

AN ABLE LECTURE.

SUNSHINE AND SHADE OF IRISH HISTORY.

[FROM THE LONDON (ONT) ADVERTISER.]

The lecture delivered last night in the City Hall by the Rev. Wm. O'Mahony was one of deep and present interest, and was listened to with rapt attention by the large audience that had assembled. The main part of the building was filled to the doors by those desirous of hearing what proved to be a most comprehensive historical resume of what is embraced in the title, "The Sunshine and Shade of Irish History." The proceeds of the lecture are to be devoted to the relief of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. On the platform in addition to the speaker were the Rev. Fathers Torman and Cummins, and Messrs. D. Egan, J. Egan, W. Starr, James Dinahan, and the President, who occupied the chair and briefly introduced the speaker.

Having briefly introduced his subject, and after alluding to the wide field before him, the speaker went on to say that on every hand were materials with which to plead the cause of Ireland, which occupied such great prominence in public thought. Though territory does not impart its greatness, though power of arms does not swell her influence, yet is she really great and influential in the eyes of the world—grand by the record of her storied past, influential by the innate virtue and worth that have ever been her characteristics. For centuries has the struggle gone on in which her national existence was the stake, and she is as distinctively national to-day as when St. Patrick proposed to her chieftains the doctrines of the Cross, or when Brian led his brave Irish soldiers against the invading foe. Deep and heavy humiliations mark it, but her bright escutcheon is tarnished by no unworthy deed. Her history is a succession of light and shade.

ANCIENT IRELAND.

Speaking of the Ireland of the early stage of her history, the high state of her civilization was pointed out, as compared with that of surrounding countries, and further, that she was freer from vice and more cultured than were the other nations of the time. Such is testimony of history. At this early time gold, iron, silver and lead were discovered and intelligently worked to serve the wants of the people, who at this time were known as Milesians. In the first ages of Irish history we find the people devoted to lives of industry. In the reign of Fiola, the Siles of Ireland, who reigned long before the Christian era, there is to be found the earliest example of summoning a parliament for the purpose of perfecting existing laws, and the good order which reigned made it a good model of more modern assemblies. What a contrast this is to the Ireland of our day, when a paltry few have a voice in the deliberations that control her destinies. Have her children degenerated? Are they less capable to-day, in the full blaze of the enlightenment and progress of the nineteenth century, to understand and supply the wants of their country than in these ancient days? The position of the countries that have adopted Irishmen will best answer the question. Twenty-five hundred years ago we find almost the same machinery of government in operation in Ireland that we see in our own age in the most civilized nations. Virtue and honor were respected, and polygamy was a thing unknown, even in the days of paganism.

CHRISTIAN IRELAND.

In graphic and eloquent terms was described the advent of the sainted Patrick and the conversion of Ireland to Christianity—a conversion unequalled in the annals of the world, accompanied with no bloody struggle, but simply that of intellect with intellect. Their learning and all kindred institutions flourished, utterly disproving the charge that Irishmen are opposed to education. From the fifth to the ninth century her lot was cast in the sunshine of interest, and her children won renown without a rival in the then world of literature and science. In the face of all this can it be said that the Irish people cannot govern themselves? In considering the disturbances in Ireland, the surrounding circumstances should not be lost sight of, nor should they weigh in judging Irishmen. Crushed as they are, they would be unworthy the name did they not strive to better their condition; and although we deprecate violence, we must not forget that in many instances they were driven to it under sufferings too great for human endurance.

THE DANISH INVASION

was next taken up, and the sufferings entailed thereby fully detailed, the many heroic circumstances which led to the time of their expulsion noted, and its effect upon the nation noted. When they were driven out Ireland again became prosperous.

SUCCESSING EVENTS.

Passing on to the year 1169, the events connected with the time of Dermot McMurrough were described, and the national indignation at his flagrant adultery. There is no character so despicable to Irishmen as that of an informer or traitor, and the poet Moore felt all this burning horror for the latter when he penned:

"Oh, for a tongue to curse the slave,
Whose treason like a deadly blight,
Comes o'er the corns of the brave,
And blights them in the hour of night.
May life's un-blessed cup for him
Be drugged with treacherous to the brim
With hopes that bubble to the top,
Like Dead Sea fruit that tempt the eye,
But turn to ashes on the lips," etc.

The effects were shown of the Norman invasion, the English Pale, and the dark 300 years that followed, showing the full effect of the change of religion in England, while the speaker briefly passed over the cruelities

of Cromwell, in the Island. Then came a resume of the stormy times of 1690, with the events of which history is replete, on till the time when the treaty of 1691 was signed, when Ireland for the first time acknowledged the supremacy of England. Passing on, it was pointed out that the law enacted in the reign of George I., giving England the right to legislate for Ireland without her own consent, virtually struck the death blow at the manufacturing in Ireland. The galling yoke of penal enactments was also laid on the Catholics. At the same time the colonists in America were beginning to show signs of discontent at the same grievances which Ireland complained. They rebelled, and we see the result in the giant Republic of to-day. After reviewing the times and labors of Burgh, Curran and Grattan, the speaker ably sketched subsequent events. Ten years of unexampled prosperity followed the effort of Grattan. Leading on, he spoke of the years of '82-'93, and alluded to the struggle in which the trained troops of the King—the flower of his army, were again and again repelled by the simple peasants, their hearts being filled with a courage increased by the burning wrongs that had endured. In all these struggles the Protestants have stood nobly side by side with the Catholics in the struggle for liberty.

But now comes another cloud of misfortune in the destruction of the Irish Parliament. It was swept away, and with it the best hopes of poor Erin. The legislative union between the two countries was an accomplished fact. It is not necessary to enquire into the causes that led to it, and in this connection the speaker would only ask his hearers to bear in mind the prosperity of '92 and compare it with any period of the eighty years of Union which have passed, and draw their own conclusions.

Ireland has a population, the majority of which is decidedly Catholic, and the Catholic citizens were laboring under the effects of these "penal laws," which, in an evil hour for England, had been enacted. He said in an evil hour, because they have alienated from her warm Irish heart, that might have been led to bear responsive to her every wish, but could never be forced to another one patriotic pulsation. There appears on the scene now a man who perhaps more than any other deserved the esteem and love of Irishmen—Daniel O'Connell. He was idolized by them, and the warfare on which he entered was to gain the rights of Irishmen, a novel one that could only be carried on by one having a keen legal mind. With the sad lesson of '98 before him, he saw that Ireland could not successfully appeal to force of arms, but that her only hope of succeeding lay in agitation within the limits of the constitution. A lawyer himself, he brought to his work not only an exact knowledge of the law, but what was perhaps much more to his purpose, a keen perception of human nature, of which he was perhaps the best judge of his day. The Irish people, always admirers of intellectual superiority, hailed with rapture the accession to their cause of a young barrister, whose boast was that he could drive a coach and four through any Act of Parliament without hurting either himself or the Act. The stupendous work which he performed all over the country, in organizing the people, and in educating them in this new method of redressing their wrongs, is almost incredible. The measure of his success in controlling his countrymen, as well as in winning their affections, may be judged from the immense numbers that attended his meetings, and from the harmony and peace in which they were carried on. His efforts to gain the emancipation of the Catholics were at length successful, and after hundreds of years of worse than slavery's shackles were stricken from the Irish peasant, and he was free to worship his God without paying for his devotion the fearful tax of civil ostracism. His next effort was the repeal of the Union. In this he failed, and towards the close of his career his efforts were impeded by feeble health. He had sacrificed all for his country. On her altar he had placed his future, which was most promising; to her he had devoted the best years of his life, and now the remnant of that life he gave to the same glorious cause. He saw at this period spring up around him another party, comprised of younger men thoroughly devoted to their country, but filled with all the impulse imparted by youth and high resolve. The horrors of '47 had fallen upon the country, and Ireland was sunk in the terrible shade of a fearful famine; her children were dying by the roadside; the terrible effects of the Union were gnawing at the vitals of the nation, and in sight of these things the doctrine was announced, "A thousand times better that Erin's stalwart sons would die fighting for the relief of their country than linger in the heart-rending sufferings of starvation." This bold doctrine was announced by John Mitchell. Though opposed to him at first, the Young Ireland Party soon ranged themselves beneath his standard, prepared to die if necessary for the cause of their country. Mitchell was speedily arrested and hurried into exile, and the leadership devolved upon one of the grandest characters which we meet with in Irish history, one of the most devoted patriots, meek and gentle as a lamb, but brave and bold as a lion in the face of danger—

HONEST JOHN MARTIN,

of Longhorne. He too, like Mitchell, suffered the penalty of exile. It is needless to enter into a detailed account of the working of this new party in Irish politics, suffice it to say that they undertook too much and utterly failed. It is easy now to see how futile were their efforts, but when we consider the circumstances that surrounded them; a people being decimated by famine, a country with every necessary for the support of her population going to ruin, we can see their action, the last effort of a despairing nation. What a galaxy of talent adorned this Young Ireland party! There were Meagher, the silver-tongued, whose oratory told held men

spell-bound; the brave and daring Mitchell; Chivalric Smith O'Brien; the patriotic and gentle Martin; and though last, not least, our own gifted D'Arcy McGee. The cause upheld by such men must have been a noble one, and their error of judgment was of noble, generous and self-sacrificing men.

HOME RULE.

The effort of these men was the last made, and brings us face to face with the great and exciting issues of to-day. The speaker then went on to say that Home Rule was enveloped in a cloud of misconception, which arises from ignorance on the malicious motives of public men or others. The idea is utterly absurd that the object of Home Rule in the proper sense is dismemberment of the British Empire. An agitation of a certain kind was not to be condemned, because it was by agitation that all the great reforms of the world have been brought about. Home Rule is not a new theory or a new idea by any means, and Canada itself has shown a most striking example to Ireland in this respect. We have here a Government responsible to ourselves, we manage our own affairs and treat England as we do any other Power. In Canada, did not agitation tend to bring about the present favorable condition of affairs, with our happy and comfortable homes? The separation of Ireland from England is a thing not to be thought of, and, moreover, the former land does not want it. What Ireland should have is the right to legislate in her own local affairs, which, as has been shown in the past, she can most successfully do. The British Parliament, not understanding, perhaps, the minute particulars of these affairs, cannot legislate properly, and are rather hindered in accomplishing their more proper objects. Home Rule would enhance the trade of England, the lecturer thought, provided it be considered in a genuine practical light, and to such a movement as this all might say "God speed." The lecture, of which we have given but a resume, was concluded with an eloquent peroration.

A cordial vote of thanks was then moved by Mr. D. Egan, seconded by J. Egan, and carried by a standing vote, to which Father O'Mahony made a suitable reply, and the audience retired.

THE IRISH LAND WAR.

Spread of the Land League—The Government Prosecutions—Postponement of Trial Refused—Boycotting Landlords—Parnell Receives the Freedom of Waterford—Orange Manifesto.

(By Cable.)

Dublin, November 30.—The trial of Philip Callan, member of Parliament for Louth, charged with libelling Alex. M. Sullivan, ended to-day. The jury returned a verdict of guilty. Sentence was postponed. A detachment of the 9th infantry, consisting of 200 men, has been detailed to protect the workmen engaged in the construction of an iron bridge in Pallas Kenry, a market town in Munster county, ten miles from Limerick. The but is intended for the use of the constabulary, and a large assemblage of people gathered and threatened to tear it down as fast as it could be built, and would undoubtedly have done so but for the presence of the troops. An armed gang attacked a sheriff to-day near Ballinrobe while he was performing his official duties. The entire neighborhood was thrown into a state of excitement, and it was with difficulty that the sheriff escaped rough handling.

London, November 30.—4 p. m.—The removal of the police but to the place of its erection at New Pallas has been safely accomplished, the peasantry being overawed by overwhelming forces of soldiers, who pitched six tents, in which twenty-five police were camped to protect the men engaged in the erection of the hut. Two hundred of the Chesham division of marines, who were recently ordered to Ireland, but whose departure was postponed, will start next week. A large force of police accompanied by infantry and artillery, proceeded to New Pallas at seven o'clock this morning to quell the disturbance there. The Times says:—"The appointment of Mr. Shaw Lefevre, secretary to the Admiralty, to succeed William P. Adam as First Commissioner of Works is significant. His views as regards Irish land are well known. He has made himself the special champion of clauses in the land act of 1870 intended to facilitate the purchase of holdings by occupiers. In conducting Irish measures especially he will doubtless prove an able Lieutenant to Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Foster."

London, December 1.—The land meeting at Ballycastle, County Antrim, yesterday was a failure; only two hundred persons were present, and the speakers were hissed.

Dublin, December 1.—At a meeting of the Land League to-day it was said that several Orangemen were members of the League, and that branches of the League had been established in every county of Ulster.

New York, December 1.—The Brooklyn Land Leaguers has just appointed a committee to confer with New York members in reference to Ireland to defend Mr. Parnell and the other indicted members of the League. Nearly \$200 was subscribed for the defence fund.

London, December 2.—A Paris despatch says it is stated that the Land League have invited Louis E. Michel, Communist to lecture in Ireland.

Dublin, December 1.—There is great excitement at Waterford by the constant public and large sale of arms.

Dublin, December 2.—The High Sheriff of one of the most important counties in Ireland, states that not one-fourth of the illegal and

seditions acts of the people are reported. Twenty outrages have occurred in his district the last two months. Several members of League are contributing to leading Austrian, French and Italian newspapers, creating a public opinion in favor of their cause. Lord Lurgan has refused the petition of 600 of his tenants asking 50 per cent abatement of rents. He will give 10 per cent. This is the first conflict between landlord and tenants on the rent question in the north. Lord Lurgan's tenants are rich. The Secretary of the Ballinagaderin branch of the Land League, which comprises 1,500 members, reports that a Presbyterian minister has been enrolled as a member. It is asserted that not a single town in Ulster Province is without branches of the organization. Protestants are said to be joining the League rapidly. The Fermoy Land League has prohibited a land agent from hunting on the farms of members of the League.

London, December 2.—It is rumored from Maynooth that the Duke of Leinster, whose immense estates in the County of Kildare, covering 700,000 acres, yield nearly £20,000 income in ordinary times, has served all his tenants with notices to quit. The rumor is credited.

Hoxton, December 2.—The movement to said American Counsel over to Ireland to assist in defending the Land League leaders originated in this city. Gen. Butler expressed strongly in favor of this scheme, but thought he could not get away from business at the time the trials would come off. Cablegrams asking Mr. Parnell's opinion are not yet answered. No action will be taken until he is heard from. The plan agreed upon was to send Gen. Butler, Gen. Roger A. Pryor, Jere Black and Emory Storrs to Ireland. There was talk of Matt Carpenter as a substitute in case Black or any others were prevented from accepting the retainer. The project was started in consequence of a rumor that all the leading counsel in Ireland had been retained by the Government. It is stated that American lawyers could practice in British courts only by courtesy, but that the British Government would not refuse to extend such a courtesy.

Dublin, December 2.—Evidence of wide, rapid spread of Land League terrorism in districts, hitherto peaceable, is increasing daily. Owners and agents complain that the state of affairs is worse than a month ago. There is now almost a universal suspension of the payment of rent.

London, December 2.—The Times' Dublin correspondent says that evidence of the wide and rapid spread of Land League terrorism in districts hitherto peaceable is increasing daily. Honest tenant farmers win under the tyrannical pressure put on them by the League, and earnestly desire to be relieved therefrom. Owners and agents complain that the state of affairs is worse than it was a month ago. There is now an almost universal suspension of the payment of rent, if it is the valuation only being offered on every estate in every district under the influence of the League. The Dublin correspondent of the Times says the next proceeding in the State prosecution will be the striking of a special jury; this, however, will not take place for some days. The Dublin Freeman's Journal announces that Parnell has suddenly returned to that city on important political business.

Dublin, December 2.—Mr. Parnell and the other Land Leaguers have asked a postponement of their trial until after the 25th. A private in 3rd Dragoon, stationed at Ballinacollig, was to-day shot and badly wounded. Police Sergeant O'Connor was nearly brutally murdered at Claremorris to-day, being hit by a bullet and kicked by the mob. Minor outrages are increasing throughout Ireland.

Dublin, December 3.—The Government has resolved to prosecute Garger, the proprietor of the Sligo Champion, for the alleged treasonable utterances of that journal in connection with the existing state of the country, and for its defence of the Land League.

London, December 3.—Three hundred additional marines sailed from Portsmouth for Dublin to-day. Irish landlords will evoke English sympathies by holding a series of meetings throughout England. Doctor Grimshaw, Irish Registrar-General, has been threatened with death.

Dublin, December 3.—The county of Leitrim has been proclaimed to be in a state of disturbance. An Orange proclamation has been extensively placarded throughout the county of Ulster, appealing to Protestants to prevent land meetings being held. It is feared that disturbances will certainly follow. The report of the Land Commissioners on Ireland will be completed within a fortnight, testimony having been received from every county in Ireland. The report will become a part of the Government's argument for land reform.

Dublin, December 4.—Dr. Thomas W. Grimshaw, Registrar-General, has received a threatening letter for refusing to dismiss a pensioner employed by him as a gardener on his estate near Dublin. He has obtained police protection.

London, December 4.—A manifesto to the Orangemen of County Down, commending the course recommended in the resolution of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, to organize counter demonstrations on the same days and at the same places which are appointed for Land League meetings, has received ten thousand signatures, collected in two days.

Dublin, December 5.—Mr. Parnell, in addressing a land meeting at Waterford to-day, said Mr. Gladstone dare not propose a satisfactory solution of the land difficulty. He thought that the collapse of the Cabinet was certain. Waterford was en fête to-day on occasion of the greatest land meeting held yet. Parnell was present and addressed the multitude. This evening he was given a grand banquet, and to-morrow will be presented with the freedom of the city.

London, December 4.—The principal interest in the Court of Queen's Bench to-day was in the decision of the application to postpone the trials of Mr. Parnell and others. An

affidavit of Mr. Parnell was submitted showing that his parliamentary duties would be interfered with if he were kept from the Commons while the trial was going on, and that he had done everything he could to get an early trial. The Attorney-General said that Mr. Parnell's position, parliamentary or otherwise, was no consequence. The Court must mete out equal justice to all. Up to this point no one in Court had an idea of what the decision would be. Mr. Parnell was not in Court. The only League member present was Mr. Egan, who was feeling somewhat uncomfortable in consequence of the cutting sarcasm of the Lord Chief-Justice earlier in the day, when, in the Evening Mailcase, he had complained that the application against that paper was not on the part of all the traversers, but "only of Mr. Parnell, who might be regarded as their head. The League lawyers were confident of a postponement. When Mr. McDonough sat down and the Chief-Justice arose, the former wore a half smile of confidence on his face, and seemed to be impatient for a decision. But at the first sentence of Chief Justice May, Mr. McDonough's glasses dropped from his nose, his eyes started out and every one in the Court was suddenly appalled at the scathing and astonishing words which dropped from the speaker's lips. The Chief Justice, in giving judgment, said that for several months the country had been in a state of anarchy. A large portion of the people, instigated by the Land League, had practised a system of dishonesty. Owing to an unauthorized conspiracy people were so terrified that they were afraid to assert their rights. If Mr. Parnell had to complain of anything it was of himself and his associates. He had endeavored to procure alterations of the law by violent speeches and menaces, and he had no one but himself to thank if he was in an awkward position in regard to his parliamentary duties. The application was refused.

Judgment was delivered to-day in the case Land Leaguers against the Evening Mail. The attachment was refused, though the costs are to be paid by each party as a matter of justice, though two of the Mail articles were objectionable. Justice Barry summed up the united opinion of the Bench when he said: "If defendants who move for this attachment had suspended or even withdrawn from their agitation during the pendency of the prosecution he could then understand that their trial should not be prejudiced by hostile criticism on what has passed. But so far from suspending or withdrawing from the agitation it is carried on with undiminished vigor. Meetings are held, speeches are made, and all the machinery of the Land League are kept energetically at work. For us then to grant an attachment upon articles other than those I have specified would be simply to make an order that while defendants and their organization are at liberty to do, say or publish whatever they think fit for the prosecution of their political purposes, no voice is to be raised and no pen is to be wielded on behalf of those who believe their most vital interests to be menaced and assailed. Such a proposition seems to me entirely unreasonable and one that the Court could not accede to." The Court then granted an order in tandem to defer from similar publications in the short interval previous to the trials, but ruled that the attachment applied for should not be issued and there be no costs. Justices O'Brien and Fitzgerald concurred in the Chief Justice's opinion. The order was made absolute, but the Court ordered that no attachment should be issued. The effect of this will be to prevent similar publications pending the State trials. Justice Fitzgerald said he would be inclined to make no order at all. The position of the traversers, he said, would have been different if they themselves refrained from endeavoring to throw odium on the prosecutions of Land Leaguers. If the Attorney-General had moved for an attachment he feared the Court would have had to attach these same traversers.

Dublin, Dec. 6.—It is stated the refusal of the application for the postponement of the State trials has caused alarm in the ranks of the Land Leaguers. While delivering his decision the Chief Justice seemed greatly excited. It is understood Mr. Parnell and others of the indicted gentlemen will attempt to go to London to attend Parliament. It is also understood in that case they will be arrested. It is thought with the five indicted Irish members out of the way almost any land bill can be passed in the House of Commons. It is said the Irish member of Parliament who showed no sympathy with the Land League received a threatening letter and fled to England.

New York, December 5.—The Tribune's London cable says:—"The wild proposal of Gen. Butler to defend Mr. Parnell is absurd. No foreigner is allowed to plead in Ireland."

Waterford, Dublin, December 6.—At the land meeting yesterday Mr. Parnell denounced the Government as too weak to deal with the land subject. He said the Government hoped to crush the movement by depriving the people of their representatives in Parliament, but nothing now could put down the agitation until the tiller of the soil became the owner. Mr. Parnell charged the Government with entering into a conspiracy against the Irish people, and said: "Mild justice-giving" meaning assassination, "was only attempted when there was organization" meaning "Boycotting," etc. A proposition to confer the freedom of the city on Mr. Parnell was carried with considerable opposition. The dissenting members of the Municipal Council have been more or less "Boycotted." Wholesale intimidation was exercised to compel co-operation in the arrangements for the reception of Parnell. The windows of several establishments were smashed, when it became known the owners would not join the popular movement. In two cases a watch was constantly kept to see that no business was done there. The inhabitants had to join in the rejoicings of their houses attacked. Trade was destroyed, and the result was that almost every business house was decorated with flags.

CRIME IN IRELAND.

Sir,—The absorbing topic of the hour is, essentially, Ireland. In the mill, in the market-place, in the mansion, and in the cottage, Ireland is the burning question. And no wonder, for, at every turn, huge posters, announcing in glaring characters, more murders and fresh plots in that country present themselves to our view. Poor Pat, with the conventional knee-breeches, long-tail coat, and prolonged upper lip, has served as a study for many of our rising artists, who appear to have been animated with the one idea—to make him as repulsive as possible. In this they have succeeded admirably, as the illustrated papers testify. From observation, however, of my fellow-countrymen, I fail to detect any similarity between them and these absurd caricatures; and the only conclusion I can arrive at is that these zealous pencilers have, perhaps, their own photographs at hand. At one time Pat is seen behind a hedge waiting for a victim; at another posing up a threatening notice; but always "armed and well prepared," and in the most aggressive attitude. No wonder, then, I repeat, that we hear honest Englishmen declare that the whole race should be exterminated; and pious old ladies assure that the Irish—the dreadful Irish—are worse than Zulus. It does not surprise me that such ejaculations should escape their lips, nor their belief (and it is general) that Ireland is a nest of assassins, and that its verdant hill and valleys bristle with the bayonets of a peasantry to whom outrage has become a duty. The perusal of the daily papers, with their lists of murders, manufactured by bigoted correspondents in Dublin, leaves them no other alternative. I say "manufactured," advisedly, and I shall attempt to prove it. "Murder is no longer considered a crime by the main body of the Irish people. Murderers are considered heroes and public benefactors." This, culled from a leading London daily, is improved upon by a provincial journal which declares that "Murders are of daily occurrence in the Sister Isle." These are specimens of what are being served up for the breakfast table of the newspaper-reading public of England.

Now let us see if the assertion of this authority, "that murders are of daily occurrence" is borne out by facts. If it be true, there must have been perpetrated in Ireland since the commencement of the agitation, three months ago, no fewer than eighty-four murders! I shall leave your readers to see how strangely at variance this is with the fact that only five murders, agrarian or otherwise, have been committed.

Taking a peep at the criminal calendar of peaceful, law-abiding England, for the same period, we find no fewer than twenty-four murders have taken place! Four of these, including the diabolical outrage at Acton, were perpetrated in one week. Most of the learned judges at the recent assizes complained of the state of their respective calendars. The prisons teem with criminals; there are men and women now under sentence of death, yet we never hear, or read of, "Crime in England." Would it be unfair to ask the editors of those papers which are dealing out such outrageous nonsense about Ireland to their readers, and who are daily clamouring for coercion, suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act and other pains and penalties for our afflicted countrymen, to look at home, and think of some plan to prevent the outrages on defenceless women and children which are of daily occurrence in this country. I think that by so doing they would be fulfilling the duties of their position much better than by holding up as a martyr the Irish landlord, and urging on the Government to add to the already too-heavy burdens borne by the poorest, most down-trodden, yet most virtuous peasantry in the world.

Is it not a satire, sir, on the ideas of justice possessed by the editors of the English Press—the self-constituted mouthpieces of freedom—throughout the world, that while in one column they rave for coercion and repressive measures unknown in free countries, for Ireland, in another they weep over the miseries endured by the subjects of the Salt and the Czar.

My object in writing this is to lay a few facts before the English Catholic portion of your readers, and to help to clear away any false impressions they may have gained by perusal of the English papers of the state of affairs in our ancient Catholic land.

Your obedient servant,
FRANCIS J. BRADLEY.

In Liverpool Catholic Times.

ARCHBISHOP McHALE ON THE KNOCK APPARTIONS.

Bishop O'Hara, of the Scranton, Pa., diocese, who has recently returned from an extended pilgrimage to Rome and the noted places of pilgrimage, preached at the Cathedral in Scranton, Nov. 21, before an immense congregation, giving a graphic description of the gracious reception accorded to himself and Bishop Shanahan, of Harrisburg, by Pope Leo. Bishop O'Hara described his visit to Knock, the obscure Irish village recently made famous, and said that it was especially interesting. Before going to the chapel, he called on Archbishop McHale of Tuam, who, although over ninety years old, is still clear of mind and vigorous of intellect. While at breakfast with this venerable prelate, Bishop O'Hara intimated his intention of visiting Knock, and found the Archbishop somewhat reticent on the subject. He finally said that so far there had been no evidence presented to warrant the approval or disapproval of the manifestations. He had appointed a committee of the clergy, however, to inquire into the matter and they were still engaged in the investigation.