

"4,431. The year following the passage of the Crimes Act saw 762 only, and "murders having decreased from twenty-six in 1881 to none in 1884."

That was the effect of the passage of the Crimes bill in 1881. And when the period came for that Crimes bill to be renewed we know the difficulties that were supposed to have occurred in Mr. Gladstone's cabinet; and it was said by some that it was owing to these dissensions with regard to the renewal of that bill that that cabinet shortly afterwards fell. We know, too, as a matter of history, that Lord Salisbury's first administration refused to renew the crimes bill, and from that time to this the government of England has endeavored to govern Ireland by the ordinary law of the land. What has been the result? The result cannot be known to all; but when the Minister comes before the House of Commons and makes the statement in that house which I am about to read, asks for powers in order to secure the respect for the law of the land, I do not know very well how we, sitting 4,000 miles away, have a right to criticise, much less to censure, that Government. Mr. W. H. Smith, in bringing this matter to the notice of the house of commons used this language, after quoting Mr. Gladstone's own words used in 1881:—

"Is that the state of Ireland? Is one in which the administration of justice has failed, and in which to considerable extent the influence of terror places in abeyance the discharge of civil duties and the exercise of civil rights. The powers we ask for are necessary to maintain social order. They are necessary to maintain the very existence of society upon the conditions in force and recognized by every civilized community."

When the responsible minister of the crown, who has information not open to us here, comes down to the house of commons and uses language like that, I do not know very well how even in the house of commons the powers they ask are to be denied to them. They went farther and said, so serious do we find the conditions of affairs in Ireland to day that we tell the house of commons that

if they refuse to give us the powers which we as a government desire, after having for two years tried to govern the country by the ordinary laws of the land, we will surrender to others the responsibility of advising Her Majesty in the government of the country. The government made that statement, and fortified it by facts in their information some of which I have here and might mention, although I am not going to make anything like an exhaustive argument on this question. When I find the statement made by the chief secretary that out of over one thousand cases of crimes committed during the preceding year there had been only in the neighborhood of sixty convictions—and the statement made by the hon. leader of the opposition establishes it; when we know that the people in the different parts of the country have joined associations for the purpose of compelling the landlords to come down to their terms; when we know that sometimes growing out of those associations, crimes are committed, and sometimes crimes are committed not growing out of them because the bonds of civilized society are relaxed; and when we know that the jurors who are to try those people belong to those various associations, I want to know how it is possible to expect the criminal law to be enforced without special powers. Now, these are facts which induce the authorities charged with the responsibility of governing that country to say that they must have additional powers; and in the face of these facts we are asked here, in our ignorance of the position of affairs there, to practically vote against the principle of the bill which has received its second reading recently by a majority of over 100 in the house of commons of England. Are we, the people, to take such a position? Are we so negligent of law and order in this country? Are we so careful of liberty as it is called, as to entitle us to tell the people and parliament of Great Britain and Ireland that the laws which the responsible advisers of the crown say are requisite for the maintenance of society should not be passed? Do you remember the strike