

As, however, my business was not with these, I turned my steps towards the farther end of the court-yard, where I perceived my protector quietly pacing to and fro, with his hands behind his back, and with his head bent forward in a way which gave him a peculiarly penetrating and cunning expression.

'I should say you didn't require much information on that head,' I answered sharply. 'What do you mean?'

'You know better than I do. Come, all this acting is useless; you have taken me in once, but you won't do so again!'

'You must be mistaken; I haven't the faintest idea of your meaning. There must be some mistake.'

'O, yes, likely enough! It is by a mistake, I daresay, that my watch has been taken out of my pocket, and that my purse has disappeared with it. I can appreciate your disinterested advice now.'

As I thus accused Frederic of stealing my watch and purse, and of having deceived me the evening before, his face assumed a strange expression of sadness, such as I fancy is but seldom to be caught on the countenance of a common criminal and he answered: 'Well, I suppose it's natural to suspect a thief, and I mustn't complain if you accuse me of stealing from you; but if the word of a thief is worth anything, I give my word that I know nothing of the theft, and I will pledge myself that none of my men have done it.'

'No; I was arrested too suddenly to provide myself even with money; there was less than five francs in it.'

'Was your watch silver or gold?'

'A silver hunting watch.'

'Very well, I shall find it for you. As for the money, it was so small a sum that perhaps it is spent already; however, you shall recover the purse, at least. Only, one word of advice: if you mention this to anybody you spoil everything.'

'I can hold my tongue.'

'Then you may depend upon me.'

With this he went off, leaving me more astonished at his extraordinary conduct than sanguine as to the results of his researches. He did not, as I expected, begin his inquiries at once, but quietly resumed his walk, looking, if possible, more penetrating and more cunning than before.

'Strange conduct for my amateur detective,' I thought; 'does he suppose the thief will be naturally attracted towards him? He did not, however, for after half an hour's perambulation I saw him direct his steps towards an opposite corner of the court yard, with his eyes fixed on something or somebody, and, as I fancied, with a particular expression of satisfaction about the corners of his mouth. Alas for my imaginations! the corner towards which he shaped his course was that in which one of the turnkeys either licitly or illicitly dispensed very bad beer and very bad tobacco at a very high rate, and I had the unspeakable disappointment of beholding my protector leisurely employed in drinking a glass of mud colored liquid. Still his eyes were fixed on somebody; there was some hope in that. Nay, he has more than fixed his eyes on some one—he is actually beginning a conversation with one of the prisoners, who, even at this early hour, seems to have unbudged more than is quite good for him.'

The subject of the conversation I of course could not overhear but as it was afterwards given to me *in extenso*, I may as well put it before the reader in its proper place.

'Hillo, pal!' began Frederic, 'going out to day?'

'Going out? where?' grinned the drunkard.

'Why, outside. Are you going to leave us?'

'Come, that's a good un; they ain't tried me yet, you know that very well.'

'Ha foi! you're so jolly this morning, I thought you were in luck.'

'It's only Gregoire's beer.' Then in a whisper, 'I got him to slip a drop of the real stuff into it.'

'No, did you though?'

'Yes, fact; have a sup?'

'No, thanks; it's too early; my stomach's out of order. But bless me, that's real tobacco, real, 'caporal' you're smoking! Where did you get that?'

'Why, I bought it, of course,' answered the man, probably too far gone to perceive that he was being skilfuly 'pu'ped.'

'What a swell you must be! I saw you going on 'tick' yesterday; where did the 'rhino' come from?'

'Now, as this is a question which few thieves ever care to answer directly, the man hesitated a little before he answered vaguely: 'A little job, you know.'

'Outside?'

'Yes.'

'How did it get it? It won't be visiting time for another hour.'

'O, I mean a little job, honest work, in here, and it seemed gradually to dawn on the drunkard's mind that he 'pal' must have an object in questioning him so closely.'

'Why, you're trying to gammon me; just now you said it was a job outside.'

'So it was; it was outside our room.'

'O, I see; from our place, No. 27; we're the only people you've seen this morning?'

Hereupon Frederic made a sign to two or three of his men, who ran up immediately, and at a word from him seized the refractory rogue, and in spite of his kicking and struggling carried him off to No. 27. As I was not supposed to know the meaning of this little scene, and indeed as I was nowise certain of its drift, I wisely abstained from following it, and the crowd which immediately made for our quarters. A few minutes later a polite invitation to attend a 'seance' of the 'locataires' of No. 27 came to me from Frederic.

I followed the messenger upstairs, and was struck, on entering the room, with the orderly manner in which everything was conducted; each one was seated at the foot of his bed with the exception of Frederic—who, as prevot of the room, presided at the meeting—and of two of the ablest men, who had chosen to act as 'gens d'armes' to the unfortunate 'prisoner,' as they coolly called him.

Frederic offered me a chair beside him, and without further preliminary opened the case with the particularly striking remark: 'There's a thief amongst us!'

However apposite and natural this might appear to an unconcerned listener, it was greeted with murmurs of astonishment and marked disgust by the audience.

'There's a thief amongst us,' repeated the prevot, 'Monsieur,' pointing to me, 'was this morning robbed of his watch and part of his money; of this he naturally complained to me. I assured him that none of us had done it.'

'Cries of 'Certainement!' 'Tresbien!' greeted this testimony to their honesty.

'In fact,' resumed the speaker, 'he himself did not suspect you.'

Again exclamations of approbation showed how my good opinion of them flattered the hearers, whilst I could not but admire and feel grateful for the delicacy with which Frederic kept my accusation and my suspicions in the background.

'As, however, the robbery was committed in our room, it became my duty to investigate the matter, and to bring the delinquent to justice. Monsieur has no intention of taking the case out of our hands.'

'He's a trump!' exclaimed an enthusiastic voice from a corner.

'And, therefore, we must see that he does not suffer from his generosity. Now, monsieur, it is my intimate conviction that the man before you is guilty.'

'No, I'm not!' growled the accused.

'I am the only 'temoin a charge,' the prevot witness for the prosecution,' continued the prevot heedless of the interruption, 'and my evidence is as follows:—To my knowledge the accused, the prisoner at the bar, had not a single sous yesterday.'

'He never has!' cried several voices.

'This morning he got drunk, and paid for the liquor. He was smoking tobacco, real 'caporal,' which he also paid for. He cannot account for the money, and therefore, messieurs, he must be the thief.'

'C'est clair comme le jour! Mais, il n'y a pas de doute que c'est lui!' exclaimed the assembly.

'But, messieurs, I am unwilling to condemn him on mere circumstantial evidence; we must have stronger proof; therefore, messieurs, I shall, in your names order the prisoner to be searched.'

'Fouillez-le!' cried the more refined; whilst the others expressed the same idea in a way far less intelligible; for I take it that few people, however well versed in French, would readily understand the meaning of such a sentence as: 'Barbottez-le par les profundes; de Pegre.'

At a sign from the president, therefore, the two improvised 'gens d'armes' began the operation.

They first examined not, his pockets—that would have been lost time; a thief never hides anything in such a conspicuous place—but his boots, then his stockings. The search being still unsuccessful, they proceeded to feel the lining of his cap; then, with more success, his neck-cloth; so that in less than two minutes the operation was performed, and a piece of conviction, in the shape of my purse, was laid on the table. Of course it was empty, and the money, which could not so easily be recognized, had been deposited in a side-pocket.

'So far so good,' said Frederic, approvingly, 'but as Monsieur had fortunately very little money in his purse, we have, as yet, done nothing; we must find the watch: of course l'accuse has not got it about him. Therefore, messieurs, in your name, I summon him to deliver up the stolen property.'

'I haven't got it here,' muttered the man, who, by the way was pretty well sobered by this time.

'Exactly what I just remarked, therefore your guardians will accompany you to the place in which you have concealed it, and will help you to find it. Allez!'

A few moments later the three men returned, one of them, the 'prisoner,' himself, bringing my watch, which he humbly placed on the table.

'Now, messieurs,' resumed our strange judge, 'the evidence is before you; is the prisoner guilty or not guilty?'

'Guilty! guilty!' cried twenty rough voices.

'Very well; we must proceed to judgment.'

Here I thought it proper to interpose, for, having recovered the most valuable part of my property, I was unwilling to bring on the unfortunate thief additional punishment—punishment in his punishment. In an apologetic speech, therefore, I thanked 'messieurs' for the trouble to which I had put them. I spoke flatteringly of their prevot, and I concluded by begging as a favor to myself to remit whatever penalty the accused may incur at their hands.

Though some seemed to look forward with pleasure to the 'sport' of which I was proposing to deprive them, yet I could tell from the faces and from the flattering exclamations of most that my conciliating advances were well received, and that my forbearance was appreciated.

'Well,' Frederic said in answer to my speech, 'since monsieur is so forgiving and so generous, it would be unbecoming in us not to follow his example. I therefore propose that, at the request of monsieur, we deal leniently with the prisoner before us. We cannot, however, set him free till he has, on his knees, begged monsieur's pardon. Allez, a genoux!'

Glad to escape so cheaply, the thief fell on his knees and begged my pardon in most abject terms. I motioned him to rise.

'Now,' continued Frederic, 'you may go; you are au secret for a week' (in Turkey).

And, indeed, save the turnkey, no one uttered a syllable to him for the whole of the time.

Such were my first impressions of La Force, and such my introduction to one whom the reader will, I am sure, allow me to call 'an honest rogue.'

LEUCOVITA.

EARL RUSSELL ON THE STATE OF IRELAND.

The London Telegraph of the 27th ult. devotes nearly two columns to Earl Russell's letter, from which we make the following extracts:—

In his third letter to the Right Hon. Ochester Fortescue, M.P., on the state of Ireland, Lord Russell premises that the people of England are not so well informed of Irish affairs as the eminent statesmen—a native of the sister country—whom he addresses, and that 'no pains ought to be omitted in placing before them all the elements of the judgment which their representatives will have to pronounce.' His lordship further observes that the state of the uninformed mind in the counties of England, and the overbrought passions of Protestants in the north of Ireland are alike out of date, as indeed they were when the late Archbishop Whately spoke thus, in 1833, of the temper then existing:—'Here *parcere subjectis* is unknown. They are never weary of tyrannizing over the conquered. The very name of Orangemen is a sign. It is chosen on purpose to keep up the memory of a civil war, which every friend of humanity would wish to bury in oblivion. It is doing what among the heathens was reckoned an accursed deed—keeping a trophy in repair.'

I know very well that neither are the people of Great Britain willing to appropriate nor the Roman Catholic clergy of Ireland willing to accept the appropriation of these revenues to their original purpose. But the claim of the Roman Catholic people is not thereby cancelled. . . . A question of this kind cannot be settled without consulting the heads of the Roman Catholic body in Ireland both clerical and lay. Lord Russell then sums up his conclusion thus:—

1. That at a certain date to be named—say March, 1870, the Established Church of Ireland shall cease to exist as an Establishment, due regard being had to all personal interests and to all individual rights of property.

2. That in the interval the Irish Church should by means of a convocation or such other mode as may be deemed most advisable, frame a scheme for its organization as a free church.

3. That to this free church should be assigned such cathedrals and parish churches as may have been chiefly built by voluntary Protestant contributions, and such lands and glebes as the present Established Church may produce equitable claims to retain.

4. That to the cathedrals, churches, lands and glebes thus retained should be added a sum, to be derived from the church lands and rent charges, the amount of which shall be fixed by act of Parliament.

5. That property equal in amount to that retained by the Protestant Episcopal Church, shall be assigned to the Presbyterian and Roman Catholic people of Ireland for purposes to be defined by Parliament, to be administered in the case of the Presbyterians by the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, and in the case of the Roman Catholics by the Roman Catholic members of the Board of Christian Brethren, already constituted by act of Parliament, with numbers enlarged—say to fifteen or twenty.

6. That the funds to be so applied shall be derived from a fund designated by Parliament, the Irish fund, and that the amount applied from year to year shall be fixed, and not vary according to the rate of mortality among the existing clergy of the Established Church.

7. That the building and repair of Presbyterian and Roman Catholic places of worship, and dwelling houses for their respective clergy, shall be among the purposes to which the funds to be assigned to Presbyterians and Roman Catholics shall be applied.

8. That the remainder of the funds to be derived from the disendowment of the present Established Church shall be applied by Parliament, from time to time solely to Irish purposes. That, with this view, the fund called the Irish Fund shall never be diverted to purposes other than the welfare and improvement of Ireland.

Lord Russell would like to add to these heads a declaration that the present national system of education in Ireland, by which upwards of 300,000 children are enrolled in the national schools, should be maintained. But that, he says, is a separate question, and must be separately discussed. He can only express his individual hope that no measure so fatal to the future peace and harmony of Ireland as the introduction of the denominational system will ever be sanctioned by Parliament. It is the favorite scheme of those who wish to disunite Great Britain and Ireland.

The Maynooth question next engages the attention of the writer. 'The best course, as it appears to me,' he says, 'will be to respect life interests as in the case of the Established Church, and afterwards to throw the two sums into the Irish Fund, and dispose of them according to the same rules.'

His lordship then treats somewhat at large of the land question, quoting from the reports of Mr. Trench, agent for the estate of the Marquis of Lansdowne and afterwards for the estates of the Marquis of Bath and of Lord D'Arcy. To the firmness and the kindness, the liberality and the courage, by which Mr. Trench overcame Ribbon conspirators and defaulting tenants, converting the unwholesome waste which was soverely cultivated by swarms of miserable squatters—into fertile districts, the abode of comfort, of cleanliness, order and of prosperity, Lord Russell pays due tribute. 'But,' he adds, 'it is not every Irish landlord who has at his command the means by which the English absentee landlords, Lord Lansdowne, Lord Bath and Lord D'Arcy were enabled to furnish funds for emigration to the hopeless tenants, and to execute works of drainage, construction of houses and repairing of fences. Yet, although the marvellous transformations which their agent has described cannot be generally expected, it is probable that more may be effected by the gradual conversion of bad landlords into good, and careless proprietors into careful managers than can be done by any other effect of legislation. Nevertheless, there are some amendments of the law which appear to him possible; and he thinks that it might with advantage be effected:—

1. That every tenancy less than a yearly tenancy should hereafter be by law a yearly tenancy.

2. That, upon hearing the case, the tenant might bring forward evidence to show the improvements he has made on his farm, and the buildings which he has erected at his own expense.

3. That the Chairman of Quarter Sessions should be authorized by law to accompany his decree by an award compelling the payment of compensation for the value of the improvements made and the buildings erected, or granting the tenant power equivalent to what is called tenant right, of selling the good will of his farm to any other person. The chairman might also, I think, be employed to quash the ejectment and to direct the grant of a twenty-one years' lease by the landlord, in terms to be settled by the judge.

4. That any contract between landlord and tenant by which the tenant agrees to give up his holding on any other terms than those in force in the case of a lease or of a yearly tenancy shall be utterly illegal, and *ipso facto* void.

Suppose that, by the end of the session of 1870, Earl Russell says in conclusion, the Irish Church and the Irish land questions are, by the consummate wisdom of Parliament, satisfactorily settled. Is everything accomplished? By no means. The great act of administration, as Napoleon justly called it, his to be exercised with mildness, with benevolence, with sympathy for the Irish people, but still with firmness, with strict justice, with an authority incapable of being either intimidated or cajoled. It will be a long time before Ireland can be governed in the glacial manner in which the internal government of England is now administered. Where the spirit of insurrection appears in a habit of murdering landlords, women and obnoxious tenants, the people of the district must be deprived of arms and special commissions of able judges must administer to offenders

speedy and stern justice. But let not the Irish suppose that their portion of the United Kingdom is to be darkened by the permanent absence of the rays of the royal presence. Let the Prince of Wales appear in your country for two or three months annually, with £25,000 a year added to his income from the public revenue, and I am sure you will not be offended when I say that no Lord Lieutenant, no chief Secretary can do more to win the heart of the Irish people to permanent ties with England than the genial smile of the heir to the crown. When the great work of conciliation has been, in spite of unjust aspersions and unfounded calumnies, gloriously accomplished, Mr. Gladstone may take to himself the consolation of David, that his life travels into the future, far beyond the mark to which the arrows of his enemies can reach, and he may say proudly:—

If I'm traduced by tongues which neither know My faculties, nor power, yet will be The chronicles of my doing—let me say, 'Tis but the fate of place, and the rough brake That virtue must go through.'

MR. MONSELL ON THE STATE OF IRELAND.

If Earl Spencer's acquaintance with the past and present state of Ireland be not much greater than he modestly represented it to be in addressing the Irish Statistical Society in Dublin, on Friday evening last, his Excellency and the country over which he has been sent to exercise vice-regal authority are to be congratulated on the first lesson which he received on the mode of administering some of the most important duties of his high office. No more competent or trustworthy teacher could have assumed the function of instructing the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland on Irish affairs than Mr. Monsell, the Under-Secretary for the Colonies; and in no presence could the right honourable gentleman have spoken under a graver sense of the responsibility than in that of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, some of the Judges, and the members of the Statistical Society. Every statement made by him if, in the least inaccurate, challenged immediate correction on the part of gentlemen historically and statistically conversant with Irish affairs, and associated together for the express purpose of substituting figures of arithmetic for figures of rhetoric in the future discussion of Irish politics. Mr. Monsell delineated, with a faithful pencil, the depressed aspect of Irish affairs at the present moment, and then proceeded, by facts and figures drawn from unquestionable sources of information in England, Scotland, and America, to show that neither the Celtic race, the religion, the climate, nor the crime of Ireland—nor the whole taken in conjunction—was the cause of the extreme poverty and physical wretchedness of such large numbers of the Irish population. Out of Ireland the Celtic race was industrious, skilful, enterprising, and commercially successful. In Northumberland Yorkshire and other parts of England, and in the Valley of Olyde, there had always been a large Celtic population, and it was noted for industrial and peaceful habits. Then, as regards the question of religion, the people of Belgium, of the Rhenish provinces of Prussia, the inhabitants of Lyons, Lille and Rouen were Celts, and among them the strict observance of the Catholic religion did not operate as any hindrance to habits of industry, producing general prosperity and contentment. The prevalence of crime in Ireland was just as little to do with the comparative suffering of the people; as a comparison of the criminal returns showed that, in proportion to the population, murders and the worst description of crimes were fully thirty per cent. more prevalent in England than in Ireland. And as to the subdivision of land, farms in Belgium were only half the size of holdings in Ireland; and, moreover, it was in those parts of Ireland where the land was most subdivided that the condition of the people was most prosperous.

Having shown by a reference to Poor Law statistics and Parliamentary Returns, that, in comparison with Scotland, Ireland was decreasing in the main elements of national prosperity, the cultivation of the soil and the retention at home of the 'bone and sinew of the population,' Mr. Monsell ably and succinctly summarized the withering and desolating operation of the Penal Laws, to the terrible influence of which he attributed all the grievances of the Irish people. These laws 'made civilization impossible.' The upper classes, sustained in their tyranny by England, looked to her as their country; and the lower classes as naturally hated the land which armed their oppressors with the power of crushing them. Lord Spencer must have heard with some amazement that within the memory of men now living some of the most terrible of these laws were practically, in remote parts of Ireland, in full operation; and that the memory of them still exercises a malign influence begetting distrust and suspicion of the Government in the minds of the humbler classes.—

'The evil seeds sown by the last century—disunit, hatred, separation of classes, the tendency to interpret every act of the Government in the worst sense—all these are mitigated, no doubt, but they still remain.' We quite agree with Mr. Monsell that much time will be required wholly to eradicate the deep rooted evils of such a state of society and that it is especially incumbent on the Government having been necessary to their planting and growth, to take a most prominent part in their removal. In most other countries the worst abuses are generally of local origin, and the remedy for them is to be found on the spot; but in Ireland every form of oppression and wrong was inflicted upon the unhappy inhabitants by authority derived from the English Government. Hence the necessity of such a reparation on the part of the Executive as shall not only obliterate the memory of Irish grievances in the past, but inspire confidence in the truth, impartiality, and justice of the Government in the future. Tablet.

On January 14th, a party of the Clifton Constabulary, consisting of Constables Cahill, and Sub-Constables Maquire, Tracey, and Brown, proceeded to the Gleefin Mountains on a still hunting expedition and on arriving at a barn which forms the boundary between the townlands of Allahin and Tullytrasna, they discovered a still-house, the roof of which was on a level with the surrounding banks, and in which was a large vat containing about 60 gallons of wash; they also got a pair of singlets, several crabs, and articles, which they conveyed to the barrack after setting fire to the still-house.

On January 20, between the hours of five and ten o'clock at night, a man named Curran, a farmer from the parish of Grange, near Ardmore, in this county, who had attended the monthly fair in Waterford to transact business, unfortunately got drowned. It appears he, with other parties, drank during the day, and having got by himself between the above hours walked over the quay into the tide, which was ebbing at the time. Capt. Augustine Dwyer and other parties heard the splashing at the time at the other side of the harbor, and next heard some person cry out 'my the Lord here mercy on my soul.' No boat being convenient, they ran along the causeway, thence down the quay until they got on board of the *Madonna*, lowered her boat, and with the hook got the man into the boat and he seemed to have some life in him at the time. The body was removed to Mr. Byrne's public house, the priest and doctor were promptly at the bedside, but their services were unavailing, as life unfortunately had fled.—News.

On January 25th, as the Passage Railway boat was making her first trip to Queenstown, some persons on board noticed a body floating in the water. Information was at once given to the police, and Constable Fallon got a boat and brought the body on shore. It was identified as that of a young man named John King, son of a laborer residing at Passage, D. deceased had been missing since last Christmas Eve, on which occasion he left home suddenly, owing to some domestic difference. The remains were, of course, very much disfigured, but the clothes left no mistake as to the identity of the deceased.—Examiner.

Some days ago while Mr. Francis Lapper's workmen were engaged in sinking a well to a depth of nine feet at Welbourn, Cefnion, through a field which has been in tillage during the memory of the oldest inhabitant of the neighborhood, they found five graves, of a curious construction, each containing the skeleton of a human being, and not more than 2 feet or 2 1/2 from the surface. The graves were lined on each side with flags standing on their edges, and neatly covered over with flags on top.—[Daily Journal Jan. 20.]

The questions of the purchase of Irish railways by the State was brought before the Westford board of guardians at their last meeting. After some conversation, in which several gentlemen expressed the opinion that the consolidation of Irish railways under one managerial body, and the reduction of tariff on passengers and goods would be advantageous alike to all concerned, a petition was adopted, similar to that adopted by the Mansion House Committee for the promotion of the purchase of the Irish railways by the State. The clerk was directed to have the petition engrossed, and have it intrusted to Mr. D'Arcy, M.P., for presentation in the House of Commons.

The accounts from the agricultural districts respecting the prospects of the wheat crop are satisfactory on the whole. The young plant has certainly grown with too much rapidity, owing to the mildness of the weather; but it nevertheless looks strong and healthy on nearly all lands.

In replying to the address of the Dublin Corporation the new Lord Lieutenant, Earl Spencer, alluded to the late Fenian agitation, and hoped that when confidence in the Government would be re-established, Ireland would witness a new era of prosperity. In reference to the liberation of the political prisoners he said he could promise that the subject would receive the careful consideration of Her Majesty's ministers.

A police return in connection with the hackney vehicles of the city of Dublin, affords a gratifying proof of the proverbial honesty of the Dublin cabmen. It will be seen that during the past year a great many articles of value as well as sums of money in notes and gold, which had been accidentally left in hackney carriages, were given up to the police, although in many instances the drivers might have retained the property with impunity.—Daily News.

Lord Fermoy has given a severe lesson to a gentleman in the county of Cork who applied to him, as Lieutenant of the county, to use his influence to obtain for the applicant a commission of the peace in consideration of a sum of £200. Lord Fermoy, with becoming promptitude, placed the application in the hands of the Government, and a prosecution has been instituted.

may be greater than is supposed, is now settling. Some occasion will perhaps be found to test its strength by a deliberate statement.

The examination of witnesses in support of the Dublin election petition has been continued, and all the available evidence has been now produced. There are some witnesses, however, who are not forthcoming, and the powers of the Court may have to be exercised to induce their attendance. Mr. Barker and Mr. Mathewson, officials in the Registry of Deeds-office, were examined yesterday to account for the absence of Mr. Foster, an officer in their department, whose name has frequently been mentioned in the course of the proceedings, but who has been prevented by an ill-timed indisposition from attending in an answer to a subpoena. Mr. Davenport Crosthwaite, who was represented to be the very serious Mr. Johnston whose telegrams were flashed in all directions, has been carefully inquired after, but could not be found. It seems that some urgent private business has called him away to London or elsewhere—perhaps not far from his own house. A witness who had been in search of him to give him an invitation to the Court was informed that he had gone to London two or three days ago.

A medical certificate was produced on the part of Mr. Foster. Judge Keogh intimated his determination to adjourn the trial if necessary, in order to have the absent witnesses produced; and, as regards Mr. Foster, observed that it would involve serious consequences to an official in a public department such as he was if he did not obey the summons of the Court, and give the fullest information respecting transactions in which he was alleged to have been mixed up. There was nothing novel in the character of the evidence given yesterday. Some further witnesses were produced, who swore they had received promises or payments which induced them to vote. They had been subsequently rewarded for giving information to the solicitor for the petitioners. Subject to the production of the missing witnesses, against whom attachments will be applied for if they do not appear, the case for the petitioners has closed. The crowded state of the court shows that the interest of the public increases as the trial proceeds.

We quite agree with the promoters of the recent meeting at Dublin that an act of amnesty would be a graceful termination of the Fenian drama. We may be allowed, however, to regret that some of the speakers on that occasion should have employed a train of measure which can only tend to defeat their own aims. We think, too, they should have discriminated more carefully between the two classes of Fenian prisoners—foreigners, who knew the penalty which failure would inevitably involve; and natives, who had great wrongs to redress, and were blinded by sad memories to the nature of the acts by which they sought to avenge them.—Tablet.

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The questions of the purchase of Irish railways by the State was brought before the Westford board of guardians at their last meeting. After some conversation, in which several gentlemen expressed the opinion that the consolidation of Irish railways under one managerial body, and the reduction of tariff on passengers and goods would be advantageous alike to all concerned, a petition was adopted, similar to that adopted by the Mansion House Committee for the promotion of the purchase of the Irish railways by the State. The clerk was directed to have the petition engrossed, and have it intrusted to Mr. D'Arcy, M.P., for presentation in the House of Commons.

The accounts from the agricultural districts respecting the prospects of the wheat crop are satisfactory on the whole. The young plant has certainly grown with too much rapidity, owing to the mildness of the weather; but it nevertheless looks strong and healthy on nearly all lands.

In replying to the address of the Dublin Corporation the new Lord Lieutenant, Earl Spencer, alluded to the late Fenian agitation, and hoped that when confidence in the Government would be re-established, Ireland would witness a new era of prosperity. In reference to the liberation of the political prisoners he said he could promise that the subject would receive the careful consideration of Her Majesty's ministers.

A police return in connection with the hackney vehicles of the city of Dublin, affords a gratifying proof of the proverbial honesty of the Dublin cabmen. It will be seen that during the past year a great many articles of value as well as sums of money in notes and gold, which had been accidentally left in hackney carriages, were given up to the police, although in many instances the drivers might have retained the property with impunity.—Daily News.

Lord Fermoy has given a severe lesson to a gentleman in the county of Cork who applied to him, as Lieutenant of the county, to use his influence to obtain for the applicant a commission of the peace in consideration of a sum of £200. Lord Fermoy, with becoming promptitude, placed the application in the hands of the Government, and a prosecution has been instituted.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

LONDON Feb. 13.—There are over one hundred thousand signatures to the Fenian amnesty petition.

It is definitely arranged that the Prince and Princess of Wales will visit Ireland this spring.

Mr. Justice O'Brien has declared Mr. Dalway, the sitting member for Carrickfergus, and against whose return a petition was filed, duly returned.

DUBLIN, Jan. 23.—The publication of Lord Russell's pamphlet and of the comments of the Press upon it has recalled public attention which had been for a time diverted by other topics—to the Church question. Next week the annual meeting of the General Protestant Defence Association will be held, and the voice of those who still hold out with unyielding resolution against any suggestion of surrender or compromise will then be heard. It would be premature to speculate upon the probable character of the intended demonstration. Those who are for moderate counsels will not then be listened to, but must find some other platform if they desire to give expression to their views in any form that will command attention