

THE CATHOLIC SHIELD.

A MONTHLY CHRONICLE AND GENERAL REVIEW.

"*Scuto circumdabit te veritas ejus.*"

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EVENTS OF THE MONTH.

The Land Bill having passed the Commons, Mr. Parnell proceeded to discuss the promised release of the "Suspects" or political prisoners. Mr. Gladstone would not hear of it. Mr. Parnell persisted in his right. Mr. Speaker, ever faithful, ever true, called "order!" Mr. Parnell appealed. Mr. Speaker "named" him, and Mr. Gladstone moved his suspension amidst savage yells of delight from Whigs, Tories, Liberals, and—noisiest of all—young Churchill's party of imbeciles. "I call the public to witness that you, Mr. Speaker, have refused us freedom of discussion," said Mr. Parnell; and he withdrew from the Chamber, as the Sergeant-at-Arms, bidden on by the Speaker, was advancing to expel him. Mr. Gladstone, pretending to be amazed at this bold speech, declared that he never before heard such words used in the House. And never before were such disgraceful tactics resorted

to for the purpose of gagging the representatives of the Irish people. Public opinion everywhere condemns Mr. Gladstone.

If the English Radicals are content with the result of the conflict—if conflict it can be called—between the Lords and the Commons, there is not as much fight in them as we were led to suppose. Despite their threats and boasts, the Marquis of Salisbury has succeeded in amending the Land Bill to suit the requirements of "My Lords" and the squirearchy and property class they represent. We were told that it was to be war to the knife;—that the Birmingham Caucus, the head-quarters of borough Radicalism, had dispatched a swarm of stump speakers into the mid-land counties and the north to cry, "down with the Oligarchy!"—that the Democratic League, headed by Joseph Cowen of Newcastle, was sending out tons of that peculiar literature with which the advanced Radicals flood the country in election times;—that John Bright had written letters intended for publication in which he assailed the Lords with all the vehemence of his early and all the acrimony of his latter days;—that Mr. Gladstone would call an autumn session, introduce a still stronger and more sweeping Bill, and bid the Lords reject it at their peril. But when the decisive moment came, the Lords valiantly held the fort and Gladstone abandoned the attack, before the Birmingham stump speakers and the Newcastle tons of literature could be brought on the field. John Bright didn't fire a single shot, and the Commons made a complete "Bull Run" of it. So the Land Bill, as amended by the landlords, passed, and it is now hedged with all the majesty of English law. It is plain the Radicals have no leader, even if they have stomachs for the fight.

That the Land Bill which has become law can settle the Irish difficulty is not expected. The concessions made to the Lords were too numerous and too sweeping. "The landlords," says the correspondent of the *New York Herald*, "were given permission to drag tenants into court, thus opening up an immense vista of law suits and adding additional horrors to the life of the Irish peasant. Elements of uncertainty were admitted into the clause dealing with the fixing of fair rent, and the prospects of the tenant having his property