themselves a type of life of which that race shares the full benefit, and they have raised it to a position of security, in all relations connected with land, which it does not enjoy in the rest of Ireland . Society, accordingly, in this part of the island, is fashioned upon a happier pattern than in Leinster, Munster, or Connaught; and the results are seen in comparative prosperity and progress-For evidence of this it is only necessary to pass rapidly, as I have done, from the South and West, into this part of Ulster. Fermanagh is not a very wealthy county, its agriculture is not particularly good, and; in driving through several districts in it, I saw a great deal that would shock a scientific husbandman. But, contrasted with Connaught, it is another world; and, indeed, the contrast more or less applies to most of the other counties I have seen. The peasantry here have a look of independence and even of boldness that is very striking; their intercourse with their superiors is free and open; and, as for their dwellings, neat, tidy, and clean, I have seen nothing like them since, weeks ago, I left Bargy and Forth in Wexford. Fermanagh, I should add, is decidedly a progressive county, though the holdings are generally extremely small; and, though its population has declined a great deal, I have reason to believe that but few families have been altogether detached from the soil. Large " clearances" and evictions were never known; the rate of wages is something higher than in the South; the land nowhere seems worn out; and regard being had to its present condition, I thought it low rented upon an average, the rents varying from about 12s to 40s. the Irish acre

Those who believe that everything wrong in Ireland is to be ascribed to "Popery" alone will, of course, insist that this relative prosperity is due wholly to the predominance of "Protestantism" among the occupiers of the soil in Fermanagh; and those who read history on a theory of race will point to their Scottish or English extraction. Now I am inclined to think, although with diffidence, that Protestantism, as compared with Romanism, has a tendency to develop more individual energy; and perhaps, though the fact admits of dispute. a Teutonic breed is more apt than a Celtic in surrounding itself with material comfort and with the riches and conveniences of life. But that neither of these causes will fully explain the superior condition of this courty, or give a complete account of the matter, may be gathered from a simple consideration. Persons of all ranks, from the peer to the peasant, have assured me that so difference can be traced, in point of industry, self-reliance, and thrift, between the Protestant and Saxon farmer of Fermanagh and his Roman Oatholic and Celtic fellow; that both cultivate the soil as well, that both have equally comfortable homes, that both are equally hardworking; and though the Roman Catholic tenantry of this county are certainly not a favoured class, and, even yet, do not stand as high in the social scale as the Protestant, they, in all respects, compete fairly with them. This would clearly show that we must seek another reason why this part of Ulster is more prosperous than most of the other Provinces, nor is that reason difficult to discover. The classes connected with the soil in this county which have shaped its destiny. and given it its social form, have for centuries lived together in goodwill; and in the relation of landlord and tenant, have treated each other with mutu.l regard, have considered their respective rights and duties, and have even extended the gracious usages which have been the fruit of this state of things to those once in a thoroughly subject position, and still widely separated in race and religion. Society, accordingly, has grown up under kindlier and more happy auspices than in less fortunate districts; and the great relation of owner and occupier of the soil having been placed on foundations comparatively sound, security and progress have been the conse quence. This leads me to examine the famous custom, which, se to speak, is the visible expression of this harmony between the landed classes, and which is considered by some persons as the model for a reform of the land system of Ireland. Fermanagh is a where it has taken root the custom works very well Tenant-Right county; the usage exists on most estates in it, in different forms and various decress, its mirit is universally prevalent, and best during a brief stay here to make myself familiar

with its nature and working. The custom known by the name of Tenant-Right exists in a kind of loose way, half recognized, yet not acknowledged as binding in other parts of Ireland besides Ulster. In my judgment it may be ultimately traced to a sentiment implanted in human nature that when, as is usually the case in Ireland. a tenant has done much for his holding, and has been long in occupation of it, he acquires a kind of interest in it which is more or less at his disposition. But though Tenant Right exists in a crude form on isolated estates, and in exectional cases, in many, perhaps most, of the countles of Ireland, it is no where a local social custom, it has no where soquired a binding force, save in a certain number of counties in Ulater This circumstance is beyond all doubt, due to the good feeling that prevailed between the colon zing landlords and tenants of the 'Plantation,' and which has continued through the two centuries and a half; and, as I have said, the custom, once formed, extended itself indifferently to all in the position of occupiers of the soil, and enured to the benefit of the conquered natives. The colonist tenant when he had built his house on the rude waste on which he had settled, and had enclosed it and made it profitable, felt that he had a property in it; the colonist landlord, his brother soldier, and his friend through a series of generations, acquiesced in what was naturally just, and the practice gradually become general, was applied to tenants of all kinds, and received the sanction of unbroken usage. stronger than law in certain stages of society. In this way Tenant Right grew up, and, to this hour, it affects estates in this county more or less sensibly, though I have reason to believe that its binding force is less powerful than it has formerly been. The custom, as it exists now, may be said to be that the Fermanagh tenant, whether his tenure be by lesse or at will, has a kind of interest in his holding, which his landlord is under an obligation to respect, and which realizes itself-if I may use the expression-on whatever occasion, or by whatever means, his lands are transferred to a new possessor. During his occupation his only status is that of a tenant measured by his tenure; but, should he surrender his land to his landlord, or should be, even, be evicted from it, he becomes entitled to a money payment for his goodwill, and he has a right to obtain a similar sum, or whatever sum he can reasonably obtain, should he alienate his holding to a purchaser. As the landlord, too, on the one hand, ought to protect this peculiar interest of his tenant, and not impair it by raising rent capriciously, or by any undue exercise of power, so, on the other hand. it is the duty of the tenent to use that the landlord's rights are upheld: and, accordingly, the custom always gives a landlord a title to control and regulate the transfer of the interest of the tenant and enables him occasionally to reise his rents, according to some rude standard of justice, not well defined, but pretty fairly adjusted.

Such, I believe, is the true conception of the Tenant Right that exists in this county, apart from

whole, I am inclined to think its influence as a custom is on the decline; but the same idea underlies it in all its complex manifestations, and it is still really a local law of property to which the landed classes, as a rule, conform. It occurs only in a few instances, in what I may call its most simple type, that the tenant shall have complete liberty to dispose of his interest in market overt, to a purchaser at the high est price, subject only to a veto on the part of the landlord, in order to exclude an improper purchaser and to secure a reasonably good incomit g tenant. Not many Fermanegh landfords, I believe directly sanction or countenance a practice which, as I have pointed out before, has a tendency to reduce an owner to the position of a mere rent charger, and gives a tenant or a purchaser from him an interest akin to real cwnership on the payment of an annual renter. In most instances, landlords have set restrictions on the tenants' power of disposition, and either appraise the value of the goodwill, and buy out the Tenant Right themselves, disincumbering their estates of the charge; or else compel the tenant to transfer the goodwill to a fellow tenant only ; or put a maximum price on the Tenant Right, which alone, they avow, they will respect; or, finally, dis-countenance the Tenant Right, unless proof be afforded that the lands have been improved during the tenant's possession. Through these expedients, obviously intended to reconcile the dominion of the landlord with a claim more or less an intrusion on it, the jus disponendi of the tenant is fettered in a variety of ways, his interest may be considerably modified, and, in some cases, complaints are made that the Tenant Right is being gradually reduced and undermined by all kinds of processes. Nevertheless the Right exists as a fact; it is recognized in some shape or other on almost all estates in this county; it is sustained by what is a local law; and hardly a landlord, I venture to say, would invade it directly, either by evicting a tenant at will without some payment or by destroying the Tenant Right by raising rent suddenly on an intending purchaser Su hacts certainly may occur, and have perhaps occurred in rare instances, but they are thoroughly condemned in general opinion, and, were they attempted on snything like a large scale, they would be stopped by a combination of all classes which, I have no doubt, would prove irresistible. The Tenant Right, secured in this way, varies greatly in value on different estates, according to a variety of circumstances, depending partly on the restrictions on it, and in some degree on the character of the landlord. It seldom, I think, falls short of a price equivalent to three years' rent of a holding, and it may rise to a price of six or eight years' rent but it fluctuates so much that it is, perhaps, impossible to form an estimate of the real average. Subject to this right, such as it is, the landlord enjoys all other rights of property and he is considered entitled to raise his rents, according to fair dealing and justice, provided the rise does not encroach on what is thought the tenant's sacred peculium.

It is not difficult to point out the economic defects of this singular custom. I do not attach any great importance to the objection that its tendency is to prevent the application of capital to land, inas nuch as an incoming tenant often pays his predecessor a large sum which otherwise he would lay out on his farm. This objection is fairly answered by the fact that the tenantry of this county, though seldom wealthy, pursue a course of cultivation reasonably good and very much better than that of the corresponding class in the greater number of the southern counties; and these small farmers have usually some savings and an ample fund of that great spring and creator of capital, stardy industry. This objection, moreover, at bottom assumes that the outlay for Tenent Right is sheer waste, and that it secures .only the mere legal tenure, whereas in truth it is a purchase of what is a valuable interest guaranteed by a local law of opinion. The true economic objection to the custom I conceive to be that it has a tendency to confuse the rights of landlord and tenant-to make them concurrent owners of the land with interests imperfectly defined; and, accordingly, it may possibly operate, through this partition, to retard improvements. Land distributed in this curious way, so to speak, "falls between two stools;" and, perhaps, neither landlord nor tenant is so stimulated to call out its resources as they would be if the one retained the absolute dominion of the fee, and the other held by a definite contract. On the other hand. on the whole, and, as compared with the precarious tenures of the south, produces good social and econseldom heard of; and, as I have said, the Terant Right does not interfere with a fair rise of reut according to the natural advance of society. In the second place, even if an eviction should chance to be made, its hardships are lessened, the outgoing tenant having the certainty of a provision, and he is not, as he too often is in the south driven suddenly from his home to the workhouse. Lastly, and most important of ail, the custom, as it is found here, establishes really that security of tenure which in Ireand is supposed to be the first condition of agricultatal progress and of social wellbeing and peace. It is well understood that the Tenant Right, whatever t is, is to be respected; it shields, so to speak, the tenant's title, and the saleable interes: of the tenant, whether in his hands or in those of a purchaser from bim, is not only not to be invaded by the landlord, but actually supports his claim to the possession Although his status is measured by his legal tenure, the jus disponendi he enjoys relates, as lawyers would say, to protect him, and gave him virtually an occu-

pation hardly ever disturbed. It would be, however, shallow to imagine that this custom is the only or the main cause of the compar-ative prosperity of this county. That prosperity is to be traced, I believe, to the fortunate relations which, during centuries, have existed between landlords and tenants descended from the original colonists, and which have so thoroughly moulded the type of society that they have even protected the aboriginal race, which, though certainly even to this day a caste rather distinct, nevertheless enjoys security and justice on the soil extensively occupied by it. Tenant Right, in truth is merely a visible sign of the general goodwill which knits the landlords and tenauts of Fermanagh together, and which is the real cause of the welfare of this district. It will be ob served, too, that viewed critically end apart from its social conditions, the custom is really a vague thing, theoretically of no great value, and liable to be dea troyed or invaded-nay, conceivably, worthless, if disengaged from the peculiar circumstances which have given it being. Tenant Right is unknown to the law of the land, though sustained here by a local law which no landlord, perhaps, would directly break; and, accordingly, held in respect as it is, it cannot afford that absolute protection which the authority of the State can alone give. From its very nature, too, it is exposed to danger, for it does not provide any positive guarantee against the capricions raising of rent or the eviction which would completely destroy it; and it is difficult to see how any general law could shield it completely against such attacks without assailing seriously the rights of property. At best, too, it is a right of which the value varies greatly within narrow limits; and though, Robably, no laudiord of this county would dely it openly, some landlords have restricted it a good deal, and are, so to speak, nibbling it away. For these reasons it is not considered even by those who have the benefit of it to form a perfect system of landed little more than a showy delusion.

Life has been called a warfare. Blessed, then is the periodical armistice of the Sabbath. It is only in-

IRISH INTELLIGENCE

THE PRISONER BARRETT. - It is said that an ecclesiastic of exalted rank has made a representation to the Government confirmatory of the general public conviction as to the innocence of the Frienner who stands charged with shooting at Captain Lam. bert, and who has been removed to Dublin for a second trial, in consequence of the inability of the Galway jury to agree to a verdict.

the Army and Navy Gazette says it is not proposed to send a cavalry regiment to Ireland pert year. The 12th Lancers will be brought to England most probably during the Spring, and will not be replaced. This alteration in the reliefs, of course, is owing to the recent despatch in the King's Dragoons to Ireland.

A man named Edward Ridgeway, a resident of Staplestown, Clane, died from cold and exposure on the night of the 23.d ult. He was returning home from Naas, and was intoxicated.

The steamers lately arriving from Liverpool at Queenstown, have been closely searched for arms. A detachment of cavalry is to be stationed in Killarney workhouse during the remainder of the Winter and Spring.

Late advices state that there were then 400 more paupers in the Belfast Workhouse than at the corres. ponding period last year. Sickness also appears to be very extensive, as there were no fewer than twenty six deaths in the workhouse during the week. Mr Mac Garel, who has a large property in the

County Autrim, has adopted a course which his tenantry say would, if it were generally followed, remove all necessity for legislation on the Land Question. He writes :---"I have instructed my agent, Mr Nelson, to make

known to my tenantry that I will grant them leases of 21 years at their present rents. It need not be told with how much satisfaction the appouncement was received. .

The Examiner says : - The last report of the Ulater Flax Extension Association, states that - ' The general impression is favourable to an increase, next year, in the culture of flex in the South of Ireland, The facility of sale tendered by the Monster markers, the prizes given by the association, and the prompt attention which all communications, receive for information regarding flax, have encouraged the farmers. The yield obtained enables the crop to be grown with profit even at the reduced prices as compared with last season."

The 'Cork Herald' notices as a remarkable fact that, while vast preparations are in progress to resist any possible disturbance, at no time within the last four years has Gork been more free from any symptom of disorder. It regards as uttetly preposterous the rumour that any rising is impending and, after making searching inquiries, is convinced that there is no ground for elarm. The most vigilant precautions are still observed. Steamers arriving in port are searched, auspicious looking persons are quettioned by the police patrols at night, and private houses are visited by constables in search of arms; No discoveries have been made

THE TIPPEBARY ELECTION. - Thursday, the 23rd of December, was the last day for petitioning against the return of O'Donovan Rossa as member for Tipperary. No petition having been presented up to or on that day by Mr. Heron, Q.C , or any ore else, the election of O'Donovan Rossa can be dealt with by Parliament only. What course will be taken or result arrived at it is impossible to anticipate, but should Rossa be declared disqualified and his return void, it is stated a new election must be held.

IMPORTANT POLITICAL SECRESION. - A well-informed correspondent writes : - Lord Bessborough has brown up his appointment in Mr. Gladstone's ad. ministration on account of the Irish policy of the Government. An old traditional Whig leaving the camp-at this moment is a sign that others may possibly follow.'- Belfast News Letter.

The Dublin 'Freeman' of Dec. 30, says :- In accordance with a requisition signed by more than two thousand inhabitants of the county of Wicklow, the High Shariff, David Mahony, Esq. convened a meeting, which was held yesterday in the town of Wicklow, to consider the propriety of petitioning Parli ment for the amendment of the existing relations between land ord and tenant.' Undeterred by the inclement weather and almost impassable roads the omic results. In the first place, as the landlord's tenant farmers, cottiers, and laboring classes to-arrears are a first charge on the Tenant Right, his wards soon poured into the town from all parts of cent is always practically safe; evictions really are the country, including Acklow, Baltinglass, Rath. drum, Avoes, Newtown-Mountkonnedy, Tinabely, Ballyconnell, Kilquiggen, Annacurra, Glendslough, Kilbride, Ballymoreennetace, &c. A large number of the Catholic clergy accommanied the different contingents, which in the aggregate formed a large and certainly as earnest and enthusiastic a meeting as any held in Ireland during the present agitation on the land question.

> An event has just taken place which will probably assist in precipitating the threatened disruption of the Orange party. At the late election for Antrim, Mr Dalway, the member for Oarrickfergus supported the Liberal candidate, Sir R. Shatto Adair. This gave great umbrage to the more violent section of the Orange party, to which the hon, gentleman belonged, and on Thursday the Grand Lodge of Ireland voted his expulsion from the society.

> We find the following in our Irish exchanges :-The population of Ireland in 1801 was 5 216.329 persons; in 1869 it is 5,536,217 persons. There has been an annual decrease in it since 1845, when it was at its maximum height of 8,265,061 persons, and when Daniel O'Connell said that a nation of nine millions is too large to be dragged at the tail of any other nation. Since that memorable declaration there has been a decline in the population of nearly three millions, and in the material wealth of the country of an average amount.

> It has been stated that at one of the reunious of the Apprentice Boys, held a few evenings ago, a gentleman, latterly in the confidence of the Conservative party, and who, it is said, came to Derry to take part in the recent celebration, has intimated that it would not be surprising if a chief officer of the Boys' would present himself as a candidate for the representation of the city of Derry the first opportunity-Derry Journal.

A correspondent says - As the Athenry and Ennis Junction Railway is the only connecting link that joins other Irish railroads, report says that 200 cavalry and 100 infantry are to be located in Gort, from which, should emergency demand, the volttant military pillars of the surrounding counties can be very easily and speedily reinforced, particularly as the barracks and rail way station-house are contigue ous each other.

A row, partaking of the character of a faction fight, took place near Researberry, county Cork, on the 21st ult. A fair had been held in the town on that day, and it was in the evening when the parties were returning from the fair that the conflict occurred. A number of persons were seriously injured; one, a farmer named Keohane, died from the effects of his wounds; and another man's life was despaired of. Two men were arrested for complicity in the fight; it is rumored that one of them, a laborer named Regan, was the person who deals Keebane the fatal b ow.

THE MARCHIONESS OF QUEENSBURY. - There may be some among our Mayo friends who do not know tenure; and few persons go as far as to say that it is that this noble lady and distingulated Irishwamaa is the grand-daughter of the late Colonel Hugh O'Donnell, eldest son of the first Sir Neal O'Donnell of Newport House in this county. Col. Hugh O'Donnell's only daughter, Lady Olayton, was the ization of his ambitious dreams. He lost favor of the relation of landlord and tenant, from possession. In this county it is to be found in a under Nerva and his successor Traian, but conl tive county of this distinguished and worthy 10-