

which it conveyed, seemed to give confidence to the young man, for it evoked a spark of hope within him. He looked calmly upward as if to challenge Heaven. 'I am about to die,' he murmured, 'life for life. My reverence and I have determined, continued the doctor, 'not to leave you until your mother,' he hesitated, 'shall be out of danger.'

'Oh, I am sure of that, and I thank God who has given me such children.' 'Poor mother, I say nevertheless, for assuredly I am about to pierce your heart. You do not understand me. Yes, your children love you dearly. Listen, Mervrou. I trust that God will give you strength to bear what I am about to unfold to you; your son, your Joseph, has offered himself to the Lord for his mother's recovery. On the evening when you were in the greatest danger, he made a vow before the Troostkapel, to take service among the Papal Volunteers, if the Lord would be pleased to restore you to health. He had, at first taken counsel with me, and I had allowed him to make the vow only on the strict condition that it should receive your approval.'

sturdy and well bred men, who, if not opulent, are reasonably well off, and who, if not altogether free from discontent, are nevertheless of the number of the good subjects. As regards the number of tillers of the soil, they are in a somewhat better position than in the South, though not so much as I had supposed, the wages of the agricultural labourer being from one to three shillings a week higher; yet the condition of the agricultural labourer is certainly not, in any sense, unprosperous, though it has relatively advanced more rapidly elsewhere. As for the rent of land in this part of the province, I thought it decidedly on a low average, excluding the burden of tenant-right; I heard hardly a single complaint of rack-renting; and the appearance of the land, especially in good heart, and very seldom worn out or exhausted, strongly confirms my conclusion on this point.

though it is generally held in respect, it is, I think, losing its paramount authority. In some instances it has been rudely infringed, even in the counties that are its principal seat. When occurrences of this kind are found, far and far between as they certainly are, a feeling of irritation and alarm spreads through the occupiers of whole districts; the views of the existing land system, concealed before, are suddenly disclosed; complaints are made that the sacred usages on which the property of Ulster rests is being invaded and stepped away; opinion discovers numerous grievances which may not really exist at all; and confidence in the certainty of possession is impaired, perhaps over a considerable area. The result is that even in this region, happy as it is in its landed relations compared with most other parts of Ireland, a sentiment of dissatisfaction with the existing arrangements of land may be traced; a land question has developed itself, and a feeling of uneasiness, which might become serious under the peaceful face of society. This state of things, can not remain as it is; and, as I have said, legislation must in some manner vindicate the rights which, under the custom of Ulster, exist for the occupier of the soil beyond his legal tenure. Nor can landlords reasonably complain if they find that law, in protecting these rights, must interfere to a certain extent with the legal ownership which they possess theoretically, but which practically they have more or less ceded, and the encroachment on which, through the tenant's ability, must in some degree be ascribed to themselves.

to unite and help the cause of Tenant Right, despite of intimidation. 'Dessara's Brackets in Cork.—Some excitement has been occasioned in the city by an occurrence which took place this morning in one of the equidistant lanes of the O'Connell Quay, one of the worst quarters of the city. At about a quarter of four, a policeman suddenly arrested a man named Donovan, for the purpose of arresting him from the 81st Regiment, and a general whom it is believed there was a more serious charge than from where the man was sleeping; while the others guarded the door, Donovan was in bed and asleep with another man by his side. One of the constables, O'Connell, awoke the man, and instantly Donovan, who was the farthest off from the constable, pulled from under his pillow a ten chambered revolver. O'Connell then rushed across the bed, grasped the fellow's arm as he was presenting the weapon, and disabled his hand by a sharp blow on the wrist. Fortunately the second man remained quiescent. The fellow seems to be a regular desperado and he boasted to the policeman that had he not surprised him asleep he would have shot them in succession as they entered. The revolver was in perfect order, with all the chambers loaded, and the fellow had a couple of boxes spare cartridges in his possession. How he got possession of the weapon may be easily surmised and his resistance of the determined and daring spirit with which the lower orders in the South have become imbued. Donovan and his companion were brought before the magistrates at the police on Friday when depositions of the above stated circumstances were made by four constables. Donovan conducted himself in an insolent and defiant manner, and made no attempt to exonerate or deny his attempt to shoot the constable. He was committed for trial to the assizes on the separate charges of having arms in a prohibited district and of offering armed resistance to the police constables.

THE LAND QUESTION OF IRELAND. (FROM TIMES SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.)

No. 25. I have now visited the four Provinces of Ireland, and, adopting a metaphor I have used before, I have reached a point at which, as if from a height, I ought to be able to see clearly the country which I have tried to survey, and to take a comprehensive view of it. Yet, before I endeavour to examine minutely the land system of Ireland as a whole, and to draw out an elaborate account of it which, as I did in the case of the South, to indicate certain broad principles suggested to my mind during the too brief period I have been able to allot to a tour in the North. As I have seen only the best counties of Ulster, and my stay in the Province has been short, I cannot pretend to be as well informed respecting that great division of Ireland as I believe I have been respecting its fellows; nor can I expect that my reflections on it will be nearly approach a fair standard of truth. Yet increasing familiarity with a subject may supply the want of long observation. I have spared no pains while I was in Ulster to inquire about its general condition, and what I have to say, however incomplete, may, perhaps, be not altogether fruitless with reference to the Land Question of Ireland.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

Telegrams from Waterford state that it is generally believed in that city that the petition against the return of Sir Winston Barron has been withdrawn. The flying columns in the South are frequently varied into the country, and exercised in the various evolutions of actual warfare; that stationed at Limerick has been out a couple of times within the past week, and the officers are making themselves thoroughly acquainted with the nature of the country. The scandalous, un-Christian, and oftentimes inhuman practice of departing poor Irish people from England when they become chargeable on the rates, regardless of family ties, regardless of their having spent perhaps a long life of honest toil in the service and for the benefit of the country that ruthlessly cast them off in their old age, is now enjoying the attention of Poor Law Union guardians to a great extent. The North and South Dublin Union Boards have adopted resolutions against the injustice and cruelty inflicted by the operation of the present laws relating to settlement. The Rathdown and other Provincial Boards are also moving in the matter with the purpose of petitioning the Legislature. A Tipperary Tenant League had a meeting on Tuesday, for the purpose of laying before the public a statement of the condition of the tenant farmers and laboring classes. The Rev. Mr. O'Neill, who presided, spoke at some length on the subject. He said the Irish laborers were badly clothed, badly housed, badly fed, and badly paid; and he maintained that each 40 acres of land ought to have a laborer's cottage, a building fit for a respectable man with an acre of land attached to it. No landlord or farmer should have the power to evict him so long as he paid his rent. He demanded that the farmer should be protected and allowed to labor and improve his holding, to let out his capital, and enjoy the fruits of it. He called upon the tenant farmers

How are you, Mervrou? 'Thank God! reverend father,' was the answer. I have now recovered my strength.

What do you say, Myneer Pastour? Explain yourself, I beseech you; some terrible sorrow seems to lurk beneath your words.

That community in religion and origin, between the classes which fashioned the type of society in this part of Ulster, contributed largely to its state of things, is a matter that does not admit of question. It is equally certain that the result is not in any great measure due to the influence of a creed or of a race, as such, for it is not possible to draw a marked distinction, in point of industry, capacity, and worth, between the peasantry of this region, whether Anglo-Saxon, Protestant or Roman Catholic Celts. The ultimate cause of this prosperity, as I have before remarked, is the goodwill which knit together the ancient colonists who shaped the fortunes of this part of Ireland, and which has expressed itself in the time-honoured usage that affects the system of land tenure. It is interesting to observe the effects of this usage, which practically has charged the ownership of land with a concurrent equity for the behoof of the occupier, where it works steadily and in a harmonious manner. Tenant-right may be fitly compared to a plant which, transferred to an alien climate, might become a troublesome or noxious weed; but which bears wholesome fruit under kindly influences in a congenial soil. What theoretically seems a confusion of titles, and even a probable source of discord, is converted by the operation of custom into a mode of tenure by which the dominion of a landlord is not ill reconciled with an all but proprietary right on the part of the tenant, which assures and maintains the just claims of both, and which is found to conduce to goodwill between them. In districts where tenant right flourishes, without a suspicion of interruption, landlords usually have very great influence; their rents are invariably well paid, and are guaranteed by the tenant's interest; experience proves that they are less reduced by the charge on the fees than might be supposed; and a fair use of the rights of property, of course within the limits of the custom, is found to be compatible with the rights of the tenant. On the other hand, in virtue of the hold he has acquired through tenant right on the soil, the tenant practically enjoys security; he is not sensible of the worst effects of a tenure legally, usually at will he is not discouraged from improving his land by an apprehension that an unjust superior will despoil him of the fruits of his industry; he feels reasonably safe and free, and cultivates his farm with a sense of property. By these means what is most faulty in a land system critically far from good is remedied over a very large area, the equity of the tenant in the soil, placed under the protection of respected custom, becomes an effectual support for his industry; and the results appear in increasing wealth, in a gradual accumulation of property, and in comparative tranquillity and order. It has been calculated that a sum of 20,000,000, representing the capital of many thousands of farmers, rests on the security of this usage, and it will always be a matter of astonishment that one main source of the prosperity of Ulster has never obtained the sanction of law.

Tenant-right, however, in its essential nature, cannot be considered a good arrangement, or a satisfactory form of land tenure. Its inevitable tendency is to confuse rights in an ill-defined partition of interests; and, possibly, under a sounder system the agricultural part of Ireland would be better than it is. Ignored by law, and resting on custom only, this singular equity of the tenant of the North gives his superior an influence which is very assented legitimate bounds, though not so much, perhaps, as might be supposed, and, but for the general good feeling between them it might be a very apple of discord, a continual cause of jealousy and wrangling. In truth, it is because security and quiet possession are its usual concomitants that tenant right can be said to work well, but, abstractedly, it is no such effects. Its natural operation as the law now stands might be in a contrary direction, and what seem its inherent results flow really from the custom on which it depends, itself originating in local opinion. Moreover, immense as the sums are that tenant-right now commands in the market, the custom that upholds it is, probably on the whole, the tendencies of modern society and commerce are against the primitive usage,

An account is published in the Cork Examiner of an interview between the Pope and Mr. Maguire, M. P. for Cork. Mr. Maguire, the report states, was introduced by the Bishop of Cloyne, and the Holy Father entered freely into conversation speaking in French. He referred more than once to Ireland, and said it was with great satisfaction he perceived that the Government and Parliament of England had of late evinced a real anxiety to deal in a wise and generous spirit with that country; and that he had derived much pleasure that the Government was about introducing a measure to improve the condition of the cultivators of the land—an undertaking which had his best wishes for its success. He hoped that such a measure would be soon accomplished, and that it would be attended with good results in assuring the happiness and comfort of the people, God's blessing, he said, would surely follow legislation conceived in a good spirit; and he had reason to think that the intention was wise and good, which it must be when it was for the benefit of a peopled country. At the close of an audience of some length and of the deepest interest, the Bishop of Cloyne expressed an earnest hope that the life of his Holiness would be long spared to the Obsequy of God, to which the Pope replied: 'Ah, my dear Bishop, I am now an old man—a very old man—and the burden of the Church is heavy.' This was said with a tone of deep emotion. The manner of the Holy Father—especially when referring to Ireland—was grave and earnest; but on more than one occasion it was marked by that cheerful and joyous spirit which is one of his chief characteristics.