

tery and malicious prosecution against Mr. Adair. On the 16th and 17th of February next year, 1859, the action came to trial before the Lord Chief Baron in Dublin. It resulted in a verdict that Mr. Adair had committed an assault, but that it had been in exercise of a lawful right of sporting. Next ensuing term Corrin served notice for a new trial in the superior courts, and so the litigation went on.

Out of this dispute, this paltry quarrel of Mr. Adair with poor mountaineers defending, as they believed, the rights of an old landlord—sprang events that will never be forgotten in Donegal.

From Easter to midsummer it was open war between the great man and the poor peasants,—the latter, however, being warmly befriended by the neighboring magistrates and landlords, Colonel Humfrey especially. On the 2d of July Mr. Adair had several of the tenants arrested and brought before him at Glenveih, the wretched people being marched sixty miles to and from prisons; yet five days afterward they were discharged by two resident and two local magistrates at Church Hill petty sessions. At length he determined to put himself, at any cost, in a position which would give him absolute dominion over these audacious peasants. In October, 1859, he bought up the fee-farm interest of the remainder of Derryveih, eleven thousand nine hundred and fifty-six acres, through Mr. T. C. Trench, at a rent above the total payable by the tenants. By this time—between the purchase, on the 22d of August, 1857, from Mr. Pitt Skipton, the 29th of April, 1858, from Colonel Humfrey and Mr. Johnson, the 30th of April, the Gartan estate from Mr. Cornwall, and the 10th of October, 1859, from Mr. Johnson—he had become absolute monarch of nearly ninety square miles of country. This eager anxiety