

once more one of the most formidable in Europe, though it is doubtful if it is yet a match for Germany. Marshal McMahon resigned the Presidency last spring and M. Grévy was elected by the Legislature to the Presidency. The great Paris Exposition of all nations was held under the Presidency of the former, an exposition in which Canada took a prominent part in and bore more than her share of the honors. At one time it was thought that France would be embroiled in war with Germany, but happily such a calamity for both nations was averted by the calm demeanour of France, but though apparently cordial relations exist between them no one knows when a storm may break out between two powerful countries armed to the teeth. The Republican form of Government has not yet altogether emerged from its period of trial and owing to the unsettled state of parties, the absence of a proper equilibrium, and the intrigues of the Bonapartists, several changes and modifications in the ministry have occurred, and are almost daily occurring. M. Waddington has lately resigned the post of First Minister, and his successor, M. Freycinet has been called upon to reconstruct the Cabinet. Gambetta, the great popular leader, is at the bottom of all those changes, but he will not come forward himself and assume ministerial responsibility. It is supposed that he is angling for the position of next President of the Republic. The infamous clause seven in Jules Ferry's Education Bill has been abandoned by the Government, which understands that France, while radical in politics, is still strongly Catholic and conservative in religion.

Spain, another of the Latin nations, has had her hands full with Cuba, but has taken little or no part in European Councils. Alfonso, the King, was lately married to the Archduchess Maria of Austria amidst great pomp and rejoicing. Spain has also lately had a change of Ministry, and is at present politically unsettled. The Province of Murcia was flooded last month with great destruction of property and distress to thousands of the people, but in this emergency the generosity of Spain was splendidly manifested, and millions of dollars promptly given for the relief of the inundated.

Germany, under the iron sway of Bismarck, has attracted a large share of the world's attention during the past year. This man of blood and iron has made the Empire feared at home and respected abroad, and though his domestic policy has been often threatened, at one time by the National Liberals and Progressives, and another time by the Catholic party or Conservatives, he has always triumphed by delicate manipulation, threats or promises. He secured an alliance with Austria, which checks the power of Russia on one hand, while on the other it tells France to beware of aggressive alliances looking to the *sic ut autem bellum*. Meanwhile the unfortunate Germans are so ground down with military oppression and taxation that Socialism is the result, and conspiracies against the life of the Kaiser, which has been twice attacked during the past year. During the Berlin conference Germany held the balance of power, and dictated to the plenipotentiaries nearly what she pleased.

Austria goes into the new year with an increase of territory and an alliance with the late conqueror, Germany. This territory was gained by treaty, in much the same manner as her heterogeneous Empire has been constructed from the beginning. She is gradually pushing her way to the East. In this she is assisted by Germany, which likes to see her ancient rival assume the role of an Eastern power, and have the entire German race at her disposal.

Russia is still the "sick man" of Europe, and is going so fast to the ground that its friends, if it has any left, are anxiously watching for her decease and the care of her property. Asia Minor is in reality governed by Britain, though nominally a Turkish Province. Bulgaria, Herzegovina, Roumania and other provinces, are entirely wrenched from her, while Turkey proper is ready for dismemberment and partition.

Italy has not furnished much matter for history during 1879. Victor Emmanuel died in the early part of the year, and was succeeded by his son, Humbert, who is following in the footsteps of his father. The "Irridentist" party has caused trouble, and will in all probability cause yet more. Its object is to complete the unification of Italy by the wresting of Trieste and Trent from Austria. Italy is now one of the "big" great powers of Europe, and is aiming to the teeth in order to keep up her new dignity, and be prepared for emergencies.

Greece is afflicted with earth hunger. She demands Janina from Turkey, but notwithstanding that this slice of territory was given by the Berlin Congress, Turkey refuses to give it up, and Greece is wrathful and belligerent.

Russia has been afflicted with internal disorders which prevented her carrying out the foreign policy marked out for her by Gortschakoff. Nihilism has become so formidable as to strike terror to the hearts of the authorities. Several daring assassinations have been committed by them, and notwithstanding the precautions taken by the police and the merciless policy in force against them the mysterious organization is still terrible and mysterious. They have made two attempts on the life of the Czar which were almost miraculously frustrated, but they have not yet given up all hope of accomplishing their nefarious purpose. Russia has been more than once on the verge of war with England and it is not improbable that the alliance between Germany and Austria may not have been the indirect means of preventing a gigantic war in which England and other great powers might be now engaged. Russia is constantly increasing her armaments both by sea and land and fortifying her frontiers adjoining Prussia and Austria. She has also sought for a rapprochement with France, which is undoubtedly on good terms with her, but whether in secret alliance the future will determine. Although successful in intriguing against England in the East and getting her into difficulty, her own expeditions against the Turcomans, who stood in her road to Merv, have ended in disastrous fail-

ures. Nevertheless, with her usual patience and perseverance she has lately equipped another formidable expedition which may capture Merv and Herat in the spring.

The Scandinavian nations, Holland, Belgium, Portugal and the smaller fry of the European nations have remained profoundly quiet during the past year, trembling for their very existence, as they know not the moment a great war may break out which will end in their absorption by the victors.

Crossing the Atlantic Ocean, we come to the United States, which, with one bound, has risen to the prosperity of former years. This is due to the succession of splendid harvests and the bad harvests of Europe, which caused a flow of gold into her coffers, thus reviving trade and all branches of industry to an almost unprecedented extent. Within the past few days trouble of a serious nature has arisen in Maine, which may lead to bloodshed, but the facts are of so recent a date that there is no need to dwell upon them here at length.

There have been the usual number of revolutions, or attempts in revolution, in Mexico and the Central and Southern States of America. Chili is engaged in a war with Peru and Bolivia, from which she is likely to emerge victorious and with an accession of territory.

As Canada is to us the most important country of the globe, we have reserved our review of it to the last. The Dominion, like the United States, has emerged from the bitter trade depression which has afflicted her for four years, and although not to such an extent as our neighbors, still the signs of returning prosperity are distinct enough to leave no manner of doubt on the minds of any but Reform journals such as the *Toronto Globe* and *Montreal Herald*. What part of this returning prosperity is due a good harvest, to the reaction upon us of the trade revival in the States, and to the readjustment of the tariff by the Canadian Parliament last session, it is difficult to say with any degree of certainty. As regards the effects of the National Policy, it may, however, be fairly admitted that it has not done as much as its friends claim for it, it has done something. After another year's trial political economists will be in a better position to state, but it we are to judge from the elections which have taken place since the establishment of the protective tariff and the enthusiasm manifested in the reception of Sir Leonard Tilley in different parts of Canada it must be admitted that the measure was at all events popular. One of the effects is that we have to pay more for the necessities as well as the luxuries of life, and another that manufacturers have had new life infused into them and been enabled to employ more men besides giving them better wages. It is those having annual incomes and salaries who suffer on account of the increased cost of living, but this misfortune may naturally right itself as business goes on prospering, for it is scarcely necessary to suppose that salaries of employees will be increased in proportion to the means of the employers and their increase of profits. The Government of the day has pushed the Canadian Pacific Railroad with vigor in accordance with their promises, and even British Columbia is almost half satisfied. An agitation for National Currency has also been started as a corollary to the National Policy, with bright hopes of ultimate success.

The vexed Letellier affair has also been set at rest by the removal of the obnoxious Lieutenant-Governor, a step which led to the downfall of the Joly Government in Quebec, and the accession to office of a Chapeau Coalition Government, Messrs Flynn and Paquet having consented to take portfolios under a Conservative leader. Contrary to general expectation, the Liberals carried the Ontario elections by a large majority, but as a general rule the Conservatives were successful in the elections which took place in the other Provinces of the Dominion. We cannot close this imperfect review without thanking our patrons and subscribers for the generous support they have extended to us during the past year. Through their exertions, and let us modestly hope, the intrinsic merits of the paper as a representative organ, the circulation of the daily has increased nearly forty per cent, while the weekly has been still more successful. We can promise that in future we shall use our strenuous exertions to so improve both papers that they will be present in every Irishman's house in the Dominion of Canada, and while wishing our numerous friends and well-wishers a happy New Year, we request of them not to relax their efforts, but to aid us in making the *Post* and *True Witness* what they are intended to be in their respective spheres, the leading organs of the Irish element in this country.

Irish Relief Fund.

The Proprietors and Employees of the *Post* and *True Witness*. . . . \$140 00

CORRESPONDENCE.

Christmas Eve at Rideau Hall.

To the Editors of the *True Witness* and *Post*.—It is pretty generally known that Rideau Hall, the residence of the Governor-General, is situated within the incorporated village of New Edinburgh, which, lying east of Ottawa, is separated from this city by the Rideau river. I presume, there are few outside the village limits who are aware that its population is estimated at nine hundred souls, all non-Catholics except the members of about thirty-five families. There are two Churches, St. Bartholomew for the Church of England people and another for the Presbyterians. Methodists, Baptists, etc., and Catholics come over to the city to worship. A public school in the village accommodates the children of non-Catholics, but Catholic children have recourse to the separate schools in Ottawa for instruction. This information, not of itself important, is necessary in order that the reader may fully appreciate the spirit of the following announcement, which appears in this morning's *Citizen*, part of which I take the liberty of putting into italics:—

"The children of New Edinburgh, comprising all these belonging to the congregation of St. Bartholomew's Church and the Presbyterian Church, and all attending the public school of the village, have been kindly invited by His Excellency the Governor-General to Rideau Hall on Christmas Eve (Wednesday evening) to a Christmas tree."

This little bit of superiority cannot be the design of the Governor-General, but of one of the understrappers at Rideau Hall, with a head on him no larger than a clothes-pin. No matter who the author is, however, the children of the village not attending the public school will survive it.

Yours hopefully,

"TROOLY A LOU."

Ottawa, Dec. 22, 1879.

A Few Remarks Merely.

To the Editor of the *True Witness* and *Post*.—

DEAR SIR,—In view of the approaching famine in Ireland, perhaps it would not be

considered wholly inopportune to lay before your readers as succinctly as possible a few comparisons, and the manner in which they have been treated by the respective Governments, whose subjects they are. Silesia is threatened with a famine, the autocratic Czar and cold blood immediately orders that food and clothing be sent at the Imperial expense. Hungary becomes almost devastated by flood, Austria assumes the care of the homeless and destitute. When the failure of crops in India precipitated famine, England devised an elaborate system of official relief, and rations were distributed to hundreds of thousands daily. It is a remarkable fact that while the British Government remains perfectly indifferent towards the Irish people, the English Catholic prelates are indefatigable in their efforts taking up collections for them.

Cardinal Manning, himself an Englishman, with very strong English sympathies, is the principal mover, and in an official document he affirms that, from present indications, unless substantial and immediate relief is at once forthcoming, a repetition of '47 will be inevitable.

The stolid silence of the Government, therefore, is certainly inexplicable, and is, in fact, an infamous brutality.

The Government, some time ago, promised public works, which are badly needed, should be begun. It is far from their intention to do any such humane act. Instead they have strengthened the garrisons, so as to better exemplify English charity for an impoverished people. The Irish Church fund still lies in bank to the credit of the Government. The amount now must be millions of dollars, every dollar of which belongs to the Irish people. Mr. Butt made every effort to induce the Government to use the fund for Irish intermediate education.

This would have been a humane act, the benefit of which would be felt not only by England and Ireland but by the whole world.

This, Beaconsfield with that bigotry of nature described by O'Donnell, begotten of an intense hatred for everything Irish, positively refused to do. Therefore, if the people of Ireland do not starve, it is only by a supreme effort on the part of the Irish in Canada and the United States to raise and forward immediately subscriptions.

Let the emblem of charity for once be enshrined in our hearts and let every man in this community, no matter what his nationality, religion or politics, respond promptly, cordially and substantially.

D. M. A.

Montreal, December 24th, 1879.

Church, School and Society in Belleville.

To the Editor of the *Post* and *True Witness*.

SIR,—The most important edifice in every city is, without doubt, the church, which, with turret above turret, spire above turret, and cross over all, melting away into immortal light, is typical of the sublime strivings of the soul to reach a happy hereafter. The soul of every community is the church with its pastor, and the greatness, I mean true greatness, of every people must be computed by their religious devotion and practical acts of faith. The Catholic Church, ever solicitous for the eternal welfare of her people, establishes numerous devotional exercises among the faithful, whose prayers, with those of the holy priesthood on such occasions, ascend to the throne of God, and then descending with benediction from Heaven bless and sanctify as with a holy anction of Heaven-like dew the hearts of the Catholic faithful. One of these devotions has lately brought its blessings to this parish at the hands of our esteemed pastor, Vice-Chancellor Farrelly. Monday morning of last week, the Forty Hours devotion to the Blessed Sacrament was commenced with High Mass and an able sermon on the Blessed Eucharist by Very Rev. Father Farrelly, V.G. The devotion continued during three days, with High Mass every morning, a sermon, Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the evening. Monday evening, Father Casey, of Campbellford, preached on Penance; Tuesday, Father Spratt, of Wolfe Island, preached on the love of God; Wednesday, Father Twomey preached on Perseverance. Besides the priests just mentioned, our zealous pastor, Very Rev. Father Farrelly, V.G., and his very popular curate, Rev. D. Farrelly, were assisted in their work by Father Davis, of Hungerford, and Father Mackie, of Tyndalton. More than thirteen hundred received Holy Communion. What happiness it must have brought to the heart of our good pastor to see so many of his people receiving the love of God in their souls and practising His virtues and Divine precepts.

The separate schools have just closed for the holidays. The different departments were examined during the past week, and showed great progress and proficiency. The girls are under the care of the Ladies of Loretto, who have established convents in a great number of the leading cities and towns of this Province; they have also a boarding school in Belleville, which is well attended. There are some five hundred and thirty pupils registered in the separate schools of this city.

During the past three months the Catholic Literary Society of this city, which received its inception last winter, has been very active. There is no doubt that the success of this society is ensured. The greatest good is flowing from its efforts. Essays, addresses, readings and debates alternately occupy the attention of the society. We have at its head an excellent gentleman, Dr. Kearney, so popularly known in this city. I salute its success with the words of Gratias, "Ego perpetuo" may it be perpetual.

Yours, &c.,

CITIZEN.

HOLY ORDERS.

Confering Orders at the Grand Seminary.

His Grace the Archbishop, on Sunday, conferred the following degrees with the usual ceremonies at the Grand Seminary, Sherbrooke street:—

THOMAS.—Messrs T. Blonigan, Green Bay; J. Fitzgerald, Oshkosh; J. Donahue, Albany; J. Donohue, Boston; J. Dowse, Springfield; D. Moutou, Providence; J. Wray, Hamilton; C. Regan, Boston; P. Irvine, Ottawa; E. Ranny, Providence; R. Masse, C. S. V.

MIXONS.—Messrs A. Belanger, Montreal; A. Martin, Montreal; J. Coyle, Hartford; T. Dunn, Hartford; T. Coghlan, Boston; T. McManis, Boston; E. Schofield, Boston; M. Connelly, San Francisco; J. Cronin, Hamilton; G. Dolan, Springfield; J. Donnelly, Albany; S. Halpin, Albany; J. Lynett, Toronto; R. McCabill, Providence; P. O. Sullivan, New York; L. Chelamel, Ottawa; P. Sheridan, London; R. Masse, C. S. V.

DEACONS.—T. Fabey, Montreal; W. Morache, Montreal; J. Forget, Montreal; J. Hamilton, Boston; J. Donovan, Boston; L. Gilday, Boston; D. McMahon, New York; J. Feeney, Hamilton; J. Quinn, Hartford; T. Vian, C. S. V.

PASTORS.—T. Gervais, Montreal; A. Menier, Montreal; E. Prieur, Montreal; H. Becker, Alton; M. Carroll, Springfield; M. Hart, Springfield; D. Higgins, Springfield; J. McCoy, Springfield; J. Murphy, Springfield; O. Clarke, Providence; J. Conolly, Hartford; W. Flanagan, Hartford; J. Fones, Hartford; J. Galday, Boston; G. Hoxmead, Dubuque; W. McGrim, Hamilton; F. Walsh, Portland; L. Meteyer, Oregon City; J. B. Manseau, C. S. V.

MR. O'DONNELL, M. P., ON THE LAND AGITATION.

His Letter to the *Republique Française*.

In the *Republique Française* of December 15th, appeared a letter in the French language on the land agitation by Mr. O'Donnell, M. P., who signed himself "Un Doyen Irlandais." "An Irish Member." The following is a translation of that communication which, we may observe in passing, has excited the utmost ire of the London journals.

Irish Nationalists recognize with indignation at the odious trickery of which they are the victims, but at the same time with the most lively confidence in the sympathies of the French people, the deplorable situation in which they stand before the public opinion of Europe. The English Government plays the part of liberator and reformer amongst the nations of the Continent. It asks for improved administration in Asia Minor; it poses as the protector of popular freedom and of industry in the East. Ah! if a congress could be held to deliberate on the manner in which England carries on its own internal administration! if the plenipotentiaries of the great Powers could only observe the English fashion of improving the lot of the farmers and tillers of the soil in Ireland!

Kropke knows that the state of affairs in Ireland is of the gravest and most disastrous character; its features are profound misery, mental uneasiness, protests by public meetings, marching and counter-marching of soldiers and police, the arrest and imprisonment of the popular leaders—in a word, all the symptoms of distress, discontent, and rebellion by brute force. In this nineteenth century it has long been an axiom that when a Government is in a chronic conflict with its subjects, it must have some radical defect. The English Ministry try to escape suspicion on this score by culminating the unfortunate people of Ireland, and it is in pursuance of the endeavor that the despatches from London are filled with the most abominable accusations against Irish patriots. It is sought to deceive the friends of popular liberty on the Continent by charging the leaders of Irish public opinion with organizing an assault on property, fomenting an insurrection—in a word, with maintaining an illegal and criminal agitation.

I do not seek to disguise the gravity of the accusations directed against the Irish people. On the contrary, I desire to let them be seen in all their nakedness, in order to prove that they are calumnies invented for the purpose of leading astray the conscience of Europe. It is the interest of the English Government to conceal its despotism in Ireland, because, if the truth were known, who would believe in the distastefulness with which it intended to be animated in its intervention in favour of the rayas of Turkey and theollahs of Egypt? But let Egypt not allow itself to be caught in the trap laid for it, England has millions of unfortunate rayas and oppressed fellahs of its own.

My intention here is not to raise the question of the claim of the Irish people for national self-government. Eminent Frenchmen have already spoken of the ruthless policy which Ireland was deprived of that soon, and it is well known that the people of that country have never ceased to protest resolutely and energetically against the hostile and ignorant policy maintained by their English legislators, who, if they govern their own country properly, would certainly be kept fully employed. For the moment the great question which agitates Ireland is the land question. While they do not cease to ask for self-government for their country, the Irish leaders are applying themselves with particular care to the defence of the peasantry against a system of organized robbery practised by a pseudo-feudal aristocracy under cover of the most immoral and the most perverse and code in the world.

The great French nation, with its seven millions of industrious land proprietors, can hardly form an idea of the wretched condition of Ireland, where a few thousand privileged persons have the legal right to evict from amongst them the five million working inhabitants of the island. It is time, however, that an effort should be made to enlighten Europe on a situation so revolting.

What, then, is this Irish land question? It is simply that the cultivators of the soil demand security of tenure in their farms as long as they pay a fair rent, the enjoyment by themselves and their children of the fruits of their toil, and in case they are obliged, for any reason, to give up their farms, equitable compensation for the improvements effected by means of their capital and their skill. On the other hand, the Irish land question, as it is viewed by the semi-feudal party, consists in the insolent and immoral pretension of the privileged proprietors to hold the cultivator at their mercy, to preserve the right to evict him at their good pleasure, and to cast his family and himself on the roadside, to increase the rent year after year on account of the improvements effected by the capital and skill of the farmer, and when the unfortunate tenant, reduced to despair and to pauperism, refuses to submit to such exactions, to confiscate to his own profit the produce of a whole life of honest industry. Such is property at bottom in Ireland. A distinguished English nobleman, Lord Clarendon, was so indignant at the spectacle that he called it slavery. The great economist, John Stuart Mill, devoted to the reprobation of this system some of his best chapters. Mr. Gladstone, when he was in power, tried to mitigate its cruelty, but he was hampered by the opposition of a Parliament of landowners, who were able to introduce only some trifling improvements, and even these were rendered illusory by a clause providing that the new law was binding on all except those who by special agreement with their tenants placed themselves outside the Act.

Naturally all the bad landlords obliged their tenants, under pain of eviction, to contract with them outside the new law, with the consequence that in many respects the position of the unfortunate farmers has only become worse. Here, surely, is a laughable legislative reform! All the responsibility of the situation cannot be cast on the Tories. The rapacity of selfishness is no less great amongst the so-called Whig-Liberals,

and it is only a fraction of the Liberal party which shares the enlightened views of John Bright and of Sir Charles Dilke.

Here, Mr. Editor, is the programme of the Irish party in Parliament, of the Central Tenants' Defence Association in Ireland, of the National League, of Mr. Butt in past years, of Mr. Parnell and of Mr. Shaw at the present day:—

1st. Permanent security of tenure.
2nd. Fair rents determined by a legal tribunal.
3rd. Full and ample compensation for all improvements due to the labor of the farmer, when he is for any reason forced to quit.

Is there any French citizen, is there any honest man in the world, who will not admit that the sufferings of the Irish peasantry are intolerable, and that their claims are most moderate and altogether just? To aggravate still more the situation of the Irish people, English competition has deprived us of the resource of manufactures, and, moreover, the money wrung from the Irish cultivators is spent not in Ireland, but in London. Does not our whole history recall those unhappy peasants who before the French Revolution saw each year the fruits of their toil snatched away by the agents of the Government, and spent in wanton prodigality at Versailles by a court of corrupt and idle nobles?

Observe, above all, that what the Irish farmers understand by a fair rent is a rent fixed, in case of dispute, by a tribunal of arbitrators appointed to sustain the just claims of the landlords as well as of the tenants. The Irish absentee proprietors, deaf to the dictates of justice and humanity, prefer to make the cultivator, by threatening him with expulsion, pay whatever they can extort from his misery and his fear.

But, besides the permanent land question, there is a temporary land question in Ireland, and it is precisely this temporary question which is the object of the most shameful misrepresentations on the part of the English Government.

What in reality is this temporary land question in Ireland to-day? It is the result of the permanent evils of the land system, aggravated by the consequences of an exceptional failure of the crops and of the poverty of the harvest. Even in good seasons the Irish cultivator experiences the greatest difficulty in procuring the first necessities of existence—the coarsest fare and dried peat for fuel. This year the rain has destroyed the crops in the germ and prevented the peat from being dried. Without money, without food, without fire, without credit, often without a roof over their heads, thousands of the Irish live in mud hovels. The wretched cultivators, crushed by the exorbitant rents which they have to pay in the best seasons, with a mean begrudging of their land to accept this year a portion of their usual income. They dare not even if they were treated with the greatest consideration they can scarcely hope to pass through the winter. The English Government, by way of encouragement to selfish landlords, responds by sending police and soldiers, by arrests and imprisonments.

The despatches from London inform you that Mr. Parnell and his colleagues demand the abolition of rent—that their agitation is directed against "the payment of rent." It is a lie—an infamous lie. The London despatches omit one word which makes all the difference: the Irish patriots carry on agitation not against rents, but against excessive rents. Take away the word excessive, and the situation is grossly misrepresented. Mr. Parnell and his friends encourage the unfortunate peasantry in claiming an immediate reduction of those rents, grounding their action on the exceptional lack of the means of existence and on the bad season. Whenever the proprietor is an honest man—and there are many honest landlords in Ireland, though amongst the selfish and tyrannical ones they form but a handful—the people receive, and are thankful for, a generous abatement. When, on the contrary, the landlords refuse to reduce their rents, and to be content with what their tenants can offer them of more produced, then, and only then, does Mr. Parnell advise the peasantry to keep whatever money they have, since the sacrifice of all they can give will not guarantee them against eviction. What is then to be done? A farmer contracts to pay a rent calculated at the highest figure in a preceding good season; he cannot pay more than a half or two-thirds this year—a frightfully bad year; he begs him that he has to the landlord, and begs him to be contented with what he can pay—to have pity on his misery, and not to put him out. The landlord answers: "No give me all you have, and I will still demand the last penny of the rent. Deprive yourself even of your skin to pay me what you can furnish, but I will not drive you out the less on that account if you do not succeed in satisfying up to the last farthing my exorbitant demand." What should be done with such a landlord? Mr. Parnell counsels the farmer to pay nothing till he is sure that the payment made according to the measure of his means will shelter him from eviction, and he is endeavouring to induce all the other cultivators in the country to join together and by common agreement refuse to take any farm from which a poor tenant shall have been evicted. In this way he is organizing a sort of barrier against the selfish landlords, who, after the example of Shylock, will have their pound of flesh to the last ounce. The bad landlords will despair from their cruelty when they know that that cruelty will cause them the loss of a tenant disposed to pay them all he can, and that, on the other hand, his eviction will cause his farm to be left uncultivated. All that is within the limits of the law; it is constitutional.

On one side there is the right of the landlord to evict the tenant; on the other, there is the equally legitimate right of the tenant to regard eviction as the punishment attaching to his poverty, and to refuse to occupy a farm which has been the theatre of an eviction. It is thus that Irish patriots seek to defend the people against terrible eventualities, but their demand for the reduction of excessive rents has no sort of relation to the abolition of rents which our calumniators charge us with intending.

It is pretended that our object is to convert the peasants of Ireland into peasant proprietors, without compensation for the actual masters of the soil. That is another lie. Mr. Parnell proposes, as Stain and Hardenberg did in Prussia, that the State should constitute itself the intermediary between the proprietors and the cultivators, and that it should facilitate among them a system of purchase, whereby the latter may become proprietors in turn by paying, besides their rents, certain fixed payments yearly for 35 years. The English Government, composed of a pseudo-Liberal party, does not relish the idea of a peasant proprietary, but it has not, therefore, the right to cause the circulation of false statements concerning honorable men.

Another falsehood has it that Mr. Parnell and his colleagues are inciting the people to insurrection. That statement is as false as it is absurd. We are Irishmen, and we love our country. We are members of Parliament, and we know the strength of the Government, and the weakness of Ireland. We cannot desire to see our country become the prey of

a soldiery returned from a war of extermination in South Africa. Until the English fleet was destroyed, and an army of liberators at least a hundred thousand strong, with arms and munitions of war for two hundred thousand insurgents, gained a footing on our coasts, there would be no chance of a successful insurrection in Ireland.

We know the advantages of a legal and constitutional agitation. For the first time since the pretended union with England, Ireland possesses a majority of national representatives. We number sixty in the Parliament of Westminster. Our organized electors play a decisive part in party contests in forty of the great cities and towns in England and Scotland. Millions of English people, crushed, as we are, under the weight of a pseudo-feudalism, sympathize with us in the efforts we are making to secure to the cultivator of the soil his share of the produce of his toil. We are seven millions in Ireland and Great Britain. We have fellow-countrymen and friends in all the great colonies in the enjoyment of self-government—in Canada, in Australia, in New Zealand. Millions of persons of our race are established in the United States. We meet with sympathy everywhere. The two hundred millions of native Indians, delivered over to the despotic rule of English Pashas, have their eyes on us, and look on us as the advanced guard of the champions of self-government and municipal freedom. We have against us, it is true, a great and formidable conspiracy of selfish interests. We have the thousand ruling families of the last of the great oligarchies of Europe using all the means of oppression at their command to crush us. The land system of the English aristocracy, surrounded and protected by fortresses like the barracks and the workhouse, will not fall without a long and terrible struggle. But victory, certain victory, is before us; if we know how to take ourselves up to the level of the occasion. The citadels of the pseudo-aristocracy are already undermined, and the battering-rams, which are to give the assault in the breach, are in course of formation behind the trenches of the besiegers. The millions of rural serfs in England itself are awakening to liberty. The English farmers, long driven like a flock of sheep by Tory

knowing, moreover, that the eyes of Europe are to-day fixed on this hypocritical oppressor, aspire after the independence and security for labor. The Irish nation, then, has much to smile, but nothing to fear. It will share in the progress of humanity, conscious as it is, of its strength and of its lights—knowing, moreover, that the eyes of Europe are to-day fixed on this hypocritical oppressor, aspire after the independence and security for labor. The Irish nation, then, has much to smile, but nothing to fear. It will share in the progress of humanity, conscious as it is, of its strength and of its lights—knowing, moreover, that the eyes of Europe are to-day fixed on this hypocritical oppressor, aspire after the independence and security for labor. The Irish nation, then, has much to smile, but nothing to fear. 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