

power to secure redress to our honour by diplomatic means. And it inaugurates an era of mutual discourtesy, from which both countries may suffer, while neither will gain anything."

To know who are the men best calculated to deal with Ireland in the present crises—the English Liberals or Conservatives—let any one read the speeches recently delivered by Lord Salisbury and John Bright. The noble Earl is very cynical of course, and has a great many uncomplimentary things to say of his political opponents, but he speaks first of all and always as a landlord. He has a fellow feeling with the Irish landlords, but has no word of sympathy for the poor people: the landlord's rights must be protected—he must be maintained in authority—in his power to raise rent and his power to evict, while the tenant is to have no right but to be content in his miserable lot or emigrate at his own expense. The Earl is furious at the Government because it has not been more violent in its opposition to the Land League agitation. The Earl would suspend the Habeas Corpus Act and put Ireland under military terrorism, doubtless, for he is a landlord and bound to protect the interests of his class. An attack upon the landlords in Ireland may raise some ugly questions as to land laws in England, and the Earl is anxious to impress upon the English mind the sacredness of belief in the first born son and great possessions.

To turn from the speech by the Earl of Salisbury to that by Mr. John Bright is to change the angry plea of a landlord for the calm and powerful reasoning of a statesman and patriot. He acknowledges that there is a great deal of excited discontent in Ireland, and he points out the causes of it, and then suggests prudent and practical legislation. Lord Salisbury would once more trample them into submission; Mr. Bright would create around them an atmosphere of content. Lord Salisbury would treat them as dogs to be whipped into silence; Mr. Bright would treat them as human beings having a claim to justice. Lord Salisbury's speech is a savage demand that the Government stand indicted for its continued hesitation to place Ireland under military rule, while Mr. Bright asked that the voice of reason be heard and the just claims of the tenants be admitted. It is well for Ireland and justice that Mr. Gladstone and not Earl Beaconsfield is at the head of the Government.

The Montreal *Gazette*—labouring under the stupid delusion, which it shares with the Conservative press of the Dominion, that it must identify itself with the English Conservative party—in a remarkably halting article on Monday last, adopted the views of the Earl of Salisbury. With profound ignorance of the real origin of the causes of Irish discontent and the tenure of land in Ireland, it says that Lord Salisbury is to be applauded "for his condemnation of the inaction which permits crime and violence to prevail unchecked and unpunished in Ireland." Now, will the *Gazette* make its knowledge of the subject manifest by pointing out how, when, and where the Government has been distinctly chargeable with this guilty inaction? As a matter of fact it has been sternly preserving the peace; it has refused to be frightened into extreme and uncalled-for measures; it has shown that the situation can be commanded without an appeal to war measures. Anybody—even a Conservative—could rule Ireland by placing it in a state of siege, but it requires firmness and wisdom to govern it by the ordinary means.

But the *Gazette* is not sure of itself, and makes it evident that the writer of the article is engaged in a hazy attempt to think the matter out; for it says: "But in considering whether legislation ameliorating the condition of the tenantry is demanded by considerations of prudence and justice, the Government is required to disregard altogether mere superficial evidence, whether in the form of a widespread agitation, possibly dictated by self-interest, or apparent satisfaction forced by the iron hand of power. It has to sift down to the real facts of the case, and weighing them in the light of all the attendant circumstances of the past and present condition of landlord and tenant, evolve a solu-

tion just to both the parties." The language is very grandiloquent, and would become the most approved tutors in "penny-a-lining," but it may be taken to express exactly what the Government is doing. It is trying to "sift down to the real facts of the case," an example the *Gazette* would do well to follow.

If it shall come to pass that the Government decide upon buying farms from all who are willing to sell at a fair valuation there will be no great harm in it. The Irish question might be settled with less money than it cost to settle the Afghanistan matter, which brought no return whatever—with less money than it cost to beat Cetewayo—with less than it took to storm Magdala and surely the money would be better spent. No harm would be done to anyone and good would be done to a great many.

Will Mr. Gladstone venture to bring forward an Irish Land Bill which will radically change the state of things in Ireland? is the one question now. The answer is plain—he must. Mr. Forster, Mr. Bright and Mr. Chamberlain have publicly pledged themselves to some such measure, and the loss of them to the Cabinet would mean the break up of the Government. Even Irish landlords allow that something must be done to put an end to the depreciation of property now going on because of Irish discontent. On the whole, we have a good prospect of a sweeping reform of the system of land tenure.

There is clearly no need for suspending the Habeas Corpus Act in Ireland, but the Government might very well adopt a policy of disarmament. There is nothing coercive in taking away arms from those who have proved themselves totally unworthy to be trusted with them. And this would remove a great source of danger and terror. All parties would agree to it, for it is only a needful and common-sense thing.

The London *World* says:—

"Stephens, the ex-Fenian head centre, is watching Irish events from Paris. He is only watching them, in spite of the report of the *Gaulois* that a new conspiracy is being prepared in the French capital. It is only the vanity of the *Gaulois*, which does not like to see France left out of any good thing; but, in truth, Stephens is powerless, and has been heard to say as much. There is plenty of sympathy between the French and the Irish, but no knowledge of each other, and therefore no chance of identity of aim. A French conspirator would insist on covering the priest with his rifle before he aimed at the landlord; and this very literal difference of aim between him and his Irish colleague would probably end in their making targets of each other."

One of the best bills presented to the French Legislature for some time past was that by M. See for promoting the higher education of women. The object is to give every advantage to the girls which the Government high schools now afford to the boys. The course laid down is, moral instruction, French, and at least one other modern tongue, ancient and modern literature, geography, natural history and a glance at universal history, mathematics, physical and natural sciences, hygienics, domestic economy, needlework, notions in *droit usuel*, law, drawing and modelling, music and gymnastics. Religious instruction is to be given, if the parents wish, in the lecture-room of the Lyceum, by the ministers of their respective churches, authorized to teach by the Minister of Public Instruction. The good and sensible intention is to bring a good education within the reach of girls who have often to live by handicrafts, and to strengthen the sentiment of nationality in France by the withdrawing of the country from Ultramontanist direction.

The inhabitants of Brazil are somewhat exercised in discussing the question, whether after the death of Dom Pedro the Imperial form of government shall be continued. That it has been maintained by the personal popularity of the present Emperor is asserted by many, and it is a current belief that with his death it will also expire. If such should occur, there will be another Republic to engage in the frequent South American wars.

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