

day, Mr. O'Reilly moved, and Mr. Taaffe seconded the following resolution:—

"Resolved—That it is the opinion of this grand jury that the religious ladies of the Order of Mercy should be admitted to the gaol, at proper times, for the purpose of visiting and instructing the female prisoners of their own religion."

The grand jury divided, when there appeared for the motion, Messrs. Taaffe, Foster, Black, Carraher, and O'Reilly—5.

Against the motion—Messrs. W. Filgate, T. L. Norman, T. Tipping, G. Buxton, A. Lee, H. Richardson, J. Bigger, Harpur, T. W. Filgate, A. Henry, J. Townley—11.

The resolution was accordingly lost.

The Dundalk Democrat comments as follows upon the above transaction:—

"We thought and believed that we had concluded our remarks on the labours of the members of the 'grand panel.' We regret to find that we were mistaken. The majority of the grand jury commenced and proceeded with their labors in stupidity, and they concluded them with as bigoted an act as ever disgraced the annals of intolerance. That act, so gross, so scandalous, and so disreputable, we cannot permit to pass without notice. Perhaps we should not attribute the act to the bigotry of the majority of the grand jury, but to their stupidity; for, as we stated last week, some of them are not over gifted with genius of a commanding kind. A portion of them are beggarly landlords, who know very well how to let land at a rack-rent, and put the screw on their unfortunate tenants. They have studied the 'law,' as regards notices to quit and ejectment process. They could tell you the amount of arrears their plundered tenants owe, and point out the course which should be taken to send them to the workhouse and the emigrant ship. But bring before them any question outside the range of these things, and the members of the 'grand panel,' of whom we are writing, will certainly be found inadequate to treat it in a rational manner. They immediately begin to 'hem' and 'haw,' and shake their heads, but to give any intelligible notion of what they think on the subject, is beyond their capacity; proving, beyond a doubt, that a man may be a landlord, and possessed of a large estate and a large quantity of ignorance at the same time. Let us now come to the question which the grand jury decided on Saturday. Mr. O'Reilly, on the Thursday previous, stated that, in conformity with the 13th rule for regulating the government of prisons, he had made application to some of the members of the Board of Superintendence of the Dundalk gaol to admit the Sisters of Mercy, to give instruction to the female prisoners of their own religious persuasion. The Board, he said, refused his application, as they conceived they had not power to act without the permission of the grand jury. The Board, we believe, were not unanimous in taking this course; but the majority of the members applied to give it their sanction. The persons who constituted the Board in 1845 were Lords Rodon and Jocelyn, Sir A. Bellingham, T. Fortescue, M. Bellew, J. J. Bigger, L. Upton, G. Johnston, J. Tipping, J. Townley, and T. Coleman. As far as we can learn, all these persons still constitute the Board of Superintendence. Most of them were not present when Mr. O'Reilly made his application, but all who were, as we believe, voted for the exclusion of the Sisters of Mercy, with the exception of Mr. Coleman. Mr. Townley was amongst those who refused admission to the Sisters of Mercy; at least, we gathered as much from Mr. O'Reilly's statement in the grand jury room. We do not know if Mr. Bigger was there. They are both magistrates, and we distinctly state that their conduct on this occasion proves to us that they are not qualified to occupy a seat on the magisterial bench. This is our firm conviction, and we have no hesitation in saying so. In a book printed by Mr. James Parks, of Dundalk, in 1845, and entitled 'Rules and Regulations for the Government of Dundalk Gaol, prepared, in conformity with the provision of 7th George IV., cap. 74; we find the 13th rule to be as follows:—"The Board are at all times to assist and encourage, under due regulation, the labors of benevolent ladies, who may individually or collectively attend in the female prison to superintend the work or instruction of the female prisoners; it being proved by experience that the influence of persons of education of their own sex, has promoted the object of moral reformation in the female classes, in a degree which could not be effected by any other means." It was in conformity with this rule, which, together with the others, was approved of by the Louth Grand Jury, at the summer assizes, 1829, J. Leslie Foster, foreman, and by Judge Jebb, that Mr. O'Reilly asked for permission for the Sisters of Mercy to enter the gaol to give instructions to the female prisoners. And Mr. O'Reilly was perfectly right in making the application, but the majority of the Board of Superintendence were so stupid that they, it would appear, could not discover the meaning of the words composing the 13th rule; words that are as plain and intelligible as that a mere schoolboy could tell their meaning. But, forsooth, they should refer the matter to the grand jury; and eleven of those worthies, without giving any reason for their conduct, voted that the Sisters of Mercy should not be admitted. It was not thus that the grand jury of Limerick acted under similar circumstances, nor is it thus that the grand jury of Dublin treat the Sisters of Charity, who are admitted to the prisons to give instructions to the female prisoners. We beg to call the attention of the eleven grand jurors of Louth to the following documents:—

"City Grand Jury-room, July 11, 1849.

"My Dear Lord,—I have been requested to transmit to you the following resolution, moved by Mr. White, and unanimously agreed to by the grand jury this day:—

"Resolved—That the highest praise is deserved by the Sisters of Mercy in this city, from their ceaseless exertions in the cause of charity, and more especially during the prevalence of cholera here, and that the thanks of the grand jury are hereby given them.

"I beg you will communicate this resolution to these excellent ladies, and assure them it is cordially agreed in by, my dear Lord, yours very truly,

"S. PRENDERGAST VEREKER.
"To the Right Rev. John Ryan."

"Park-house, July 11, 1849.

"My Dear Sir,—I have received your very kind communication regarding the services of the Sisters of Mercy, which I shall feel much pleasure in conveying to them, and which, I am sure, cannot fail in affording them sincere satisfaction. I am equally certain that your kind concurrence in the compliment will be duly appreciated by these ladies.—I have the honor to remain, my dear Sir, your faithful servant,

"J. JOHN RYAN.
"The Hon. S. Prendergast Vereker."

"One word, before we conclude, respecting the local inspector of the gaol, the Rev. Mr. Allpress. We charge him with neglecting his duty, in not compelling the board, as far as he could, to admit the Sisters of Mercy. He should at once inform the Lord Lieutenant that the grand jury and the board of superintendence have refused the Sisters of Mercy admission to the gaol, contrary to the expressed provisions of an Act of Parliament."

LORD LUCAN'S BILL TO FACILITATE EXTERMINATION.
[From the same.]

In our Second Edition of last week, we had time merely to refer to the gravitation from the Upper to the Lower House of Parliament of Lord Lucan's Bill to Facilitate the Extermination of Tenant Farmers in Ireland, and to extend and perpetuate that beautiful system, called by some moralists "the wild justice of revenge," to which the outraged and unprotected peasant is too prone to have recourse. It seems, indeed, that this fatal measure has every likelihood of becoming the law of the land; for Sir William Somerville—we presume, facetiously; but it is sad work, joking on such grave subjects—professes to think that the bill is "as much for the advantage of the tenants" as for the benefit of the landlords. Whatever Sir William and his masters may, in their souls think of the measure, it is quite certain they feel inclined to play this game into the hands of the landlords. And if the Whigs are far-seeing enough to perceive that the term of landlord tyranny is inevitably drawing to a close—that probably the next session of Parliament may see the concession of one of those instalments of justice which are never yielded to craven petitions or *effete* systems of agitations, but to angry demands, backed by a force which just stands on the very verge of the constitution, they may probably be anxious to give the bloodhounds one winter's carnage amongst their victims—for the nonce, "to let them feast, drink, and be merry, for to-morrow they must die."

Lord Lucan's bill, to which the Whig Government have promised their support, empowers the landlord to seize the growing crop for arrears of rent. By such a provision, three-fourths of the produce of the forthcoming harvest may be swept away by the landlords, in lieu of arrears of three or four years' standing. Another clause of this infamous bill forbids the tenant, under a penalty of ten pounds and twelve months' imprisonment, to cut any portion of the crop between sunset on Saturday evening and sunrise on Monday morning, and between sunset and sunrise on other days. So that if, after a long continuation of unfavorable weather, the twenty-four hours of the Sabbath should be favorable for collecting the fruits of the earth for the support of those who have cultivated it, lest landlord avarice should be deprived of one grain, the entire produce may be doomed to perish. The specious pretext for these thumb-screws for the Irish tenant is a professed desire to assimilate the "laws of England and Ireland in this respect;" but why not first assimilate the relations of landlords and tenants in this country to those in England? Would any English landlord dare to seize the entire crop in lieu of arrear? We think not; and yet to afford facilities for this is the precise object of the bill at present before Parliament. In England, the object of such an arrangement is to prevent the dishonest tenant from plundering the honest landlord—a just law in any civilized country; but here, where the relations of landlords towards tenants are admitted to be of such an unjust nature as to require a thorough reformation, it seems monstrous to arm the landlord class with deadly weapons against their unfortunate tenants, while not a single hope of protection is extended to the latter.

And this is to be the appreciable total of what Whig wisdom can devise in the matter of landlord and tenant, after seven months' grave deliberation in the present year, and God knows how many months and years of investigation, shuffling, and humbug before; to hand over the unfortunate cultivators of the soil, bound neck and heels, to the tender mercies of men whose cruelties and injustices have been, and are, flagrant, that no man who professes a particle of common honesty dares utter one word in their direct defence, and all humane and just men proclaim, with one accord, "this abomination must cease; in the name of the just God, let this iniquity disgrace the earth no longer."

And then the time at which this cut-throat measure is sought to be run through Parliament—the latter end of a long and tiresome session, and smuggled into the Commons' House at one of those select gatherings, where favorite jobs are hurriedly disposed of, called "Morning sittings"—exhibits the attitude of our rulers for setting up that which is really the misfortune and weakness of the country for what would

constitute its happiness and strength. "Whoever may suffer by such measures, Captain Rock or some of his numerous family will prosper." The jails and convict ships will be crammed by lawless slayers of their kind; while the legal murderers will enjoy their greed one season longer, and stagger to their doom like drunken maniacs.

This last act of legislative wickedness ought to have, and we hope will have, one solitary beneficial result, but one of great efficacy if rightly used: and, taking into consideration, we are disposed to rejoice at the delay of the Conference till August, whatever, in other respects, may have been the wisdom or unwisdom of that postponement. It will, we hope, satisfy those who have hitherto placed their trust in the willingness of the British Parliament to legislate fairly in this matter, of the exact amount of reliance they may place on the justice and wisdom of that august assembly. Amongst the masses of the people it will deepen the wide-spread distrust in the disposition or capacity of the Government to make any fair adjustment of the matter, and will enforce the necessity of seeking some means (legal and constitutional, of course,) of settling the business without Parliamentary aid. It, therefore, affords another argument for the formation of a powerful League, which, by laying some definite proposal for an adjustment of the landlord and tenant question, and some specific plan for attaining such an adjustment before the country, will centre in itself the hope that now is baffled by the British Parliament, and turn the thoughts of those who rely on midnight burnings and wayside murders for the redress of their grievances, to some safe and legitimate mode of redress. In the existence of such a League lies our only hope of repressing the agrarian outrages likely to take place in consequence of this very bill of Lord Lucan's.

STATE OF THE CROPS.
[From the Dublin Tablet, July 27.]

The newspapers have already begun to publish accounts from different parts of the country, which painfully vary the first and long-continued anticipations hitherto indulged in of a glorious and abundant harvest. The more dismal published forebodings that have fallen under our notice are from the county of Kerry. The respected Parish Priest of Ennis gives confirmation to these sad stories, by a like account of the potato crop in that part of Clare. Here, in the north of the county Wexford, the same gloomy prophecies have become more or less general in the last few days. Along the high road from Dublin to Gorey, the potatoes seem unusually healthy and abundant; but it is said that in all directions decisive symptoms of the fatal disease are showing themselves. What makes this prospect even more gloomy is, that for many miles round, I am told, the wheat—which looks in beautiful order—has been attacked by an insect, and seems, in great part, doomed to destruction. I examined, this morning, as fine a field of wheat as any I have seen between here and Dublin, and found that (apparently) in every ear several grains—in some ears every grain—are inhabited by a number of small yellow insects, which eat the grain, lay their eggs, and die. I am told that this calamity is very widely spread in this neighborhood. Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, it has rained here, and in great part of Wicklow, for at least eight-and-forty hours; and to-day, after a few hours' sunshine, the rain continues. The consequence is, that in at least one field out of every two or three, as far as I could see and hear, both wheat and oats are beaten down, and a great part of the oats, I am told, is feared, are irreparably injured. How far these disasters extend, I am not in a condition to say; nor would I confidently assert that a little too much alarm may not be felt at this complication of evils. But it is at least certain, that in this neighborhood the potato disease has again showed itself; a considerable per centage of the grain crop is devoured by insects; and the wheat and oats have sustained considerable damage from the rain.

Gorey, July 24, 1850. F. LUCAS.

LIMERICK, July 19.—I think it right to let the public in general know the real state of the potato crop in this neighbourhood. I have gone over a good deal of the district, and in all cases I have no hesitation whatever in pronouncing the crop irrecoverably gone. It had a beautiful healthy appearance up to Tuesday last; on that day there was a most oppressive, unhealthy kind of fog, which set in about nine o'clock in the evening. Next morning the potatoes presented most unmistakable symptoms of disease, in its most virulent forms. The fields looked as if a shower of burning lava, brimstone, or vitriol had fallen during the night. The stench from some of the fields, since then, is almost intolerable.—Correspondent of the Limerick Examiner.

GALWAY, July 20.—Potatoes are in both size and quality greatly improved. We occasionally hear of something like the rot having made its appearance, but we cannot find any confirmation of the fact.—Galway Mercury.

SLIGO, July 20.—The rumours which were widely circulated relative to the immediate appearance of blight, on the nights of Monday and Tuesday, have proved to be groundless, and must have originated in the nerves of the timid, or the imagination of some greedy monopolist. No symptom whatever, well authenticated, has yet been discovered in this town or locality of the disease on the tubers of the potato; and, in many instances where the stems and leaves appeared spotted, a few days after the apparent affection disappeared.—Sligo Champion.

EVICTIONS IN TIPPERARY.—Roscrea, July 19.—On yesterday Mr. Pigott, agent to the Earl of Portarlington, accompanied by Samuel M. Going, Esq., Sub-sheriff, and a party of constabulary, proceeded to

a street in the suburbs of this town, called "Boheen Glass," alias Green-street, and levelled thirty houses, in which were located at least three hundred human beings, who were in a most abject and impoverished state.—Nenagh Guardian.

EVICTIONS IN THE WEST.—In passing by a few days ago, we observed upwards of twenty houses levelled on the townland of Killemanagh, on the property of the late Mr. Murphy, salesmaster, Dublin. We were told the evictions were ordered by the Master in Chancery. May God have pity on these poor creatures.—Tuam Herald.

A SAD ACCOUNT OF ENNISKILLEN.—The following is taken from the *Fermanagh Reporter*:—"The leprosy of Enniskillen society is its gross immorality and beastly sensuality, accompanied by mental ignorance and imbecility. Too many grow up mere fungus, without end or aim. God is not in their ways. They are taken with the lusts of the flesh, and, in the present blaze of Gospel day, Enniskillen is worse than were Sodom and Gomorrah."

COUNTY OF SLIGO.—The Commission was opened on Thursday afternoon, the 16th instant. Chief Baron Pigott, charging the grand jury, said—The calendar upon which you will have to exercise your functions is remarkably light, both as to the number of prisoners and the character of offences.—At the trial of a man for stealing an ass, which took place on the same day, the following dialogue took place. Chief Baron (to the prosecutor)—How did you know the ass was yours? Witness—Well I knew him; there was no mistaking his legs. (Laughter.) Chief Baron—Had you any marks upon him? Witness—Faix I had'nt, but he had marks upon himself. (Laughter.) He had lumps on his knees and on his back, and one on his nose. (Loud laughter.) Clerk of the Crown—Had you any other reason for knowing the animal was yours? Witness—Yes, I knew his voice. (Loud laughter.) Chief Baron—Whose voice? Witness—The voice of my ass, my Lord. (Roars of laughter.) The minute he saw me he threw up his tail and roared. (Loud laughter.) Chief Baron—Roared! Who roared?—Witness—My ass, my Lord; he roared with joy. We were together for the last five years; he knew me well; and I would know his voice twenty miles off. (Loud laughter, in which the Chief Baron heartily joined.) The prisoner was convicted.

THE LORD MAYOR OF DUBLIN.—The Right Honorable the Lord Mayor sailed for London on Saturday evening to attend his parliamentary duties, having appointed Alderman James Moran *locum tenens* during his necessary absence.

WILLIAM SMITH O'BRIEN.—We (*Kerry Examiner*) are happy to find that the appeal we made in our last to the grand jury of the county on behalf of this unfortunate gentleman has not been in vain. The matter was taken up in the best spirit by even the Conservative portion of the grand jury, who formed the great majority, and on Tuesday the following resolution, moved by Robert Conway Hickson, Esq., Fermoy, was unanimously adopted:—"Resolved—That our foreman be requested to communicate with the Home Secretary, and to convey to him, on part of this grand jury, their unanimous prayer, that the sentence passed on Mr. Smith O'Brien be carried out with as much lenity as the due administration of the law will permit."

SHOCKING CRUELTY.—An instance of wanton and almost unparalleled cruelty has just been revealed in Manchester, perpetrated by an inhuman parent on the body of a child some five or six years of age. The woman is named Butterfield, and is the wife of a lodg-keeper on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. A few days ago some of her neighbors discovered that, as a mode of punishing her child, she had resorted to the unheard-of and barbarous practice of cutting out pieces of flesh from the buttock, filling the interstices with salt, and actually covering the wound with plaster! No fewer than four such wounds, some of them of considerable depth, were, upon examination, found upon each hip, and the amount of torture to which the child must have been subjected is inconceivable. On making the discovery the neighbors had the case brought before the magistrates. The inhuman mother, in her defence, said she had found the ordinary modes of punishment ineffectual. The magistrates decided upon inflicting summary punishment to the highest extent in their power, namely, a fine of £5, or in default of payment, three months' imprisonment.—*The News of the World*.

LEWES.—THROWING A CHILD INTO THE SEA.—Mary Hardwick, a miserable-looking creature, was indicted for feloniously casting her child into the sea at Brighton, with intent to murder it.—It appeared that the prisoner was seen by a man named March standing with a child in her arms near the Custom-house, at Brighton, and she suddenly ran down to the sea, threw the child into the water, and then jumped in herself. March immediately ran into the water, and having fortunately succeeded in laying hold of the child, he brought it to the shore, and then went a second time into the water and brought out the woman. The child, it appeared, very soon recovered; but the prisoner was insensible, and it was a considerable time before she was restored to consciousness. A man was upon the spot who was represented to be the husband of the prisoner, and according to the testimony of the witness, after the melancholy transaction had taken place, he was very violent and abused her, and expressed a desire that she should have destroyed herself. The poor woman during the trial appeared hardly to be aware of the character of the offence she was charged with, and she was evidently suffering most acutely.—When she was called upon for her defence, she expressed herself to be ignorant of what had happened.—The jury found her guilty, but recommended her to mercy, and judgment was deferred.—*ib.*