

upon the step, he intoned a solemn 'Veni Creator' in a deep voice which yet trembled with emotion; and the full voice of the choir took up the thrilling appeal to the God of armies.

As the last accents of the prayer pealed through the church, the venerable priest turned to the young soldiers, and in a few impressive words he bade them a hearty farewell in his own name and in that of his whole flock.

The priest left the altar, and the multitude hastened out of the church; for now was heard the loud music of the Schrambeek band. The air rang with the advancing sound of the Belgian national airs, and they marched on to the railway with their hearts full of the enthusiasm which such music awakes.

Joseph and Martin exchanged many hearty shakes of the hand with their friends and acquaintances, and spent the few remaining minutes in a last farewell to their families.

with no deep roots in popular affection, without its natural authority and influence? Why, in one word is the Land System of Ireland so full of anomalies and complex mischiefs that, serious as is the evil of touching any settlement which has long continued, a thorough reform is felt to be necessary?

Some main features of the Land System of Ireland, regarded upon the side of occupation, and some popular feelings connected with it, of the Celtic character, and to the influence of the primitive organization once prevalent among the ancient Irish tribes.

These various elements in that the small farm system, the normal type of agriculture in Ireland, is to be traced to the innate tendency of the Celt to subdivision among his family, and that the sentiment of property in his holdings entertained so widely by Irish tenants is due to the fact that under the soil tenures the classman was virtually owner of the soil.

Nevertheless, I believe that general causes will account more reasonably for these phenomena, and in proof of this I venture to remark that the very peculiarities in the occupation of land which are supposed to be wholly Celtic are most conspicuous in those parts of Ireland in which the blood of the Celt is least predominant.

by blighting the growth of the kindly sentiments that would have grown up between them. It must never be forgotten that this system of unmitigated and ruinous injustices continued unchanged until 1778, and was abolished only in the last generation.

In this way the Land System of Ireland, considered upon the ownership, was distorted into a form of which the character was never completely changed. Disastrous, however, as the Penal Code was, the land was, for the first time, at peace during the first three fourths of the 18th century; and, in spite of many counteracting influences, the effects of order became manifest.

Such was the form which the Land System of Ireland assumed on the side of occupation. A generation followed in which the country became more prosperous yet in which, under the show of improvement, seeds of disorder were sown thickly in the relations between the landed classes.

There is no doubt that the Land System of Ireland, considered upon the ownership, was distorted into a form of which the character was never completely changed. Disastrous, however, as the Penal Code was, the land was, for the first time, at peace during the first three fourths of the 18th century.

encumbered ever since the days of the Penal Code, because involved in hopeless embarrassment. The evils of absenteeism, though less, perhaps, than they had been, became more apparent and were more felt; and landed property was very much neglected, in consequence partly of the conditions of tenure which threw on the occupier chiefly the charge of improvement.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

Although Mr. Froese, the latest and one of the most remarkable of English historians, cannot be said to be always literally accurate, either in his direct assertions or in his inferences, he sometimes fails not unpleasantly to be compensated by force and fulness. Take, for instance, the account of English rule in Ireland about the middle of the eighteenth century, which we find in the eleventh volume of his history.

It appears from a report on the comparative taxation of England and Ireland drawn up for the British Government by Dr. Hancock, of Dublin, that the rate of local taxation levied in Ireland in 1868 was nine shillings and six-pence per head, while in England and Wales it was £1 0s 3d.

Ireland, among other things, has recently shown to the inhabitants of the rest of the kingdom how small power may be stamped out by a careful vaccination. There seems only to have been one fatal case in Dublin in the last two years.

HONESTY OF DUBLIN GARRISON. — Eight hundred and forty-five articles of property (many very valuable, such as jewellery, opera glasses, &c.) were found in hackney vehicles and surrendered by the drivers to the police during the year, out of which 418 were claimed, and given up to the owners before being sent into the police stores.

LIFE IN THE NORTH OF IRELAND. — The following is an extract from a letter: — 'On returning from the ball, I passed by the residence of Mr. — whose life has been threatened, and who was once shot at, some time ago, when his poor unfeeling coachman was killed, instead of himself.

Mr. Philip Callan, the member for Dundalk, has written to the Home Secretary, asking permission to visit O'Donovan Rossa, Burke, and other heroes, in order to converse with them as to their health, food, &c.

have permitted every mitigation of food and discipline not inconsistent with their condition and general tenor.

A correspondent of the 'Munster News' asserts that the agents of a non-resident proprietor in the estate to sign a consent to accept leases of a stringent character, for the purpose of frustrating the operations of the coming land bill.

The driver of the mail car between Limerick and Pallaskerry, it appears that lately the driver of the car was dismissed for having lost one of the mail bags, and those who made the attack declared to his successor that they would shoot him if the dismissed man were not restored.

Several malicious burnings have, we are informed, occurred within the week. On Thursday night a rick of hay belonging to Mark Cullen, of Orange, Lackagh, and on Friday night a stack of corn, the property of Mr. Martin Oullinane, Waterview, Turloghmore.

Poisoning fox-hounds is becoming common. The Kilkeny outrages have been imputed to a sectarian feud, but this explanation does not seem to account for poisoning in Meath, or for the statement made that a few days since Sir David Roebuck received an anonymous warning not to hunt with the Limerick fox-hounds in the direction of a certain part of that county.

DUBLIN, Jan. 20. — A remarkable proof of the extent to which intimidation prevails in some parts of the country was afforded yesterday in a motion which came before the Court of Exchequer. Mr. P. O'Brien, counsel for the plaintiff, in an action of ejectment, applied that service should be substituted upon the defendant by sending a copy through the post office and advertising it in a local journal.

ORANGE DISSENT. — The late revelations in the Belfast Police Court may well be judged to have been of a startling nature when they actually stated the Orangemen themselves, or at least a branch of the fraternity, into asking for a Parliamentary inquiry. At a meeting held last Saturday evening in Belfast, attended by delegates from lodges of the Brotherhood in several Northern towns, the Independent Orange Association decided to communicate with several of the Irish members, requesting them to support a motion to be made in the coming session, for a Commission of Inquiry into the internal organization and workings of Orange Institutions in Ireland.

IF we may credit an article which appeared some days ago in the 'Pall Mall Gazette,' the Irish Land Bill which has been prepared by the Government will turn out to be nothing better than a mockery, a delusion, and a snare. The 'Gazette' does not apply exactly three terms to it, but it states that the Bill will fall so very far short of Irish expectations that an outburst of fury and even of violence in Ireland may be expected as soon as the real scope of the measure shall have become known to the people.

On Wednesday night a shot was fired into the bedroom of Mr. Murray, steward to the representatives of the late Mr. Daniel Mather at Falthy, county Roscommon, three miles from Ballinalee. The weapon was loaded with a bullet and several slugs, which shattered the window and broke the glass. Fortunately, Mr. Murray slept on the opposite side of the room to that which the shot entered.

All ye gunners who rules the property of Murrick take warning by me. I did not hear of the treatment you gave my poor countrymen until of late. Any man who comes to live on it, I will treat him as I treated many others. . . . powder. . . . and. . . . lead.

ROYAL OF THE HILLS. Several witnesses were examined, but the principal one was Mary Soshill who was cross-examined at great length by Lord John T. Browne, as well as by Mr. George Lynch, solicitor, who appeared to repudiate the charge on behalf of the people of Murrick. From the evidence it appeared that the girl, when she first saw the notice on the door of the house which was knocked down, told several parties that she saw the handwriting; that she could actually swear to the party who wrote it. In her examination she positively admitted that she said such, and that in Murrick.

THE LAND QUESTION OF IRELAND. No. 27. (FROM TIMES SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS.)

Having examined the Land System of Ireland in its results, and what I may call its structure, I proceed briefly to consider its causes—that is, the agencies which have given it its present form and general character. The relation of landlord and tenant in England has passed slowly in the course of centuries, by a change so gradual that it is difficult to trace, from that of superior and vassal into that of modern owner and occupier; and while it has not altogether lost its ancient type, it adjusts itself, on the whole, very well to the requirements of a great commercial nation.