

THE PHOENIX PARK MURDERS

that in the circumstances stated, he would with his party co-operate with the Liberals in forwarding their principles as far as he could.

Then a member wished to know if Mr. Gladstone had had the letter in his possession at the time he stated that there was no compact between the Land Leaguers and the Liberal Party; to which the Premier replied that he certainly had, and that he again and emphatically repeated the statement.

On May 16th Sir Stafford Northcote began to heckle the Government again upon the subject of the Kilmainham Treaty. He wanted to know many things, and among others was anxious to hear if Michael Davitt was released as a condition of Mr. Parnell's support of Liberal principles. Mr. Gladstone was prepared to answer questions, but not to volunteer statements. No member of the Government had had interviews with Mr. Parnell—to his knowledge—and there was no stipulation as to the release of Michael Davitt or on any other subject. Several other members then joined in the baiting of the Premier, but without other result than the ruffling of that old eagle's feathers.

Mr. Gibson made a speech, during which there was the unusual scene of the Premier's rising to make a personal statement and Mr. Gibson's refusing to give way.

The Premier sat down. The Speaker called Mr. Gibson to order amid uproar, and Mr. Gibson at last gave way to let Mr. Gladstone get his protest home.

Mr. Gladstone declined to express any opinion on Mr. Forster's conduct in bringing before the House