

GLADSTONE'S LAND COURT.

A Review of the First Decision

INVENTORY OF A WESTERN PARISH

LETTER FROM JAMES REDPATH.

To the Editor of THE POST AND TRUE WITNESS:

On Monday, (according to the Herald's cable dispatches), the Irish Land Court, established by Mr. Gladstone's Land Bill, made its first decision and the result is described as a sweeping reduction of the rental and a defeat of the landlords. The case occurred in the county of Monaghan. It is one of the Ulster counties whose tenants have been protected for about three hundred years by the "Ulster custom." In Ulster, therefore, as a general rule, the tenantry are comparatively prosperous.

The Ulster custom originally included the "three F's"—fair rents, fixity of tenure and free sale. The other three Provinces do not enjoy and never have enjoyed the "three F's." Fixity of tenure meant that no tenant could be evicted by his landlord as long as he paid his rent. Free sale meant that the tenant could be regarded as the owner of all the improvements that he had made on his holding at his own expense. He had a right to sell these improvements, or the good will of the farm, if he was evicted for non-payment of rent or if, for any cause, he desired to leave it.

Sometimes he had the right to sell to any tenant, without consulting his landlord; but recently (and especially since 1847, the great famine year), the landlord has generally asserted his right to be consulted. This has been made a most effective method of quietly abolishing the old "Ulster custom," because the landlord now generally compels the new tenant to pay so greatly increased a rent that the outgoing tenant cannot get a fair remuneration for his improvements.

In every other province of Ireland the outgoing tenant lost all his improvements; that is to say, the landlord confiscated them; for it is essential to a just verdict on Irish agrarian politics, to remember that in Ireland it is the tenant who makes all the improvements, and always at his own expense.

Even in Ulster, as this case shows, the landlords, in violation of what the English press call "free contracts," have compelled their tenants to sign leases by which they agreed to waive all the rights conferred on them by the "Ulster custom" and the law of 1870.

In the case just decided the rent was reduced from £8 15s to £6 1s. The Government valuation was £6.

And this is called a "sweeping reduction of rent!" There are very few landlords in Ireland, since the League became powerful, who would not have been willing to have made that reduction voluntarily if the tenant had agreed (as he has to agree in going into the Land Court), to see no further reduction for fifteen years.

The Government or "Griffith's valuation," is a rack-rent of the most extortionate or "Communist" character. No such rent is demanded or paid in any other country. Griffith's, or the Government valuation, was a fair estimate, on the average, of the letting value of the farms of Ireland before the American competition so greatly reduced the selling value of farm stock and of all farm produce in England.

It is made for the purpose of taxation. But the same estimate may be fair for one purpose and unjust for a different purpose. It was not the business of the Government Assessor to inquire who drained the farm, he assessed, or who built the fences and the farm houses, or who made the land, originally worth and assessed at five cents an acre, so productive that it now rents for from £7 5s to £20 an acre.

It was the tenant, and the tenant only. Now, when a tenant pays a rent Griffith's valuation, he is paying a high rent not for the land as the landlord gave it to him, but for his own permanent improvements! Yet, under the Land League, like an angel of the Lord, appeared with flaming sword to protect the tenant, there were very few landlords in Ireland who did not charge at least fifty per cent. over Griffith's valuation! In many instances they charged from twice to five times that valuation.

In England, where, as in the United States and other civilized lands, the permanent improvements are made by the landlords, the American competition has reduced the rents more than 25 per cent., and there are hundreds of farms lying idle that no farmer will take at even fifty per cent. reduction.

Instead of the rents having decreased in Ireland, as they have done by the voluntary action of the landlords in England, they have constantly been increased. The neighboring county of Donegal, for instance, paid as rent (mostly to absentee proprietors) in 1881, £227,681, whereas in 1880 the rental amounted to only £47,000. In 1880, the rental of Ulster amounted to five millions sterling. In 1881, the rental amounted to nearly twenty millions.

Who paid for the improvements that made it possible to exact this increase?

Let a partizan of Mr. Gladstone and an enemy of the Land League, Mr. Kinnear, M.P., reply:

"In Ireland the tenant makes all the improvements. He tills on, going daily to his work amid surroundings of self-denial and insecurity and pinching poverty."

"But any moment all may be swept from him by landlord rapacity. . . . In all Ulster, in the past 80 years, the people's improvements, to the value of fifteen millions sterling (\$75,000,000) have been absorbed by landlord cupidity; and in my own county of Donegal, in the same time, the poor peasants' improvements have been confiscated by landlord irresponsible power, to the extent of over £320,000 sterling. And who," he asks, "after sermonically, for he is a Protestant liveryman, "who is incapacitated to gauge the multitudinous clouds of sorrow, and suffering, and weeping, that in all these years have been he concomitants of such confiscations?"

The first effect, therefore, of this decision is to legalize these confiscations and to recognize the landlord's right to tax, as rent, the improvements made by the tenant. This is a sweeping act of confiscation—not a "sweeping reduction" of rental.

But it is also an abrogation—a judicial repeal—of the only clause in the Land Bill that would have made the Act a blessing to the Irish tenant. That clause is known as the Healy clause, from the fact that it was introduced by Mr. Healy. It reads:

"No rent shall be allowed or made payable in any proceedings under this Act in respect of improvements made by the tenant or his predecessors in title, and for which in the opinion of the Court, the tenant or his predecessors in title shall not have been paid or otherwise compensated by the landlord or his predecessors in title.

The proceedings in this case have two other features that only those who have studied Irish landlordism on the scenes of its crimes can properly estimate. The first and the most important decision was that "both parties shall pay their own costs, which procedure," says the Herald's correspondent, "will doubtless be followed in all commitments."

The other feature was the announcement that the landlord will appeal to the chief commissioner.

The meaning of these facts is, that the landlords can defeat this Land Bill as they completely defeated the Land Bill of 1870, by the decisions of a partisan judiciary and by appeals which involve expensive litigation beyond the means of all tenants, excepting only the well-to-do large farmers of the east and north of Ireland, who are as comfortable, as a class, as the farmers of England, and who also, as a class, treat their laborers as badly as the great landlords of the west of Ireland treat their peasantry.

The landlords can afford to pay the expenses of litigation, because most of them are rich, and because their organizations—their land leagues, the "Emergency Committee," and the "Property Defence Association"—have not been suppressed, but, on the contrary, are in full vigor. Not only have the landlords assessed themselves to support these leagues, but the London Times has issued an appeal, on their behalf, to the landed interests of England. It is only the poor man's league—it is only the organization that could have secured justice in the Land Courts to the peasantry by engaging able counsel—that has been forbidden to come to their assistance.

The Herald's correspondent says that the reduction by the court of this man's rental to the government valuation is a "serious defeat to the landlords." It is not a defeat; it is a triumph; because, land act or no land act, it has become impossible to pay the present rents in any of the British Islands. The rents of Ireland must be reduced at least one half before there is even an approximation to justice done to the tenants, or before they can successfully meet our American competition in the English markets.

I have given very faint pictures of the poverty of the peasantry of Ireland. I have hesitated to tell of all the misery I have seen, because I do not think that I would have believed on any human testimony, that such misery and such tyranny could exist in a land professing to be a civilized country. I described the parish of Gweedore in part.

Let me refer to it once more to show how impossible it is for these impoverished peasantry to follow up the landlords in the Land Courts. I did not tell all that I knew about the parish. It has not changed for the better for the last fifty years.

In 1837 there was one of the periodical famines, with which all that coast of Ireland is so often visited. A schoolmaster, named Patrick McKye, whose son I met at the house of Father McFadden of Falcarron, made an appeal to the Lord Lieutenant for help to the suffering people; and, in order to authenticate his story he made an inventory of the parish of Gweedore, or West Tullaghobegley, as it is sometimes called. At that time it had a population of 9,049, according to the census.

"The parishioners in this parish," he writes, "are in the most needy, hungry and naked condition of any people that ever came within the precincts of my knowledge. They are all Catholics and as poor as I shall describe; having among them, no more than:

- 1 cart,
- No Wheel car,
- No Coach or any other vehicle,
- 1 Plough,
- 16 Harrows,
- 8 Saddles,
- 2 Pillions,
- 11 Bridles,
- 20 Shovels,
- 32 Rakes,
- 7 Table Forks,
- 93 Chairs,
- 213 Stools,
- 10 Iron grates,
- No swine, hogs or pigs,
- 37 Geese,
- 3 Turkeys,
- 2 Feather Beds,
- 8 Chaff beds,
- 2 Stables,
- 6 Cow houses,
- 1 National school,
- No other school,
- 1 Priest,
- No other resident gentleman,
- No Bonnet,
- No Clock,
- 3 Watches,
- 8 Brass candlesticks,
- No Looking-glass above 3d in price,
- No Boots,
- No Spurs,
- No Fruit trees,
- No Turpins,
- No Parsnips,
- No Carrots,
- No Clover,

Or any other vegetable but potatoes and cabbage, and not more than 10 square feet of glass in windows in the whole, with the exception of the chapel, the school house, Mr. Donabrain's house, and the constabulary barracks."

"None of their either married or unmarried women can afford more than one shift, and the fewest number have any, and more than one-half of both men and women cannot afford shoes to fit their feet, nor can many of them afford a second bed."

"The strange practice prevails among some classes of London pawnbrokers of taking Bank of England notes in pledge. A London pawnbroker's manager recently admitted having taken in pledge from one individual two notes for £100 each, besides one for £50, and four for £5 each, advancing upon the whole £1 only. The explanation given was that the customer had volunteered the statement that he merely desired to place them temporarily in safe keeping. As a fact, these notes were the produce of a robbery."

Hanlan and Plaisted met Trickett and Kelly yesterday afternoon in Toronto. Trickett asked Hanlan to row him for \$2,000 a side at St. Louis, but the champion refused point blank to do so this fall. He said that he would accommodate Trickett with a race on home waters. The latter, after repeatedly asking Hanlan for a race, and as often being refused, became very warm and made use of some uncomplimentary language. He said that he had come 17,000 miles to receive satisfaction, and that Hanlan was not the man to give it to him. Hanlan puts forward as an excuse that he has postponed his race with Ross until next spring, and therefore it would not be fair to get on another race till the present one was off. When Trickett left the office he did not deign to bid Hanlan farewell. He leaves for St. Louis in a few days, and will probably return home to Australia next month. Hanlan's course is severely criticised by his friends in Toronto.

hardship," as its correspondent asserts, is one of the least distressful cases I ever heard of in Ireland.

"Let me give a single illustration of greater hardship from this same country. My authority is Rev. Thomas Cummins, Catholic curate of Scotstown. The landlord is Hamilton, of Torrascassa. The tenant is Pat McCauley, of Tonystacken, near Scotstown.

"The land of this estate is wretchedly poor. Professor Baldwin and Dr. Hepworth visited it, and said that it was 'little short of the worst destitution of the west.' This estate comprises the townlands of Bantilly and Tonystacken. 'About four years ago,' writes Father Cummins, 'the following transaction took place between Mr. Hamilton and his tenants.'

"The farms were let as a whole—that is, each occupier took bog and arable by the bulk at so much rent. Mr. Hamilton for 520 years took the bog to himself, and let it at \$20 an acre and upwards to strangers from other estates; and when the bog was cut, or partly cut, he demanded a rent of 7s. 6d. per acre, for the spent bog. The people refused to pay, as they considered it useless, and, having no guarantee, if they improved it, but there would be raised on them, they refused to take it. But by process of law they were compelled to take it, and in the struggle to keep it, failing to pay the rent, they were forced to leave it."

"To be more specific," writes Father Cummins, "let me state the case of one of the tenants, Pat McCauley. He held a quantity of land by bulk at the yearly rental of £8 8s. It was comprised of arable land and bog, both of which he used to his advantage. The landlord said to him, 'Give me up seven acres of that bog, or I will send you an ejectment process.' The tenant would not give it up, and the landlord sent him an ejectment process."

The case was brought into court; the lawyer made a mere sham defence of his client—as has been the case for generations and will always be the case in Ireland as long as all the power of preferment is in the hands of the landlord class. The result was that the court of landlords justified the robbery practiced by one of their class, and that the tenant was deprived of his seven acres of bog.

"The landlord," writes Father Cummins, "made £25 sterling per annum, by the transaction. But he was not content with this victory. He raised the rent of the tenant for his reduced farm and also forbade him to use five acres of bog that still remained in his possession."

This is a very mild specimen of landlord greed and tyranny in Ireland.

FOR SCALDS AND BURNS.—Keep the parts wet with Perry Davis' Pain Killer till the pain ceases. It won't take long.

THIS IS A VERY MILD SPECIMEN OF LANDLORD GREED AND TYRANNY IN IRELAND.

New York, Nov. 2, 1881.

FOR SCALDS AND BURNS.—Keep the parts wet with Perry Davis' Pain Killer till the pain ceases. It won't take long.

COMMENTS AND CLIPPINGS.

Rafael Rubattino, the Italian steamship owner, is dead.

Lord Lorne sails for England, per the "Parisian," on Saturday next.

The annexation of Canada is one of the favorite ideas of Secretary Blaine.

Train up a child in the way you should have gone yourself.—Plainfield Bulletin.

Philadelphia has the politest man. He apologized to a locomotive for stepping on its train.—Mining Exchange.

It is rumored that Earl Cowper is sick of his position as Chief Turnkey of Ireland and will be released by Lord Spencer.

If a dime with a hole in it is worth five cents, a dime with two holes in it ought to be worth ten cents.—Kentucky State Journal.

A chancery case on the docket in Pike County, Ala., for eleven years, was last week decided, the plaintiff being awarded \$1.50.

There are said to be 263 styles of corsets and yet different young ladies' waists feel very much alike—the girls say.—Lowell Citizen.

An English critic, speaking of the Southern States of the Union, prophesies that their future development is to be one of the wonders of the century.

The principal belts in Burrell's axe factory, Belleville, Ont., were cut last night, with the effect of stopping the factory all day to-day.

The production of ale and beer at Cincinnati, Covington and Newport for the year was 739,000 barrels, an increase of 29,000 barrels; tax paid \$989,000.

The Egyptian, a French newspaper at Alexandria, has been suppressed for the publication that Osman, founder of the Ottoman Empire, was the son of a false prophet.

At a meeting of the Irish Protestants of Toronto one of the speakers said the only cure for Ireland was an open Bible. What about an open prison?

Great Britain is ruled by a widow, the United States by a widow. Why don't Arthur and Victoria pool their losses and give us a cheaper government?—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Alice Atherton is said to have had a dress stolen from her worth \$250 which was subsequently returned. Bet a half dollar nobody ever saw \$250 worth of clothes on her on the stage.—Philadelphia Sunday World.

An Iowa lawyer of some years' practice is now serving as locomotive fireman on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, and a physician of twelve years practice is acting as freight conductor on the same road.

The strange practice prevails among some classes of London pawnbrokers of taking Bank of England notes in pledge. A London pawnbroker's manager recently admitted having taken in pledge from one individual two notes for £100 each, besides one for £50, and four for £5 each, advancing upon the whole £1 only. The explanation given was that the customer had volunteered the statement that he merely desired to place them temporarily in safe keeping. As a fact, these notes were the produce of a robbery.

Hanlan and Plaisted met Trickett and Kelly yesterday afternoon in Toronto. Trickett asked Hanlan to row him for \$2,000 a side at St. Louis, but the champion refused point blank to do so this fall. He said that he would accommodate Trickett with a race on home waters. The latter, after repeatedly asking Hanlan for a race, and as often being refused, became very warm and made use of some uncomplimentary language. He said that he had come 17,000 miles to receive satisfaction, and that Hanlan was not the man to give it to him. Hanlan puts forward as an excuse that he has postponed his race with Ross until next spring, and therefore it would not be fair to get on another race till the present one was off. When Trickett left the office he did not deign to bid Hanlan farewell. He leaves for St. Louis in a few days, and will probably return home to Australia next month. Hanlan's course is severely criticised by his friends in Toronto.

THE IRISH QUESTION.

LECTURE ON THE SUBJECT BY WILLIAM CLARKE, M.A.—THE QUESTION REVIEWED AND DISCUSSED FROM AN ENGLISH STANDPOINT.

(From a Boston paper of the 6th.)

An audience that nearly filled Horticultural Hall assembled last evening, the occasion being a lecture upon the "Irish Question," by William Clarke, M.A. of the University of Cambridge, England. Mr. Clarke was introduced by His Honor Mayor Prince, who, after warmly welcoming the lecturer to the platform in this country, and presenting some general views on the importance of the subject for the evening, gave place to that gentleman. Mr. Clarke spoke without notes, and appeared thoroughly familiar with the question in all its phases in which it is usually discussed. Following is the substance of his lecture:

In opening the speaker remarked that one has to leave one's country in order to make discoveries about one's self. He now learned that he was a distinguished man. He said no claims to that, and neither the work he had done nor the principles he had espoused warranted his carrying off the title.

The Irish question has been before the world for centuries, and is yet very far from settled. It involves various considerations of creeds, policies, nationalities, &c., and is a question of the highest political importance, and is of interest even to the American republic herself, on account of the intimate relations between Great Britain and the United States, and the vast number of citizens of the latter which have resulted from immigration to this country. He proposed a calm and candid view of the question, not from any distinctly English or Irish standpoint, but from that of an English Republican. He had been long interested in Republican Government, and felt that the interests of Great Britain lay in the same direction as those of the United States.

It is a most remarkable fact that in England, at the close of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, the Irish question was found the question of the hour, as at present. English rule in Ireland is said to have begun at the conquest of Henry II. The present is the outcome of the past; and Ireland cannot be understood unless her past history is considered.

The insurrection which broke out during Queen Elizabeth's reign was crushed by cruelly exacting no parallel in previous history. The next rebellion, in 1641, was crushed by English Puritanism, under Cromwell. Whatever may be said of Cromwell otherwise, his treatment of Ireland will always remain a blot upon his fair fame. At the close of the 11 years' continuance of the rebellion of 1641 no less than 616,000 out of a population of 1,466,000 had been killed, and Ireland was reduced to a desert, her estates confiscated and given to English aristocrats and corporations.

PROGRESS OF IRISH HISTORY.

The third rebellion was at the close of the last century, during the reign of George III., of whom Americans are particularly proud. The rebellion of 1798 was crushed, even more brutally than its predecessors had been. The first rebellion was the age of Bacon and Shakespeare; the second of Milton; the third of Byron, Shelly and Scott.

It is hard to tell the real opinions of Americans upon the Irish question. In dealing with the condition of Ireland two objections must be met, now frequently brought forward: First, with reference to the Land League members in the House of Commons; second, to the reforms demanded in land tenure, and to the reforms granted. Many people are of opinion that the movements of the Land League are founded upon outrages and barbarism. This is irrational and absurd, and is not true. The Land League had its origin in a just, sound and patriotic feeling. The speaker had no defence for outrages, and was no believer in the blessed gospel of dynamite. The English people are as much open to conviction as any in the world, and when they understand the Irish situation they will respond. But the Land League has not conducted itself in such manner as to gain the confidence of the English people. But what could the Land League do other than that it has done?

There are Whigs and Radicals in England, and whenever a Liberal Government has to be formed there is no compromise. The present English Cabinet is mainly Whig, led by Mr. Gladstone. If Mr. Gladstone had to settle the Irish question himself he would settle it fairly and justly. He is only one out of 14. It was impossible that the Irish people should trust this Government.

THE IRISH STAKE IN THE PARLIAMENT.

The House of Commons represents the people in a very singular way. There is no similarity between it and the United States House of Representatives. Rotten boroughs have just as much power in the House of Commons as the great constituencies of London, Manchester or Liverpool, and a little borough of three hundred electors, where the member is nominated and elected by the landlord, as the great centre numbering electors by thousands. One-sixth of the House are members of the aristocracy in some relationship. It is not the people's house, as in the United States, or as the Deputies in France. It is a house of conflicting interests, composed of rich men, identified with great landed interests, who will keep these interests intact. Another curious institution is the House of Lords. Its members sit there because their fathers sat there before them. Austria and other European countries long since gave up their hereditary houses, but England keeps hers, as old china and furniture are kept. The speaker was very sarcastic and pungent in his criticism of this feature in English governmental machinery.

Yet this House of Lords has a very large control of English politics. It is a great deal more than on old curiosity shop. It is often able to reject, and always to mutilate, any reform bill which comes to it from the other house.

These are the elements with which an Irish reformer has to contend in England. Under the circumstances the leaders of the Irish party could not have been expected to trust in the good intentions of the English Government. They knew it was idle and futile to do so, and English statesmen have justified the position taken by the Irish people. Earl Russell was for many years the Nestor of the English Liberal Party. He was one of the most conservative and moderate of men. Giving his testimony, he said "In 1780, in 1793 and in 1829, that which had been denied to reason, was granted to force. Ireland triumphed, not because the justice of her claims was apparent, but because the threat of insurrection overcame prejudice, made fear superior to bigotry, and concession triumph over procreation."

OTHER TESTIMONY.

Disraeli said, in a speech made Feb. 16, 1859, "What would gentlemen say if they were reading of a country in that position.

They would say at once, "the remedy is revolution." But the Irish could not have a "revolution. Why? Because Ireland was connected with another and a more powerful country. Then, what was the consequence. The connection with England thus became the cause of the present state of Ireland. If the connection with England prevented a revolution, and a revolution was the only remedy, England, logically, was in the odious position of being the cause of all the misery in Ireland. What, then, was the duty of an English minister? To effect by his policy all these changes which a revolution would do by force. That was the Irish question in its integrity."

Mr. John Bright said, in 1856: "All history teaches us that it is not in human nature that men should be content under any system of legislation, and institutions such as exist in Ireland. You may pass this bill; you may put the home secretary's 500 men into gaol; you may do more than this; you may suppress the conspiracy and put down the insurrection; but the moment it is suppressed there will still remain the germs of this malady, and from these germs will grow up, as heretofore, another crop of insurrection and another harvest of misfortunes. And it may be that those who sit here in 18 years after this movement will find another ministry and another secretary of state ready to promise to you another administration of the same never failing and ever poisonous medicine."

It may be objected that the reforms called for were of a revolutionary nature, bordering upon socialism. In England, if you want to stop any reform, give it an ugly name. Socialism has an ugly name in England, and that is a complete answer to all presentation of the Irish question. The institutions of America are so different from those of Ireland, and things here are so different from things in any part of Europe or Ireland, that people of the United States cannot judge by comparison between the two countries.

THE CASE FURTHER STATED.

There is no freedom of contract which all the power is on one side and all the weakness on the other. The landlord has the whole government to assist him in evicting tenants; the tenant, therefore, requires the protection of the government. That is the condition of things in Ireland. The tenants who have expended their all are liable to be evicted at five minutes' notice and all their goods and improvements confiscated. Indeed, there is "spoliation" on the part of the landlords as well as that of the tenants. There are two sides to the question.

Many people in England regard Mr. Gladstone's measure as a final settlement of the question. This view is erroneous. Lord Derby truly says: "The Irish question is still open," and that Mr. Gladstone's measure has not settled it. There are many deficiencies in the bill Mr. Gladstone has succeeded in passing. The whole of the cares of the state weigh upon the shoulders of the Atlas, and it may well be that his work is not all complete. Mr. Gladstone scarcely fully understands this Irish question. He was never in Ireland until four years ago. There are only three or four men in England who have grasped this question, and Mr. Gladstone is not one of them.

Ireland will never be contented or prosperous or happy until she has just laws all round; until she has either separation from England, or equality with England in all respects. There are some who look with favor upon an Irish republic, but I believe it utterly impossible that a separate government could be established.

The Irish municipal franchise is different from that of England. Nine-tenths of the Irish have no part in the government, and in Parliament no representation. Leeds and Dublin are about the same population, yet the former has 49,000 electors to 13,000 of the latter.

This state of things cannot stand in the 19th century. It is doomed. It must fall by a union between the English and the Irish democracy. America has struck the first great blow at English aristocracy and English landlords. The wrongs of Ireland have been inflicted by a few. Up to within a few years the people of England have had little or no part in the government. Even now the Irish emigrants in America have far greater part in government than the people of Great Britain. When popular government gets into the House of Commons, justice will be done Ireland.

The views of the democratic party in England are favorable to the people in Ireland, and their overtures were toward them; and the day is surely drawing nigh when these parties will prevail. The lecturer stated at some length the feeling in England, sympathetic with the people of the United States when their President was assassinated, and argued that the democracy of the two countries were substantially in unity and harmony.

The lecture was well received, and frequent applause interrupted the speaker.

THE LATE MR. TIFFIN AND THE PARISH OF ST. PATRICK'S OF RAWDON.

On Sunday, the 30th October, the Parish Priest of the Parish of St. Patrick's of Rawdon, having announced to his congregation that the late Mr. Thomas Tiffin had bequeathed to the parish a large amount to assist them in building a new church, a very influential meeting took place in the vestry after Mass.

Rev. J. O. Dubois, Parish Priest, was chosen to preside, and William Whittaker, Jr., having been called upon to act as Secretary for the meeting, it was moved by Mr. James Daly, seconded by Mr. William Whittaker, Sr., and resolved:

That as the late Mr. Tiffin was a native of this parish, and, apart from his kind, able and timely beneficence, we owe always, as Christians and Catholics, a duty towards our departed brethren, but, in the case of our late benefactor, we have a two-fold duty to perform, and we therefore propose that we, the inhabitants of this parish, do immediately take the best and most available means of manufacturing our deepest and most heartfelt respect and gratitude towards the memory of one who was so good and kind to us.

Moved by Mr. Hugh Green and seconded by Mr. Peter Skelly:

That we avail ourselves of the earliest opportunity to have celebrated in our Parish Church a solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of our late friend and benefactor.

Moved by Mr. Timothy Coffey, seconded by Mr. John Woods:

That the inhabitants of this parish do offer to his beloved wife and friends their deepest sympathy and condolence in the loss of a kind husband and good friend.

Moved by Mr. Alex. Daly, and seconded by Mr. P. O. Morin:

That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to Mrs. Thomas Tiffin, and that a copy be sent to the Montreal True Witness and The Post newspapers for publication.

IRELAND'S DAY OF TRIAL.

A fast-hour that will be memorable and historical has come to Ireland. She is passing to-day, before the eyes of the world, through a crucial storm of tremendous significance.

Gold and unconditioned critics are everywhere considering the wisdom or folly of the "No Rent" policy. As usual they are apt to take sides with the apparently strong. Even former friends of the Land League, like Archbishop Croke, adopt this hurried and short-sighted view.

They forget for the moment the power that lies in the Right. They forget that in every struggle between right and wrong, truth and error, freedom and tyranny, the right may be true, and the free have ever been apparently the weaker side, but nevertheless the forces arrayed against them have always been defeated.

At first view, it must have appeared to many that the "No Rent" manifesto was precipitate and mistaken. It would seem to be an utter refusal to recognize the rights of property. But it is not so. It simply means that, until the Government returns to constitutional practices, the Irish farmers refuse to move in any way. They do not rebel; they stand with folded arms. Leaping to the first conclusion, even the Prelate who had taken the first place in Irish affection, without one hour's consideration, issued a condemnation of the manifesto. This action, we believe, Archbishop Croke will profoundly regret in the near future. The leaders were in prison. The great organization, perfect and unbroken was resting and waiting. The only officer at liberty, of its old command, was one whose head was known to be unequal in ability to the impulsive dictators of his heart.

No matter whether or not the manifesto is obeyed by the farmers of the whole country, those who disobey yield only to fear. Tens of thousands will stand firm, suffer eviction and remain on the soil. They will be supported in their passive resistance. They can outlast the landlords.

The policy of the League has heretofore been to buy, not to drive out the landlords. The Government has introduced the new issue, which means ruin for those aristocrats who depend on their Irish rentals. If the tenants refuse to pay rent for one year the landlords will be compelled to sell their estates.

The position of Archbishop Croke as a nationalist and political leader is pitiable. Had he waited even one decent week for consideration his action would at least have the respectable consideration of intelligent people. But simultaneously with the proclamation of the Government, a few hours after the issue of the Manifesto of the Land League, the prelate hastily delivered his unfriendly and unmerited blow.

The instincts of the Irish people are truer than the wisdom of any one leader. They allow themselves to be swayed while moving forward; but when they are asked or ordered to turn back, they silently surge past and over the opposition.

There can be no doubt that the priests of Ireland are at one with the people in the land movement. Their fidelity will be proved now as it has never been before. The Land League passes into their hands as a sacred trust. If they reject or are untrue to it, they will drive it out of sight, perhaps; but they will cover the country with a secret organization that neither they nor the police can guide or subdue.