

Meanwhile the shadows of evening had spread more darkly over the landscape, and the three friends, after exchanging a few more words, joined the rest of their companions.

As Martin had said, they had sent a last letter to their parents from Foligno, to warn them of the approaching storm.

'My dearest father and mother,' so Victor wrote, 'we are, perhaps, about to converse together for the last time; in a few days we shall meet the enemy who are approaching in overwhelming numbers. Yet, dear father, beloved mother, do not be alarmed; whatever happens we are in the Lord's hands; and is it not, as the 'Imitation of Christ,' says, 'God's work to help and deliver?' Then my offering dates not from to-day; I have fully consecrated my blood and my life to God, from the moment when he inspired me with the resolution. I renew that offer now in the fullest joy and tranquility of spirit, and I am ready, with the help of God's grace, to accomplish it not only with resignation but joy; and you my dearest parents, sorrow not hopelessly even should our Lord accept my sacrifice to the utmost, but raise your eyes to Him full of trust and confidence. Mother, did you not tell me that you would thank God on the day that should see you the mother of a martyr?

'Oh, my dearly-beloved father, forgive me if I venture to speak to you freely but fervently with child-like love; this moment is solemn enough to plead my excuse. Oh, father! dear father, turn at last from your erring way; resist no longer the voice of God. I conjure you, father, shut not your ear against the prayer, the last prayer, of your loving child; fulfil his only desire before he goes to die. Father, there is but one thought which will make the hour of death bitter to me—the fear of being eternally separated from you. But no, dear father, it will not be so; you will not refuse the last prayer of your dying child; you will turn again to the God whom you once knew and loved. For oh, there is a voice in my heart which bids me hope; and consoled by that blessed confidence I shall depart to my heavenly country. And then, dearest father, my spirit will look down happily upon you and upon my mother; then shall our separation be short and full of hope, to be followed by an eternal reunion.

'Farewell in this sweet hope, dear father; beloved mother, farewell.

Your VICTOR.

The letter in which Victor made so heart-rending an appeal to his father had not yet reached its destination, nor those that had been written by Joseph and Martin. Yet, as Victor anticipated, the newspapers had informed their friends of the treacherous invasion of the Piedmontese, and a long cry of indignation burst from every honest heart throughout Europe at the sacrilegious crime.

At the first tidings which he had received from the newspapers, Morren was furiously angry.

'It was just what I foresaw, unfortunate Victor. What put such folly into your head?—Weak father!' he continued, striking his forehead, 'why did you let your son go?'

Yet the remembrance of his son again awoke the voice of paternal love, and turned his anger against the invaders.

'The coward!' he burst forth; 'ten against one.' Then placing his finger on the manifesto of Cialdini, which was inserted in the newspaper, 'How?' cried he with increasing indignation, 'a traitor to his prince dares to describe my innocent Victor and his companions as drunken forgers, whom gold and plunder have attracted to Italy? Shame on him who thus dares to slander that company of noble young men.'

In his anger he tore the newspaper and strewed the pieces on the floor.

'Victor, Victor!' he sighed. 'Unhappy child, joy of my old age. Shall I never see you again?'

From that hour the old philosopher had no rest. For a moment he thought to stifle his grief by study. He took down a book of Voltaire's from his book-case, and opening it at random, he read:

'All our actions are the sport of necessity, which rules all the affairs of this world.'

He threw away the book impatiently. 'Oh, proud reason,' he said with a sigh, 'which can infuse no other comfort into my aching heart than a belief in a blind necessity, which rules over reasonable beings as well as over unreasonable animals, and impels them irresistibly and unchangeably on their miserable way. Ah, the teaching of Mary's book is more healing to a suffering heart.'

With panting breath and burning forehead he rushed out of the room to breathe more calmly in outer air. All the evening he wandered hopelessly through the fields.

Poor man, how should he find comfort? The only true Comforter dwelt not within him—his belief had long ago driven Him from his heart. Deep also was the sorrow of Victor's mother and the widow Van Dael, but they found strength and comfort in the inestimable treasure of prayer. Every evening after the anxious tidings had come, they went together to the Troostkapel, to pour forth their hearts before the Consoler of the afflicted. There they always found old Teresa, who spent hour upon hour there, and their united prayers arose for the safety of their absent children.

Both sisters had indeed strong hearts. Every mother knows what a mother's anxiety must be at the danger of her son, but they were both outwardly calm; they had always words of hope to support the shattered spirits of Myneber Morren and to dry the tears of Joseph's weeping sister. But what strength of mind was needed to enable them to do this, for their own hearts were bleeding under the intensity of their anguish? It seemed sometimes as if they would break under the weight of the painful uncertainty; and when they could obtain a moment of solitude, a flood of tears would stream from their eyes and sleep forsok their pillows; and if they closed their eyes from very weariness, fearful dreams would haunt their slumbers, and waken

the poor mothers again to the remembrance of their sorrow.

Mary's rest was still oftener broken by frightful dreams. The poor child, hitherto so bright and frolicsome, seemed to have lost all her cheerfulness. She would spend hours in her little room kneeling before the image of the Immaculate Mother, and when she awoke shuddering in the night from some frightful dream which made the perspiration stand on her forehead, she would throw herself before the image of her Holy Protectress, and receive strength and comfort in her prayer.

One night she awoke in such anguish that she fled into her mother's room. Mevrouw Van Dael had just fallen asleep for a moment. Two tears, the last she had shed that night, were standing on her cheek.

'Mother,' sobbed the poor girl. 'Mother.'

She opened her eyes, started at her sudden appearance.

'Mary, child,' said she gently, 'what has happened that you come to me in the middle of the night?'

'Ah, mother,' said Mary weeping, 'I am so miserable. I dreamt that I saw Joseph dying on the field of battle. He smiled at me for the last time, and what—'

And poor Mary burst into a flood of tears. The mother pressed her weeping child to her heart, and gently kissed the tears away from her cheek.

'Dearest child,' said she in a voice which she tried to render calm, 'why should you thus torture yourself? These are dreams, idle dreams, which you should try to put out of your head. Be of good hope, Mary, that Joseph will return in safety. God and God's sweet Mother will protect him for the love of his sister and mother. Go to rest again, my child; you will make yourself ill by leaving your bed in the chilly night.—Kiss me once more, Mary, and receive my blessing. Fear not, God is with us.'

The poor child kissed her mother tenderly, and returned, half comforted to her room, to try to forget her anguish for a time in sleep.

Towards the morning of the same night, Mevrouw Morren had closed her eyes for a short time when a fearful dream oppressed her. She seemed to see her beloved Victor surrounded on all sides by a multitude of wild beasts. Lions, pauters, tigers, bears, pressed around him, threatening to tear him to pieces with their claws and their teeth. The young man was defending himself bravely, but his strength already began to fail him, his breath came short, his arm fell powerless by his side; a raging lion sprang upon him, threw him upon the ground, and the whole band flew howling and roaring upon their victim, in whom they soon left not a vestige of the human form.

The tortured mother awoke with a loud cry, and looked fearfully around the room, as if she expected to see the fearful vision which had haunted her sleep.

The morning dawn had tinged the horizon with its rosy tints, and the poor mother stood, still pale and shuddering, by her bed of anguish.

'Oh, Mary,' she prayed, kneeling before the Mother-Maid; 'you know what anguish rends my heart; you know what a mother can suffer. On Golgotha, you drank the bitterest chalice of woe which was ever offered to a mother's lips. Oh, have pity on me. Obtain for me strength and power to persevere in my painful sacrifice even to the end. If it be possible, preserve my Victor to my love; yet let the adorable will of the Lord be done, who wills nothing but for our good and happiness.'

(To be Continued.)

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

A case was tried at the Clonmel Assizes which may serve to check the practice of sending threatening letters. The circumstances were rather peculiar. Stephen Meagher, who was indicted for the offence, had been bailiff on the property of Mrs. Pennefather, at Golden in the county Tipperary. In October last she changed her former agent and appointed another, who recommended an increase of the rents. A valuation was made, and the result was that notice was served upon some of the tenants requiring an increased rent. The tenants, however, were still left a substantial interest in their holdings. On the 5th of November Mr. Eschaw, the agent, received a letter in the following terms:—

'Sir,—I have been informed of your tyrannical proceedings against the poor unfortunate tenants on Pennefather's estate, near Golden. Now, I tell you plainly, there is a body of us scattered in different parts of Ireland, and we are sworn to weed tyranny out of the isle, even with death. Now all your proceedings are in the hands of a party of my corps in your locality.—I remain yours truly,

'To J. E.'
At the head of this epistle, which bore the Oshel post-mark, was a sketch of a coffin with a breast plate, on which was an inscription to the effect that it was made for an English tyrant. On the 18th of the same month Mrs. Pennefather, who resided at Bray, county Wicklow, received a letter also bearing the Oshel postmark, and which ran as follows:—

Mrs. Jane Pennefather, are you aware that you have lost the character of the good Pennefathers, who existed for numbers of years over the Golden property, without stain or blemish, through the means of John Eschaw, ye agent, if it is your wish to have him persevere, and carry out his designs he may. I give you this as a warning, don't be advised by a madman, he will do you no good, but a great deal of harm. Live on good terms with ye tenants as the Pennefathers always did, and your tenants will live with you, but if you don't send Johnny for the rise of rent as soon as you like, others got an advice this way before, but did not take it, which left

The handwriting of the letter was remarkable, and suspicious at once fell on the prisoner, who had a farm of 30 acres, the rent of which had been raised from 36l. to 44l. 6s. 8d., although he was retained as a bailiff on the estate. In order to divert suspicion he wrote a threatening letter to himself, and enclosed to Mr. Eschaw the following copy:—

'Take notice, if you intend transacting business for your tenant of agent Eschaw, and execute according to his wicked desires, mark the fate of Gorman at Ballycohy which you are shure to meet, judge for yourself, this is timely notice for you.

'To Stephen Meagher, Monnteen, bailiff to Mrs. Pennefather.'

A comparison of the handwriting with letters written by the prisoner to the agent and with a copy which he wrote for the police, left a strong impression that his was the hand which penned them all. A curious piece of corroborative evidence was given by Mr. Desmond Hill, an officer in the branch of the Inland Revenue Department in which postage stamps are manufactured. He swore that, from an examination of the three postage stamps on the letters with three others found in a drawer in the prisoner's house, he believed that the six came off the same block. He showed that the numbers belonged to the same plate, and pointed out certain indications in the watermark, the position of the crown, and the perforations of the stamp arising from accidental causes in the printing, which confirmed his belief that they belonged to one sheet. The jury found the prisoner guilty, and Mr. Justice Morris sentenced him to five years' penal servitude, reserving two points for the Court of Criminal Appeal.

At the same Assizes two men named Michael Ryan and James Burke were convicted of a cowardly assault committed on John Mara, a labourer, and his wife, in September last, and reported among other agrarian outrages at the time. The Maras were seated in their cabin at Cappagh, when the prisoners entered, and, remarking that it was a wet night, sat down at the fire. Mara had no apprehension of danger until in a few minutes one of them struck him a tremendous blow on the crown of the head. The two then assaulted him, and also struck his wife, who endeavored to ward off the blows. Both were severely injured. They could not assign any cause for the outrage. Mr. Justice Morris sentenced the prisoners to 12 months' imprisonment, with hard labour, at the same time offering them their release if they told who were the persons who sent them to perpetrate the outrages.

It is now morally certain that Mr. Gladstone's Irish Bill, more or less modified, will be carried triumphantly in the House of Commons. In forecasting the prospect of its weathering its second ordeal in the Lords, and still more of its becoming a final settlement of the Irish Land Question, we must not overlook the fact of thirteen members having recorded their votes against it. Eight of these were members for the King's County, the Queen's County, the County of Tipperary, and the County and City of Kilkenny. Three were English Conservatives, and we cannot but consider it a signal proof of Mr. Henley's fidelity to his political convictions that he should have consented to march through Coventry with the body of Irish patriots who resisted Mr. Gladstone's impressive appeal. It is just possible in disgusting what they call the 'Irish people' with the most liberal and beneficent measure which has ever been proposed in their interest. If they should even appear to succeed, it is just possible that advantage may be taken of their apparent success to postpone legislation in the House of Lords. It may be said, and not without a shade of plausibility, that unless the Land Bill is to pacify Ireland the sacrifice of economical principles involved in it is not worth making, and that it evidently will not pacify Ireland. Such an issue would gratify the dearest wishes of those who trade upon the Irish mistrust of an Imperial Legislature. It depends on two contingencies, possible, no doubt, but so improbable that we may regard their conjunction as an event beyond calculation. We might well despair of Ireland if her people should now deliberately spurn the boon which their grasp at the bidding of leaders who have done nothing to deserve their confidence and in defiance of earnest remonstrances from all their most trustworthy representatives. Yet Ireland might well lose faith in the capacity of an Imperial Parliament to govern her if a measure conceived and matured with so much foresight as the Land Bill could be delayed for a single year by the machinations of an Irish faction.—Times.

THE NATIONAL ANNIVERSARY.—St. Patrick's Day, 1870, will long be remembered by the people of Dublin. The national festival has never before been celebrated with so much enthusiasm or with so much earnest and happy rejoicing. The spirit of nationality seems to pervade all classes of Irishmen, no matter what shade of political opinion and religious feeling they may adopt. Through the streets of Dublin, on Thursday, the 'green immortal shamrock' passed as by a very extraordinary. Amongst the wearers the ladies were unusually conspicuous, and they made a lavish display of green ribbons and feathers, while a sprig of the triple leaf might not unfrequently be seen on their breasts or in the front of their hats and bonnets. The weather being highly favourable for the out-door celebration of the day, the city was thronged from an early hour with the youth and beauty of Dublin and its suburbs.—Dublin Irishman.

THE PRIMATE.—On Saturday, March 5, we received a telegram from Rome that the Bulls for the consecration of Dr. Conroy had been dispatched on the 26th ult. Just as we go to press we have received the following:—'Primate not yet definitely settled. Rt. Rev. Dr. McGettigan likely to yield to the pressure brought to bear on him for its acceptance. He is unwilling to assume the dignity. Should he persist, Dr. Conroy's appointment is inevitable.' From the first it was expected that the amiable Bishop of Raphoe would be installed as Primate; but the love he has for his native diocese, and the affection and reverence with which the priests and people of that diocese regard him, were considered insuperable barriers to his acquiescence in the dignity offered to him. However, it seems likely that these feelings will yield to the desires of the Holy See, and we need hardly say that it would be more than a source of gratification to the priests of Armagh to receive as their head this estimable Prelate, although it would be a source of sorrow to Raphoe to part with him. We are sure none would feel more delighted at his assumption to the office than the young but distinguished ecclesiastic whose name is associated with, not opposed to, his in the arrangement of this important appointment. When that appointment is finally settled, our readers will have the earliest intimation of it.—Northern Star.

On Sunday a pastoral letter from his Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Dublin, was read in the churches and chapels of the diocese. His Eminence says:—'Fenians appeal, indeed, to love of country to enlist sympathy with their designs; but they may rest assured that the adepts of secret societies, and all those who would excite our people to bloodshed, or other deeds of violence, are the worst enemies of our rights and liberties. It is not by such unlawful organizations, beloved brethren, that the interests of this country can be promoted, and your prosperity and happiness secured. The experience of the last few years, and the failure of those ridiculous attempts at revolution, such as we witnessed at Tallaght and elsewhere, have given the best proof that Fenianism and violence do nothing for the welfare of Ireland. But, are we then to despair, or to abandon all hopes of raising up our prostrate country? Certainly not. Last year the greatest impediment in the way of Ireland's happiness, one of the greatest evils ever known to exist in any country—the Protestant Establishment in Ireland—was removed for ever. At present the great statesmen who conferred so signal a benefit on this kingdom, and who still guide the helm of the state, have manifested their resolve to remove other grievances, and to heal other wounds

of Ireland. It is only by peaceable agitation, and the temperate, yet earnest discussion of the measures they have introduced, that we can hope to co-operate with them; indeed, I hesitate not to say, that never was there a period in the history of this kingdom when the great axiom was so unquestionable as at the present day, that whosoever commits a crime gives strength to the enemy of his country. I appeal, therefore, to those among the Fenians who have not as yet abandoned themselves to violence, or fallen into the abyss—I appeal to the young and inexperienced, who have been dazzled by delusive promises, or led astray by false advisers, to open their eyes to the dangers to which they are exposed, and to return to the practice of their religion. As to the leaders of this secret society their words of infidelity and blasphemy, like those of the adepts of Freemasonry are in keeping with their wicked career. They seek only their own interest, reckless of the misery which they entail on their unhappy dupes, and by their evil deeds they range themselves among those who are styled by the apostle, 'children of perdition.' Any one who reads their wicked weekly effusions—any one who reflects on the blasphemies they publish, and on their vile attacks against the Church of God and everything that is sacred, must admit that they are worthy disciples of Mazzini or Garibaldi, and are so those described by the Apostle St. Jude:—'Fuming out their own confusion, wandering stars, to whom the storm of darkness is reserved for ever.'—(Epiat. v. 13)

On Sunday last when the reading of the above Pastoral was commenced by the Rev. Walter Murphy, the officiating clergyman, a most extraordinary incident occurred. Fully 600 most respectably attired young men, who formed no inconsiderable portion of the congregation, simultaneously rose to their feet as the clergyman pronounced the word 'Fenian' at the commencement of the Pastoral, as if by preconcerted arrangement, made an obeisance to the altar, and walked out of the Church in regular order, creating no small amount of amazement and consternation amongst the clergyman. We understand that similar occurrences took place in the other churches throughout the city when the pastoral was read.—Dublin Irishman.

The grand jury of the county of Tyrone have passed resolutions similar to those adopted in Meath and Westmeath, urging upon the Government the necessity of taking special measures for the detection and repression of crime.

DEPARTURE OF EMIGRANTS.—Last night, a large number of emigrants left this port by the Liverpool steamer, some of them farmers from the Province of Ulster, of a very respectable class, and a number of tradesmen from about Belfast. The emigrants were mostly for the United States, Canada, and Mexico.—Belfast paper, March 9.

THE DIVISION OF THE IRISH LAND BILL.—The total number of members who took part in the division on the second reading of the Irish Land Bill was 450 (tellers included), of whom 440 supported and 10 opposed the motion. The number of absentees was consequently 196, or about one fifth of the whole house. The number of Irish members in the house, when the doors were closed and the Speaker put the question, was 78, of whom 63 voted in the majority and 10 in the minority. The three English members who followed Mr. Bryan into the lobby belong to the extreme Conservative section of the house. They were the Right Hon. Mr. Hanley, formerly President of the Board of Trade in the first administration of the late Earl of Derby; Sir William Bagge, member for West Norfolk; and Mr. James Lowther, one of the representatives of the city of York. The 63 Irish members who supported the government were—

- Agar-Ellis, L
- Anesley, John
- Bagwell, Col
- Bail, J T
- Barry, A H S
- Bingham, Lord
- Brady, John
- Bruce, Sir H
- Burke, Viscount
- Castlerosse, Vt
- Cogan, W H F
- Colthurst, Sir G
- Conolly, T
- Corbally, M E
- Corry, H T
- Crichton, Vt
- Dalway, Mr
- Damer, Capt L
- Delahanty, J
- De La Poer, E
- Devereux, R J
- Dowse, R
- Ednis, J
- Esmonde, Sir J
- O'Gonnon Don, The
- O'Donoghue, The
- O'Loghlen, Sir C
- O'Reilly-Deane, S
- O'Reilly, M W
- Pim, Jonathan
- Plucker, D R
- Pollard-Urquhart
- Power, John T
- Russell, F W
- St Lawrence, Vt

The ten Irish members who, believing that the bill will utterly fail to satisfy the just expectations of the Irish people, and cannot, therefore, be a permanent settlement of the question, opposed the second reading, were—

- Callan, Philip
- D'Arcy, M P
- Deane, Edmund
- Digby, K T
- Gray, Sir John
- Heron, D C
- O'Brien, Sir P
- Sherlock, Daniel

Bryan, G L, and White, Colonel—Tellers. Twenty-four Irish members were absent from this important division. Some (as for instance, Colonel French) were detained in Ireland by the assizes, while others, though present during the debate, left the house before the doors were closed for the division. Amongst those who were—Mr M O'Carthy Downing; Mr T Hamilton, Col Taylor, Sir F Heygate, Col Cole, Mr Mathews, Captain Archbold, and a few others. Of the 24 absentees, 8 are Liberals and 16 Conservatives. Of the latter the majority belong to the northern counties.

TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.—There are good grounds for believing that Ministers will not object to the appointment of a committee, some other independent and fairly constituted tribunal, to inquire into the operation of the existing regulations for the administration of prison punishment in respect of persons confined for political offences and into the actual treatment which such persons experience. These are pretty nearly the terms of Mr. Callan's motion, which stands for discussion on Thursday, in conjunction with another notice by Mr. G. H. Moore relative to the alleged insanity of two or three of the Fenian convicts. If the government and Mr. Callan can agree upon a selection of ten or twelve unbiased representatives taken from both sides of the House, then the appointment of a Parliamentary Committee is nearly certain; but should any difficulty present itself by reason of the Home Secretary claiming more than his fair share of administrative power, then the alternative of an absolutely independent Commission of Inquiry, composed of two or three Parliamentary representatives and a similar number of eminent medical men, will be urged, and if necessary, a division taken.—Irish Times.

The Objection Bill proposes to enable the Executive, on the Proclamation of any District by the Lord Lieutenant, to take proceedings against the possessors of fire arms, control over persons moving about at night; to have the means of summary trial without jury, against offenders under the act; to require compensation in case of injury to life and property; and it also increases the power of the law for

obtaining evidence. It was distinctly stated that this does not mean Martial Law. It would be premature to pronounce any opinion on such a bold House seemed to feel. God grant the Catholic people of Ireland may render the Act a dead letter, through listening to the voice of the Pope, the Pastors of the Bishop, and to the voice of conscience and true patriotism which tell them, that he is the enemy of his country who takes the law into his own hands, at the moment when, for the first time a feeling of shame for past injustice to Ireland pervades all classes in the other two Kingdoms, and a generous determination to undo, as far as may be, the wrongs of centuries.—Catholic Opinion.

'Anonymus' writes as a strong letter of protest against the pomp and ceremony with which, since the repeal of a certain Act of Parliament, some of the Catholic officials of the Government attend the celebration of Mass. He does not wish to see the symbols of English rule in Ireland prominently displayed in our Catholic churches, and we think he is quite right. When first the Catholic people saw these signs and symbols so displayed, and saw squads of soldiery attending judges and mayors, and from the gates, they look upon those things with a certain degree of satisfaction, inasmuch as they were evidence of the overthrow of Protestant ascendancy; but 'Anonymus' thinks there has been enough of this, and says the less connection, or show of connection, there is established between the religion of the people and the power of the State, the better will it be for Catholicity in Ireland.—Nation.

PROGRESS OF TILLAGE.—We are happy to learn that during the past month considerable progress has been made in getting in the seed for spring corn and preparing the land for potato sowing. All our reports are of the same satisfactory nature, the only drawback mentioned being the difficulty of procuring hands in some localities.—Dublin Evening post.

THE POLICE AND THE FENIANS.—The police of Sligo made a catch the other day of a poor ragged old beggarman. He looked suspicious; they arrested him. He produced a letter of good character from a priest in the neighbourhood. This was at once pronounced a forgery, as the priest was known to be dying. The old fellow swore the schoolmaster wrote it at the Father's dictation. The man said he was going to Tipperary; on him was found £132. He was last got dazed, and defied the police to get anything from him. The resident magistrate ordered his release, and the old boy went off owing he would bring an action for false imprisonment. Since then it turns out he was a Fenian emissary, and the money was destined to promote Kichham's election. The police are greatly disgusted.—Echo.

ATTACK ON A CONSTABLE AT AN ILLICIT STILL.—Recently five of the constabulary of Broughsherg station, while on revenue duty in the Muntelony mountains, observed evidence of illicit distillation, and accordingly proceeded with the utmost dispatch to the spot indicated by the smoke. Sub-Constable Patrick Feely outran his comrades, and was first at the temporary still-house, in close proximity to which were eleven or twelve men, who, with two exceptions, sought safety in flight, carrying with them a still-head and a worm which had just then been in use, but leaving behind them a large quantity of illicit matter awaiting the final process—so well understood by the Muntelony men. The constable at once proceeded to make a seizure, when Duffy, one of the two men who remained at the still-house, seized a grape and stabbed him with it in the left thigh. The constable then arrested his assailant, but becoming weak through faintness and loss of blood, he was compelled to allow him to escape. Soon after the other constables arrived at the scene, when they found their comrade in a very prostrate condition, and to all appearance dying. A cart having been procured, he was brought to the barracks, a distance of about nine miles, when his wounds were dressed by Dr. Henry, of Pomeroy. He is now progressing favorably, and is so far recovered as to be able to move about.

THE CHIEF BARON ON THE STATE OF IRELAND.—Chief Baron Pigott, in opening the Queen's County Assizes, addressed the Grand Jury as follows:—'It gives me the greatest satisfaction to call the attention of the magistrates, the gentlemen now before me—and through them to the public—to convey to them the condition of this county in this respect, a state of things which I am glad to be able to congratulate you upon. Since the last report, the total number of thirty-one. At the assizes of March, 1869, for the preceding year, the total number of similar offences was twenty-eight, so that the augmentation of crime—of that which really deserves the name—has been only three in number. I have not the exact returns for 1868-69, but they were exactly the same or one between them. His lordship in detail reviewed the various offences committed, in which parties had been made amenable, and went on to say—'And in what proportion of these have parties been made amenable. In fifteen of the thirty-one, about half the number, parties are made amenable. I call that a very satisfactory state of things in this county. The cases are not of an aggravated nature. One or two only asks what is the cause of that state of things I have more than once said something on that subject.—'What do we all find in this county? A large proportion of its proprietary, and some of these holding the largest possessions, resident upon their estates. That is an important fact when we consider the social condition of any district in this county.'

'STATE OF THE COUNTRY.'—After the grand jury for the Queen's County had been re-sworn on Friday last before the Lord Chief Baron, the following resolution was proposed by Robert Staples, Esq., and seconded by R G Coahy, Esq.:—'We, the grand jury of the Queen's County, deem it our duty to express our opinion that the insecurity of life and property, the impunity of crime, and the spread of secret societies, which now so widely prevail, constitute a state of social disorganization demanding the most serious attention of a responsible Government and the immediate application of strong and decided means of correction. The suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act (particularly in districts notorious for crime)—extended powers given to the local magistracy and constabulary enabling them at all times to enter and search suspected places for arms, documents, or persons—and the alteration of the law of trial by jury so as to legalize the verdict of a majority, and thus prevent any one, timid, obstinate, or interested jurymen obstructing the course of justice, suggest themselves as the means most likely to be effectual in arresting the present alarming increase of murder and outrage in Ireland.' Mr Blaud proposed, and Mr Michael Dunne seconded, as an amendment, that the resolution be thrown out. Mr William Kirk supported Mr Blaud's amendment, which, on a division, was negative, and the original resolution was passed.

In consequence of the occurrence of several incendiary fires in Tuam, the resident magistrate telegraphed for troops, and three companies of the 56th and 90th regiments were at once despatched from Galway and Athlone. They arrived by special train at 2 o'clock yesterday morning, and are under the command of Major Chaplin. Yesterday a troop of the 14th Hussars was despatched to the same point. Troops will be stationed at Clonroche, Dunmore, Newport, and Tuam. Other incendiary fires are reported, and horse have been threatened if they did not send out of farms. Arrangements are in progress for strengthening the garrisons.—Times.

The 'Express' reports the following group of agrarian outrages in the county Mayo: On Wednesday, March 2nd, there was held a tenant-right meeting in Lucon, where the usual style of speeches were made. On the Thursday or Friday following the offices of a Mr McDonagh, residing at Dunmore, about seven miles from Tuam, were burnt down.—On Thursday night, the 10th ult., the offices of a