

when he brought in the Coercion Bill, was all that could be desired in point of tone. But his example has not been followed by the Home Secretary, who, seeing public feeling strongly roused against the Irish, has exultingly given the reins to his platform genius, and poured upon Mr. Parnell and his associates a torrent of gibes and insults, the memory of which will rankle when the Coercion Bill and the Arms Act are forgotten. A man will never forgive you for branding him, in stinging words, amidst the cheers of a great assembly, as a coward. The attack of Wedderburne on Franklin, with its well-known sequel, teaches a lesson to the masters of invective, which in the swing of rhetorical success they seldom heed. Louis XI., who was given to cutting remarks, said of his tongue that it did him a great deal of mischief, but that it also gave him a great deal of pleasure. Perhaps the Home Secretary would say the same. If he has laid up for himself stores of deadly hatred, he has at all events revelled in applause.

—We shall soon know what the Land Bill is. It will probably be none the better for the reaction which the conduct of the Irish leaders has created against their cause. Yet we expect from Mr. Gladstone no weak measure. For our part we shall deem the Bill successful just in proportion as it removes or prepares the way for removing that which is the root of these troubles, the existence of a class of native tenant farmers on one side, and a class of alien landlords on the other. Mere alterations of the respective rights of the two parties will not preclude the renewal of the land war in the future. It would be hard upon the English people to be taxed for the purpose of purchasing for the tenant farmer in Ireland the freehold of his farm, and resistance would almost certainly be offered to any proposal of that kind. Government advances are perilous; because the Government would thus be placed in the position of a creditor towards an immense number of hostile and excitable people. But the Irish farmers, it appears, in many