

ITEMS—TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. H. PAGET, Esq., to be an Associate Coroner within and for the County of Wellington. (Gazetted October 2nd, 1869.)

JOHN A. STEVENSON, of the Village of Norwood, Esq., M.D., to be an Associate Coroner within and for the County of Peterborough. (Gazetted October 9th, 1869.)

THE RIBAND OATH—Just at this moment when there is so much plain speaking and plain writing upon the Irish land question, a perusal of the Riband Oath, may not be uninteresting to English readers. Some short time ago, a party of the Irish Constabulary made a raid upon a public-house, and in the course of a search, found the oath of which the following is a copy:—

“I (A. B.), hereby agree to become a true and loyal member of this society, and I solemnly swear before Almighty God to be true and loyal to the brotherhood, and to each member of the same; and I will be obedient to my committee and superior officers, and agree to all their articles, laws, rules, and regulations that have been since the commencement, and all amendments added thereto, and to perform all duties imposed on me with loyalty, faith, and fidelity; and I swear that neither hopes or fears, rewards or punishments, shall induce me to give evidence against any brother or brothers for any act or expression of theirs done or made collectively or individually. And, in pursuance of this obligation, I swear to aid as best I can, with purse and person, any brother or brothers who may be in distress; and I further swear to owe no allegiance to any Protestant or heretic sovereign, ruler, prince or potentate, and that I will not regard any oath delivered to me by them or their subjects, be they judge, magistrate, or else, as binding. And I swear to aid as best I can any brother or brothers who may be on trial for any act or expression of theirs, before magistrate, judge, jury, or else, and to be ready at all times to aid by every means in my power to assist in procuring his or their liberation, and, if myself a witness, to disregard any oath delivered to me on such occasions by judge, jury, magistrate, counsel, clerk, lawyer, official, or else; and that I will not regard such oath as binding. And in revenge for the sufferings of our forefathers, and protection of our rights, I further solemnly swear to aid as best I can in exterminating and extirpating all Protestants and heretics out of Ireland or elsewhere; to hunt, pursue, shoot, or destroy all Protestant or heretic landlords, proprietors, or employers; and also to hunt, shoot, pursue, and destroy all landlords or proprietors belonging to the Church of Rome should he or they evict his or their tenants from any house, land, home, or holding of theirs. And I further solemnly swear to aid as best I can in burning down, sacking, and destroying all Protestant or heretic churches or places of worship, and all houses used as such by members of different heretical denominations in this country, and to level the same to the ground.

I also solemnly swear to have no intercourse, communion or trade, neither to buy or sell, barter or exchange, give or take, or have any dealings whatever with said Protestants or heretics, unless on such occasions as cannot be avoided.

I also swear to defend the farmer, the poor man, the widow, and the orphans of any brother or former brother against the oppression of the landlords and the tyranny of Saxon laws; and I further solemnly swear to do all in my power to procure the independence of Ireland, and to aid as best I can, in allowing none but Irishmen to possess Irish land, and Ireland for the Irish.

I also solemnly swear to shoot, destroy, hunt, and pursue to death any former brother who may turn informer or traitor, or who may refuse to perform any duty ordered by his committees or superior officers, or any duty which may fall by lot or otherwise to execute. And I agree that my person shall be at all times at their service to go wherever required or do whatever sent, and also to aid by every means in my power any brother or brothers of this society executing the orders of other committees or officers belonging thereto, though not in my district; and to aid as best I can he or them in the performance of their duty.

And I most solemnly swear to keep all secrets, pass-words, signs, orders, or otherwise belonging to this society, and that I shall never divulge the same by word of mouth or otherwise; and I swear neither to mark, write, or indite with pen, pencil, stone, chalk, or any other mineral, or substance above or under wood, above or under water, above or under land, above or under air, on the sea or elsewhere, or to use therewith any substance whatever, above or under, &c., be it herb, shrub, tree, wood, liquid, mineral, or else, above or below this earth, above or under, &c., or to use therewith any liquid, marking fluid, ink, or any marking substance whatever, above or under, &c., in the sea or elsewhere, to betray or inform of any signs, secrets, passwords, orders, doings, actions, or expressions that have been, that are being, or that will be belonging to this brotherhood.”—*The Law Journal*.

CURIOUS TENURES.—Midelinton, County of Oxford.—Henry Fits William holds of our lord the King one piece of land in Midelinton, by the serjeantry* of finding one towel to wipe the hands of our lord the King, when he shall hunt in the forest of Witchwood, in the parts of Lank-eleg, and that land was worth forty shillings.

Bray, County of Berks.—Hugh de Saint Philbert holds of our lord the King, in the town of Bray, fifty shillings of land, by the serjeanty of serving our lord the King with his boots.

Niwenton, County of Oxford.—Emma de Hamton holds of our lord the King, in the town of Niwenton, forty shillings of land, by the service of cutting out the linen clothes of the King and Queen.

* Serjeanty, a service due to the King only.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

“A STUDENT,” “STUDENT.”

Letters received from above, but no names are given to verify them. We cannot, therefore, publish them under the rule which we have laid down for our guidance in such cases.