

much in excess of the supply as to place the fixing of rent practically in the hands of candidates for occupation, amongst whom competition was so active that in many instances it ran the rent up to a figure which rendered adequate provision for reverses either problematical or impossible. In tendering for land the calculations should include provision for unfavourable and disastrous seasons that are certain to occur. These calculations devolve upon the intending tenant, who of all men should be able to arrive at a close approximate, if not an accurate average of expected results; but if from his neglect, or from competition amongst his fellows, inadequate or no provision at all is made to meet losses that are inevitable, he, and not his landlord, should in equity be chargeable therewith. It may be argued that in accepting a rent which precludes the possibility of providing against disaster, the landlord accepts unconsciously or otherwise moral responsibility therefor; but, as the tenant in tendering a rent well knew he was voluntarily incurring all risks, the loss would seem fairly to be his.

However this may be, the landlords generally have acted as if the loss was theirs, and for a long time it has been their custom to grant liberal abatements of rent in consideration of seasons exceptionally bad; but instances are exceedingly rare in which these abatements, or a portion thereof, were ever restored in consideration of seasons exceptionally good.

With regard to the evictions in Ireland, enlarged acquaintance with the conditions of that country and the character of its inhabitants is essential to the formation of any opinion, in respect thereof, intended to have force. The peculiarities of the Hibernian race,—a race which, if possessed of “some virtues, possesses the counterfeits of a hundred more,”—constitute a study that cannot be pursued with success through the medium of newspaper reports. For the purpose of inciting them against their landlords, advantage has been taken of widespread distress, fictitious and real, amongst an excitable people, whose moral perceptions are slow to recognise mutual obligations. They were publicly counselled not only not to pay rent, but to retain “a firm grip of the land.” That “the labourer” is not called on to give “the result of his labour to the landlord” is perfectly true; but it is equally true that the landlord is under no obligation to give his land to the labourer. The landlords, seriously embarrassed, have two kinds of tenants to deal with,—namely, a very large number who cannot pay, and a very large number who will not pay, rent. To evict both is clearly their right. The results are, doubtless, lamentable; but that “agrarian outrages are the necessary outcome of such a course,” is a theory that may best be explained by Mr. Hiram B. Stephens.

To say that an Irishman is always opposed to Government is not only to follow a fashion, but it is to utter a fact. “The moment he steps upon the shores of a country he may be reckoned as a gain to the Opposition”; and so long as he can assume an attitude of defiance to constituted authority of some kind, he is not greatly concerned as to what particular Government it may be. To be “agin the Government” appertains to his normal condition, and in his peculiar form of antagonism he does not seem to be quite destitute of sympathy. Mr. Stephens does not seem to be satisfied with the people he calls English-Canadians; he accuses them of expressing their opinions “in the most violent manner about Irish Obstructionists” and then refusing “to express an opinion on the land laws of Ireland.” Violence of any kind is not characteristic of Canadians, and it would seem commendable in them to refrain from expressing any opinion on land laws until some one tells them what the land laws are; nor is it true of them that their “loyalty to England”—which ere now has shot into a blaze from Penetanguishene to Gaspe—“is liable to be rudely torn up at any moment.”

Revolutionary changes are, fortunately, not the work of a day; and the attachment of Canadians to a connection which they well know to be in their power to dissolve, peaceably and honourably, must have a deeper and more solid foundation than that assigned to it by a feeble minority of their countrymen, or to mere inability “to see anything wrong in British institutions.” Their sympathy with the South, in the civil war over the border, was of a kind to be expected from a people capable of appreciating chivalrous deeds, skill in warfare of a high order, and an heroic devotion to a cause which, if held by some to be “corrupt,” was believed by millions to have been sacred. Unaided by an active imagination, it is difficult to discern any analogy between that memorable struggle and the seditious discontent prevailing amongst the starving paupers of Ireland. For the communistic theories of designing demagogues the people of Canada have small admiration; but for the grievous distress in the Emerald Isle, the noble gift of \$100,000 in gold tells the tale of their sympathy. When Ireland is mentioned as “over-populated” and “over-taxed,” it seems to be forgotten that it is a boast of its political leaders that the island is capable of sustaining a number of people much greater than its present population; and as to that country being over-taxed, the reverse would appear to be a more reasonable assertion. The tax per head of the population in England is £2 1s. 6d.; in Ireland it is £1 4s. 1d. It may be said that England being the richer country, her people pay relatively as little as the people of Ireland; but when it is found that Scotland pays £2 3s. 3d. per head of its population, that argument scarcely holds good. The land laws of the United Kingdom are much spoken of and apparently little known. It

is not pretended to estimate the extent of Mr. Stephens's knowledge of these laws, but when he states that the landlords have had everything their own way, it may be suggested that there are some things in connection therewith which seem to have escaped his attention. The right of any man, or any body of men, to discuss the justice of laws is beyond question; nor can systems of government be considered in any sense outside of that right. But until somebody tells us something more about the land laws than at present appears to be generally known, the appeals said to have been made by “British officials” for help for Irish distress would hardly justify any expression of opinion respecting, much less denouncing, what is inconsiderately designated “the pernicious land system.”

With respect to Mr. Parnell, he may be, by some people, looked upon as “a fearless exponent” of what he considers the “evils of the land system,” but it is impossible not to regard him as a reckless slanderer of his sovereign, and the false traducer of the beautiful and virtuous first Duchess of Marlborough.

Such need not enter into discussion of Land Laws; but men have some regard for the character of their would-be mentors, and, if they have a choice, would probably not care to listen to those guilty of falsehood and slander.

Saxon.

CITY GIRLS.

I would at the very outset disclaim any intention of misrepresenting the young ladies of Montreal. I merely wish to jot down here a few thoughts on the most salient points of city life as they have appeared to me.

Having spent most of my life in the country, my impression had always been that the city girls were infinitely superior to the country lasses in beauty, intellect, and all else that makes woman worthy of love and reverence. But I have now found out under how great a mistake I had been labouring. In conversational ability the average city girl is sadly deficient. I have met but few who could sustain a conversation on any other subject than the weather, the last party, Miss A's dress, Mr. B's sweetheart, or like congenial topics. Perhaps it has been my own obtuseness, but really the weather has been the staple theme of conversation during many of my calls; we would talk of weather past, weather present, weather to come, weather in this country, weather in Europe, weather everywhere, until at last, being unable to weather such a continued dissertation on one subject, I would bow myself out. Now I doubt not that this really showed the ingenuity of the young ladies, because every time I would try to turn the conversation into some other channel of thought, they, with marvellous skill, would by the association of ideas return to the same subject.

Another favourite topic among the young ladies of the city, is the discussion of how Mr. Blank likes Miss X. If Blank goes to see Miss X. once, they say he is in love with her; if he takes her to church, they are engaged; and if he should happen to go out driving with her, why, they are soon to enter the blissful state of matrimony. The gossiping faculty is very well developed among most of the fair sex in the city. Of course they discuss and dilate on the faults and frailties of others in order that the hearers may take warning and not do likewise. They drag the dress, manners, affairs and character of their associates out for inspection, because they are admirers of Pope, and believe that “the proper study of mankind is man.” They say little and care less for anything of a serious nature. Speak to them of Shelley, that most emotional and rhythmical of English poets, and they ask you was he a historian or a statesman. Mention the “Raven,” and dwell lovingly on that bright genius, its author, and they enquire whether you attended the last “Pinafore.” Talk to them of music, of art, and of literature, and they vote you a detestable bore.

Many of them have very peculiar ideas of excellence, beauty, and greatness. They would think several thousand volumes of Patent office reports a good library. Anything that looks big and makes a show is, with them, worthy of all admiration. They consider a man great and deserving of praise in proportion to the noise he makes, and care not whether he possesses real intellect and genius, or not. They reckon a young lady's loveliness by the length of her father's purse and the brilliancy of her attire, and take no account of the tender, melting eye, the blushing cheek, and the arched eyebrow. They measure the worth of a painting by the gaudiness of the colours, and take no cognizance of those softer tints which gradually steal upon one and constitute true beauty in art.

But probably the most prominent characteristic of a certain class of city girls is their sarcasm—real and attempted. Some of them are really quite skilful in the use of this most dangerous weapon, and they make one feel all the time afraid lest his turn will come next. The use of irony and sarcasm is almost always of doubtful propriety. They are seldom used without hurting somebody's feelings. While they may excite laughter, may look brilliant and smart, still the object of their attack is often writhing under their lashes and vowing eternal hatred. A sarcastic man may be admired, his sallies of wit may be wondered at, but he is never liked, and never regarded with love and